

LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC PARISH

ANNUAL
GENERAL REPORT
2023



CHRIST IN YOU

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We show our respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Dharawal Country, Elders past, present, and emerging, and extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

REGISTRATION

ABN: 32 466 747 711

FIA organisational member and ACNC registered charity.

R E P O R T

This report was prepared by Kevin Galea, General Manager of the Lumen Christi Parish, 20 February 2024 for the reporting period of 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

A U D I T

Lumen Christi Parish is audited annually by our parish auditor Mr Kevin Mehl.

At the end of each calendar year, an external auditor reviews the parish accounts. A copy of the Auditor's Report is given to the Administrator, Bishop, Diocese, and the Parish Finance Council, and is published for our parishioners.

Mobile: 0448 287 956

E-Mail: kmehl@bigpond.net.au

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OUR VISION STATEMENT

We are called to reveal the Light of Christ to the world.

OUR PARISH PRAYER

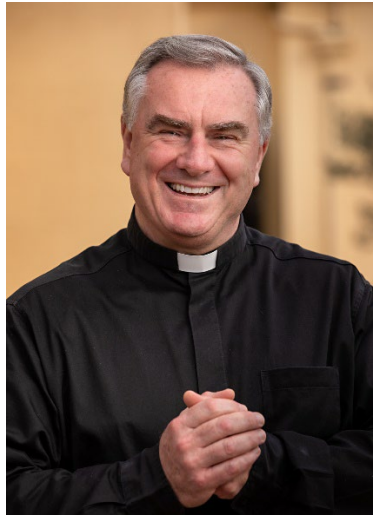
Merciful God,
you have called us out of darkness
into the Light of Christ.
We gather as the parish community of Lumen Christi.
In Baptism, we were consecrated as your children.
In Confirmation, the Spirit of truth
strengthened us to bear witness to your Word.
We are nourished at the table of the Eucharist.
May our gifts always contribute to
building up the Body of Christ.
Help us to reveal Christ's love
to the world through all we say and do.
Amen.

OUR PARISH TEAM



Bishop Giran Mascord

Parish Priest



Fr Bernard Gordon

Administrator



Kevin Galea

General Manager



Leanne Burlin

Parish Secretary



Patricia Di Leva

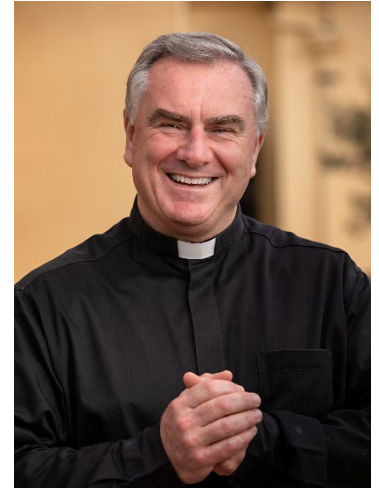
Administration Assistant

“ Laypeople and pastors can work together better for the mission of the Church ”

POPE FRANCIS

A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Fr Bernard Gordon



Dear Friends in Christ,

Every year a report is prepared for all parishioners detailing the most important statistics, financial accounts, and activities of our parish. It is an attempt to give a picture of our progress and leads us to reflect on how we still need to move forward.

Thank you for being such a wonderful part of our Catholic life in Lumen Christi Parish. I feel that we have steadied ourselves as a parish and started to grow. All of our four churches often have an increased number of Sunday worshippers. For example, you will note that during the Mass count in November last year our Sunday Mass attendance had grown to an average of 1,065 people (including those who attend Mass in Italian and Vietnamese at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow).

During 2023 we sought comments about what should be included in the Christ in You Pastoral Plan. From the Pastoral Plan Strategic Group a writing group was established consisting of Lisa de Paiva (Pastoral Council Chair), Kathy Uroda (St Brigid's Primary Principal), and Vicki Davidson (now Finance Council Chair) under the guidance of Marie Smith who conducted the reflections of the Strategic Group according to the Appreciative Enquiry method.

Two documents were developed and were distributed after a final short consultation process. The first smaller document - the Pastoral Plan itself - will be printed in an accessible size that can fit into a person's hand and be easily given to someone else for their reflection. It has the five key points of the Plan - Community Life, Worship, Mission, Stewardship, Parish Support - with an appropriate quote from the Letter to the Colossians and a two line description of what each category calls us to do. This first document gives us the compass points (attitudes and main goals) for our parish activities over the next few years.

The second document has a more detailed list of practical goals for each category of the Pastoral Plan to be developed by a group appropriate to each area of activity. The goals are being published in the Bulletin over the Sundays of Lent for all parishioners' reflection and any suggestions that flow from that reflection. These practical goals will help us translate our compass points (attitudes and main goals) into a living service of love and growth.

In Jesus, the Word made flesh who dwells among us, every year is a year of grace and all points of the compass are indications from God to help us know the way. Giving thanks for all the good that was done by so many parishioners - musicians, singers, cantors, catechists, teachers, servers, readers, collectors, charity volunteers, morning tea welcomers, garden workers, and so many more - let us trust in God's goodness and renew our enthusiasm for bearing witness to the love and mercy of Christ.

God bless you all and all your families and loved ones.

Yours in our Lord Jesus,

VERY REV BERNARD L GORDON
VICAR GENERAL & ADMINISTRATOR

A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Kevin Galea

Dear Parishioners,

As we review the close of another year, it is my privilege as the General Manager to present to you the Annual General Report for Lumen Christi Parish.

I am pleased to share that overall, the past year has been one of progress and community engagement. Our parish continues to thrive with the dedicated efforts of our vibrant community of volunteers, who play a crucial role in maintaining the warmth and sense of belonging that defines Lumen Christi Parish.

Our hospitality initiatives have been thriving, creating an environment that is welcoming and inclusive for all parishioners. The spirit of generosity and fellowship that emanates from these efforts is truly heartening.

However, I must address a challenge that we encountered during the year.

Unfortunately, our insurance costs exceeded our initial projections, rising by over 52% compared to the previous year. While we had anticipated some increase, this unexpected spike has put a strain on our financial resources. We assure you that we are diligently working to explore cost-saving measures without compromising the safety and well-being of our parishioners and facilities.

Amidst these challenges, I am pleased to inform you that our Pastoral Plan is well underway. This strategic initiative will guide our actions and decisions in the coming years, ensuring that our parish continues to grow spiritually and serve as a beacon of light in the community.

I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your continued support, dedication, and prayers. May the upcoming year be filled with blessings, unity, and prosperity for Lumen Christi Parish.

With every blessing

KEVIN GALEA
GENERAL MANAGER



PARISH FINANCIALS

Audit

Lumen Christi Parish is audited annually by our parish auditor Mr Kevin Mehl. The parish audit for 2023 was completed on 16th January 2024. The financial statements of the Lumen Christi Catholic Parish Wollongong are properly drawn up so as to present fairly the results of the parish for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 and the financial position of the parish at that date.

In all material respects, the entity has complied with the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong Parish Accounting and Administrative Policies and Procedures.

Auditors Management Review

- The deficit for the year was (\$28,463) which was less than 2022 by (\$331,334). Details of these variations are set out in the Income and Expenditure analysis.
- There was a positive Cash Flow for the year of \$953,508, compared to a negative in 2022 of (\$336,658), a positive movement of \$1,290,166. *(The main reason for this positive cash flow was the net proceeds of \$946,013.97 from the sale of 123 Gipps Road Gwynneville).*
- All bank statements have been reconciled as at 31st December 2023 and cash holdings are correctly reflected in the Accounts.
- Property valuations have decreased by \$37,058 for the year.
- The Liability of \$40,663 is calculated by the Diocesan Payroll Service.
- Parish Income for the year of \$875,779 which was greater than 2022 by \$56,267.
- Parish Expenditure for the year was \$904,242 which was less than 2022 by \$275,068.
- There was an increase in the Second Collection from \$251,406 to \$273,033.

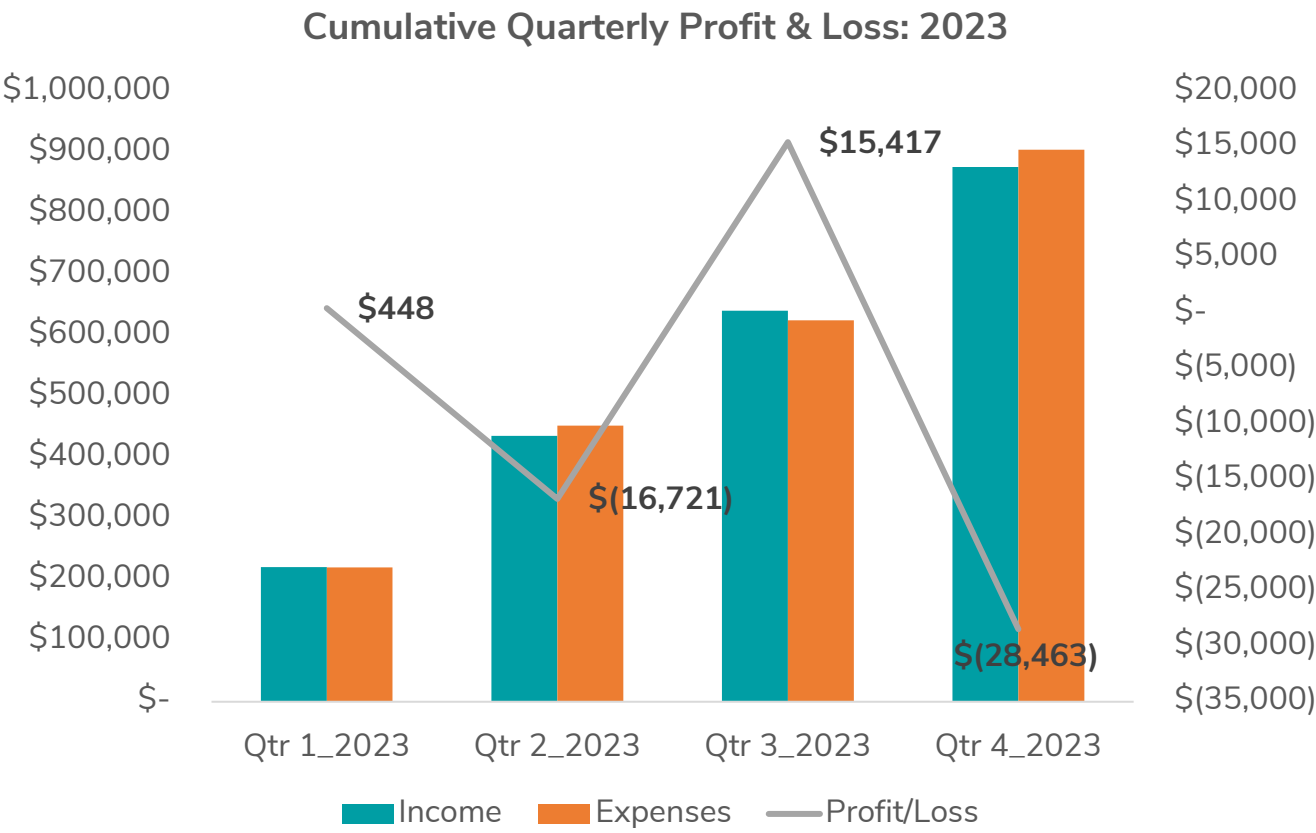
Sunday Collections

The following is a comparative summary of collections for years 2023 and 2022.

Collection	2023	%	2022	%
Envelopes	70,005	25.64	69,562	27.67
Direct Debits	80,108	29.34	82,764	32.92
	150,113	54.98	152,326	60.59
Loose	122,920	45.02	99,080	39.41
Total	273,033	100.00	251,406	100.00

Profit and Loss Statement

P&L January to December 2023



Revenue

875,779

Expenditure

904,242

Nett Deficit

28, 463

As of May 2023, Catholic Church Insurance has unfortunately ceased operations. In response to this development, the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong appointed a new insurance provider to ensure the continuity of coverage for our church buildings and contents.

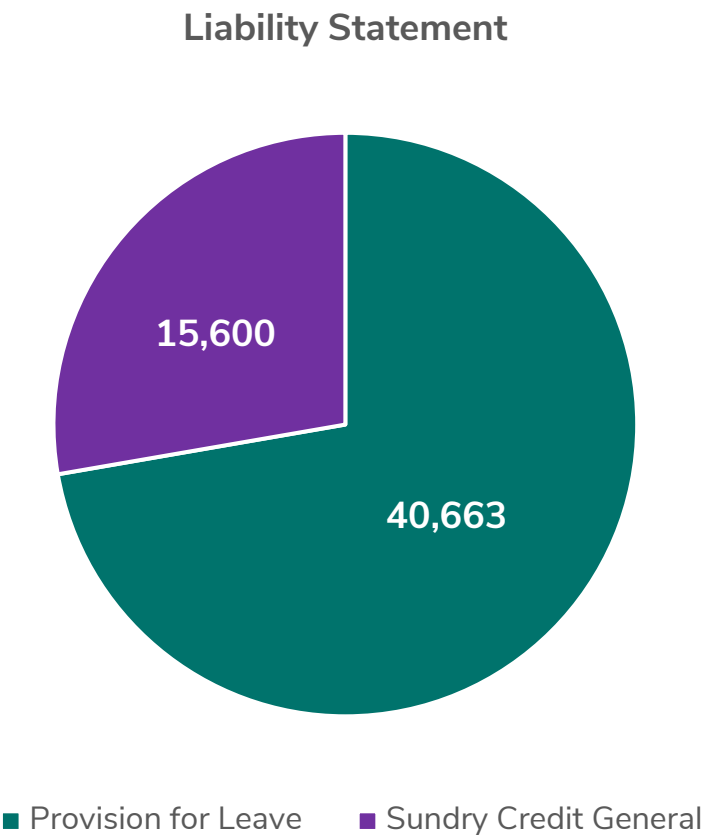
Regrettably, due to various factors, there has been an unexpected increase in the insurance premium. The new premium rates will reflect an increase of 52%. Insurance premiums will be reviewed in the coming months of 2024.

Liability Statement

Liability January to December 2023

Liability Balances as of 31 December 2023 consist of the following:

- Payroll Provision of \$40,663
- Kneeler padding fundraising project as \$13,520
- Clergy donations payable in 2024 \$2,080

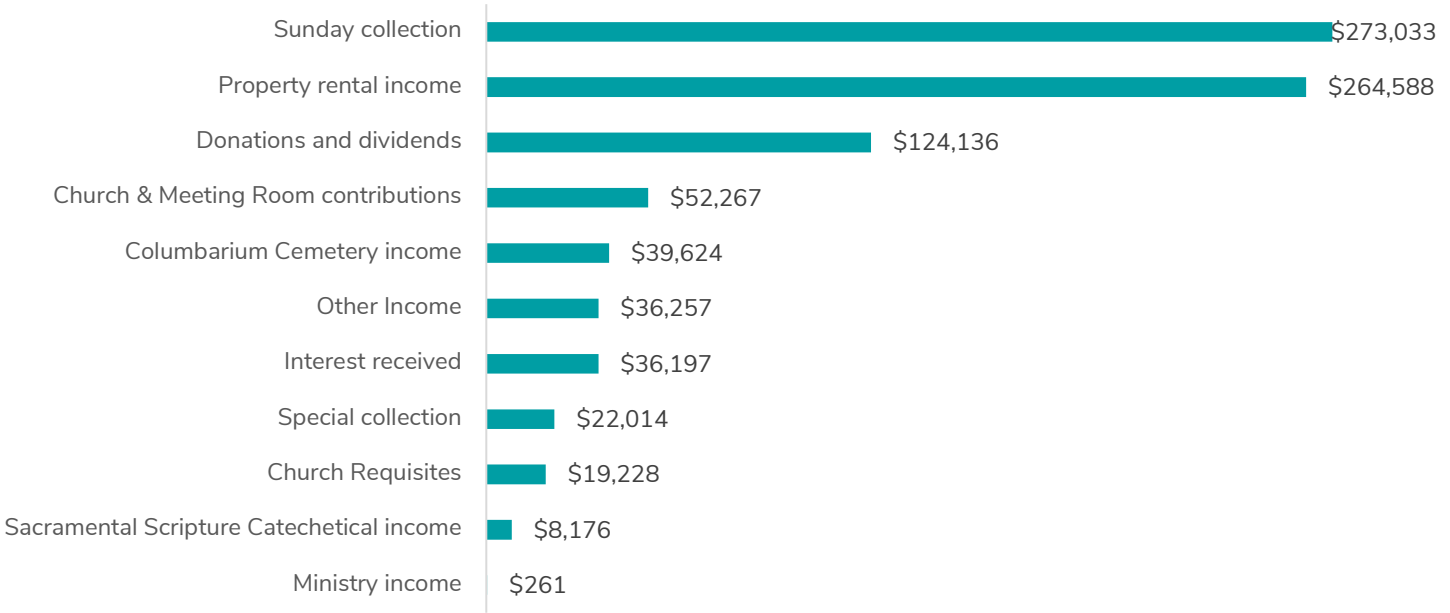


Financial Revenue

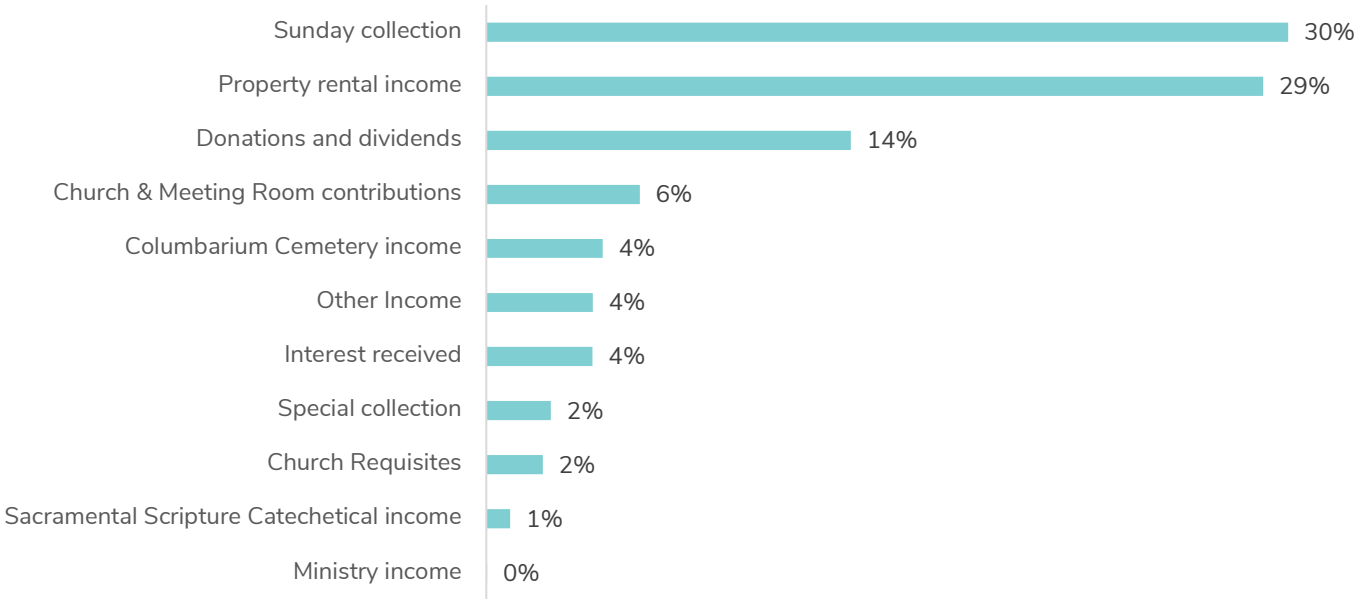
Statement of Revenue - January to December 2023

REVENUE 875K

Income by Revenue Type (Ranked): 2023



Income by Revenue Type (Percentage): 2023

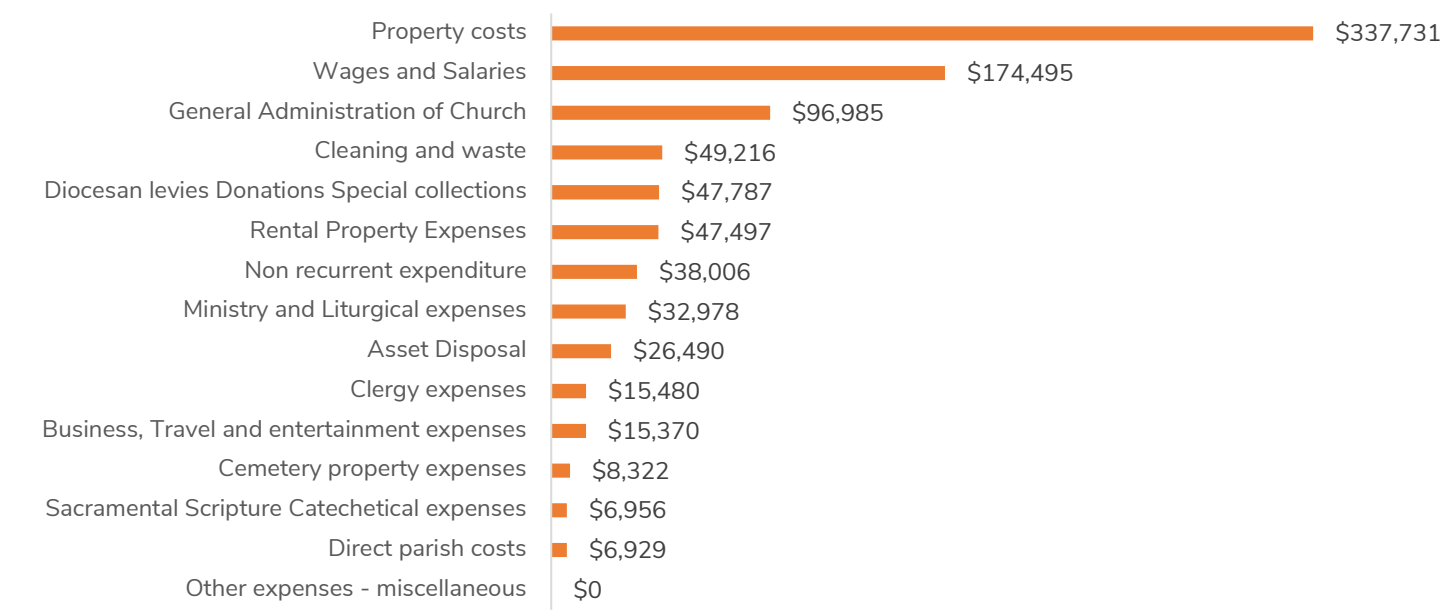


Financial Expenditure

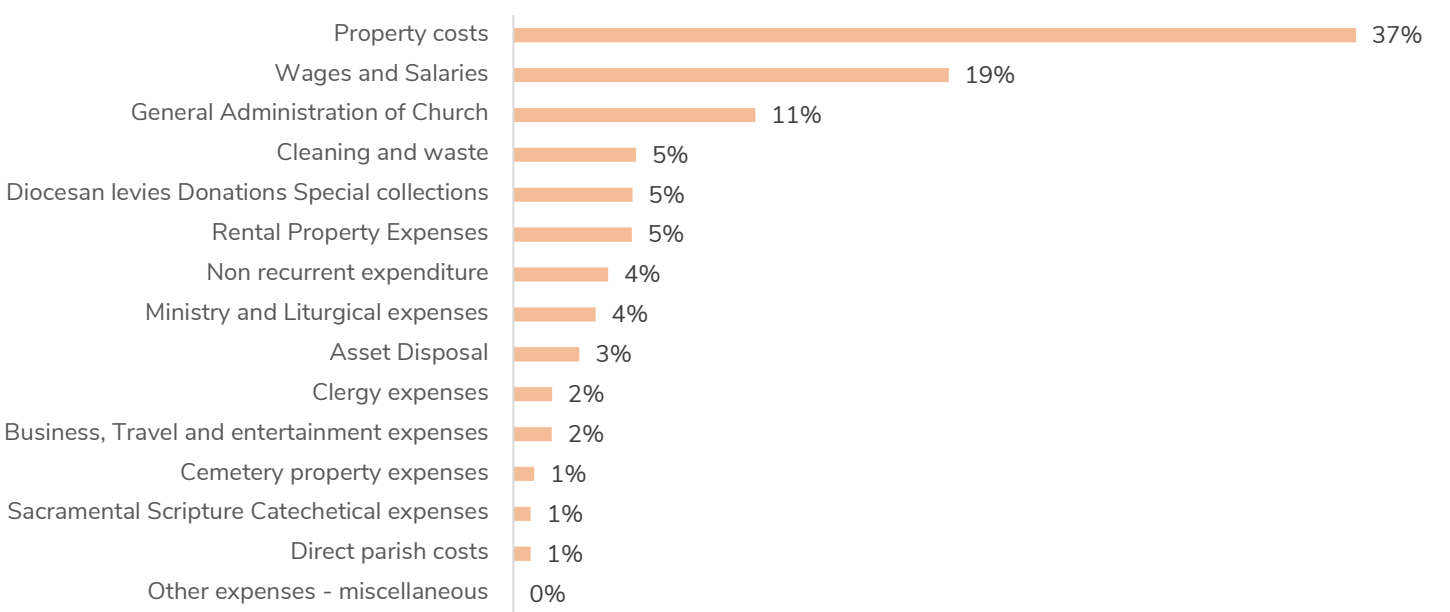
Statement of Expenditure - January to December 2023

EXPENDITURE 904K

Expenditure by Expense Type (Ranked): 2023



Expenditure by Expense Type (Percentage): 2023



Financial Year Statement of Accounts

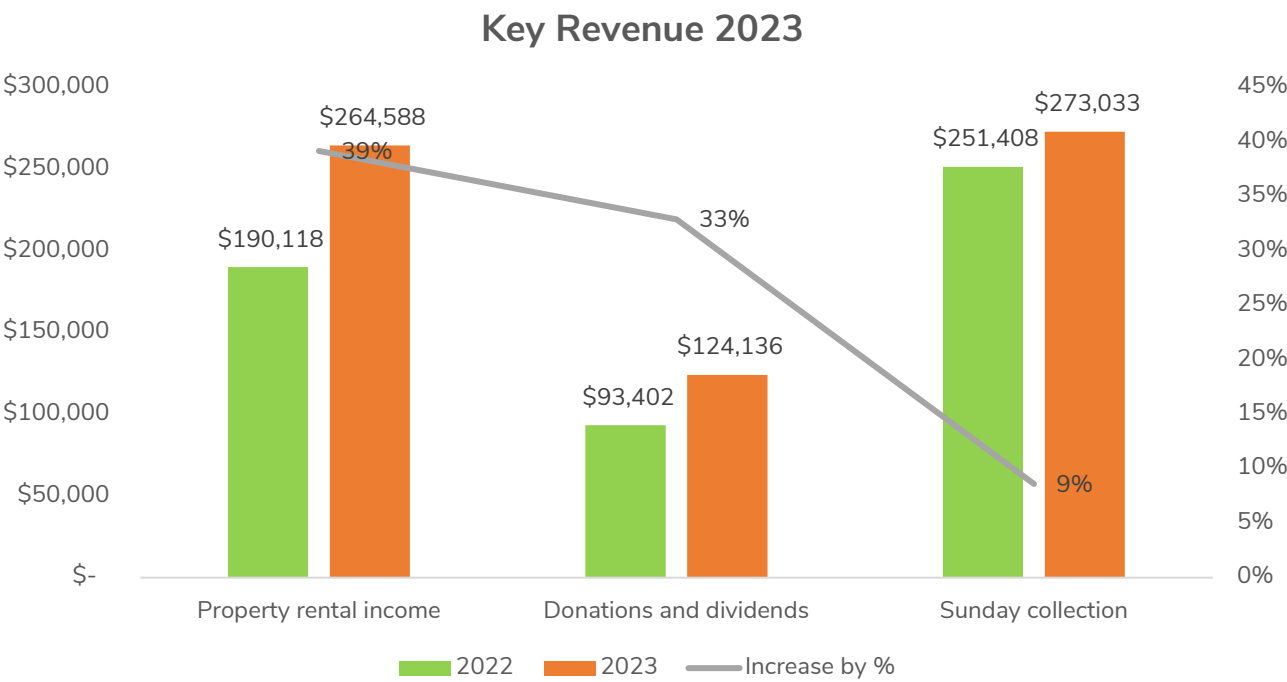
January to December 2023

Reports are signed by the Parish Administrator, General Manager and Chair of the Parish Finance Council. Refer to the parish website lumenchristi.org.au/report.

KEY TRENDS

Parish Revenue

Overall major contributions to parish income.



Parish Expenditure

Major costs that occurred in the parish for this calendar year.

MAJOR EXPENDITURE	Expense \$'00
Lumen Christi Parish Office	
<i>Parish Office refurbishment</i>	14,251
<i>Security Upgrade</i>	2,777
<i>Annual Insurance</i>	95,819
St Francis Xavier Cathedral	
<i>Brassware refurbishment</i>	14,610
<i>Exposed electrical cables in carpark</i>	4,035
St John Vianney Co-Cathedral	
<i>Upgrade of the audio system & piano</i>	38,367
<i>Kneeler Padding Instalment</i>	3,567
Mater Dolorosa Church	
<i>Brassware refurbishment</i>	8,500
St Brigid's Church	
<i>Audio rack upgrade</i>	2,337
<i>Brassware refurbishment</i>	909
<i>Exterior doors repair</i>	3,650
<i>Kneeler padding</i>	13,273

APPEALS & DONATIONS

In the last financial year, parishioners of Lumen Christi have generously contributed to the following:

PARISH APPEALS

Kneeler Padding	
<i>Kneeler padding at St John Vianney, St Brigid's & Mater Dolorosa.</i>	30,360
Total Parish Appeals	30,630

NON-PARISH APPEALS

Catholic Mission	
<i>World Mission Appeal</i>	5,028
Caritas	
<i>Project Compassion</i>	11,193
St Vincent de Paul	
<i>Winter Appeal</i>	19,263
<i>Christmas Appeal</i>	47,851
Total Non-Parish Appeals	83,335

DIOCESAN APPEALS

Bishop's Annual Appeal	
<i>Bishop's 2023 Annual Appeal</i>	2,777
Holy Land	
<i>Good Friday Holy Land Appeal 2023</i>	3,305
Total Diocesan Appeals	6,082

DONATIONS

General Donations	
<i>Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals</i>	35,870
Operational Donations	
<i>Contribution for operational costs</i>	47,923
Donation Tap Points	
<i>Donation Point Tap device donations</i>	26,896
Total Donations	110,689

MASS ATTENDANCE

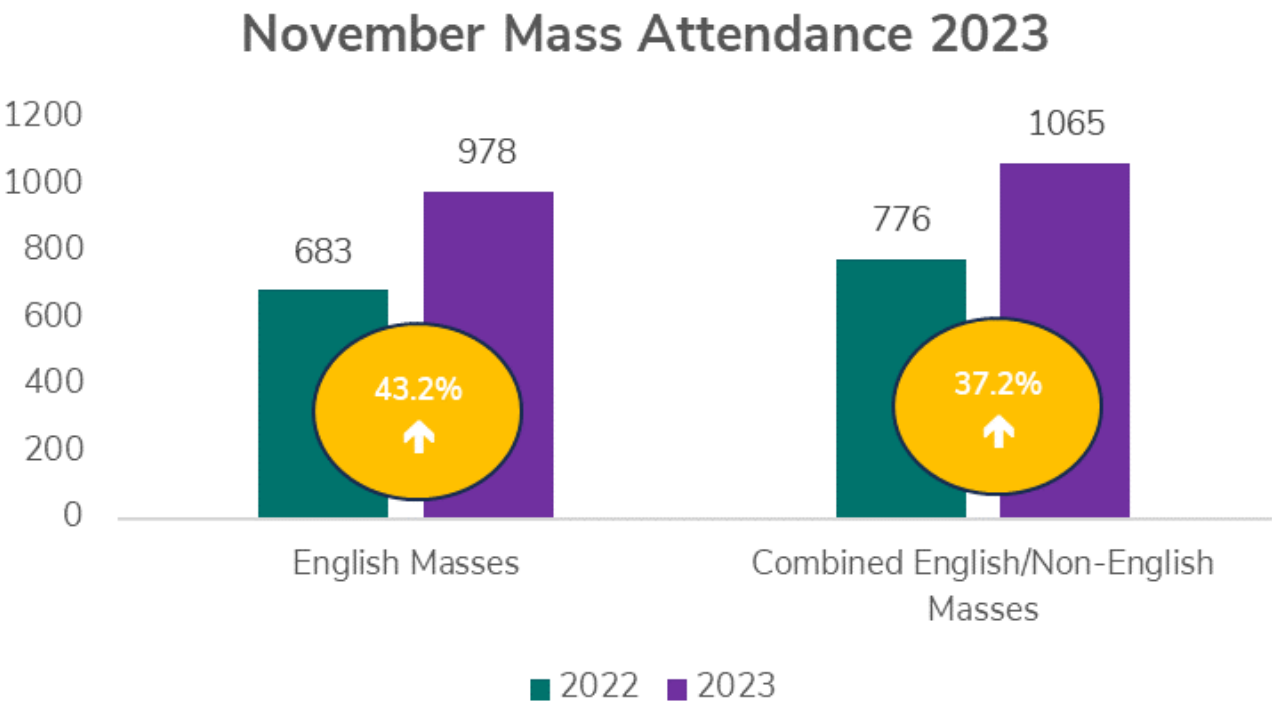
November 2023 Mass Attendance

During the month of November 2023, the Diocese of Wollongong conducted Mass attendance counts. Lumen Christi Parish has witnessed remarkable growth in attendance. In particular, our English-speaking Mass attendance has seen a significant increase, rising from **683** in **2022** to **978** in **2023**. Increase in attendance by **43.2%**

This positive trend extends to the overall Mass attendance for all our Masses (English and Non-English speaking) where we experienced growth from **776** in **2022** to **1065** in **2023**. Increase in attendance by **37.2%**

The active participation in our spiritual gatherings is not only a source of joy but also a reflection of the deep sense of faith and fellowship that defines Lumen Christi Parish.

Let us carry this spirit of gratitude into our celebrations and reflect on the many blessings that bind us as one faith community. Our next annual Mass attendance will be conducted in November 2024.



OUR TIME TALENTS AND RESOURCES

Who we are

At the heart of our parish's vibrant community lies a treasure trove of selflessness, dedication, and unwavering support - our incredible volunteers. They are the heartbeat of our mission, generously contributing their time, talent, and treasure to ensure the continued success of our parish's work.

We are a community bound by faith, love, and the shared commitment to making a positive impact. Our parish thrives not just because of the walls that surround it, but because of the people who dedicate themselves to its mission.

Our volunteers are the unsung heroes who work tirelessly behind the scenes, embodying the spirit of generosity and compassion. With open hearts and willing hands, they contribute their time to various initiatives, share their unique talents to uplift the community, and generously contribute their treasure to support the vital work of our parish.

We express our deepest gratitude to each volunteer who, in their own special way, adds a brushstroke to the masterpiece that is our parish. Your commitment doesn't go unnoticed, and we are immensely thankful for the positive impact you make every day.

If you're inspired by the spirit of community and wish to be a part of this incredible journey, we welcome you with open arms. Together, let's continue to build a parish where love knows no bounds and where the mission of kindness prevails.

WHO WE ARE



600+

PARISHIONERS
RECEIVE
THE WEEKLY
PARISH BULLETIN
BY EMAIL



1000+

PARISHIONERS IN
OUR PARISH



34

ACOLYTES AND
SERVERS



12

PARISH
PASTORAL
COUNCIL MEMBERS



10

FINANCE
COUNCIL
MEMBERS



14+

CATECHISTS



8

BAPTISM TEAM
LEADERS



7+

COMMUNION TO
THE SICK



59

READERS

4

ROSTER
COORDINATORS



45+

CATHOLIC
WOMEN'S
LEAGUE MEMBERS
WOLLONGONG &
FAIRY MEADOW



15+

LUMEN CHRISTI
PARISH CHOIR



6+

GARDENING
TEAM



5

HOSPITALITY TEAM
COORDINATORS

35

USHERS AND
WELCOMERS



20+

ST VINCENT DE
PAUL MEMBERS
(WOLLONGONG,
FAIRY MEADOW &
GWYNNEVILLE)



2

RCIA TEAM
MEMBERS

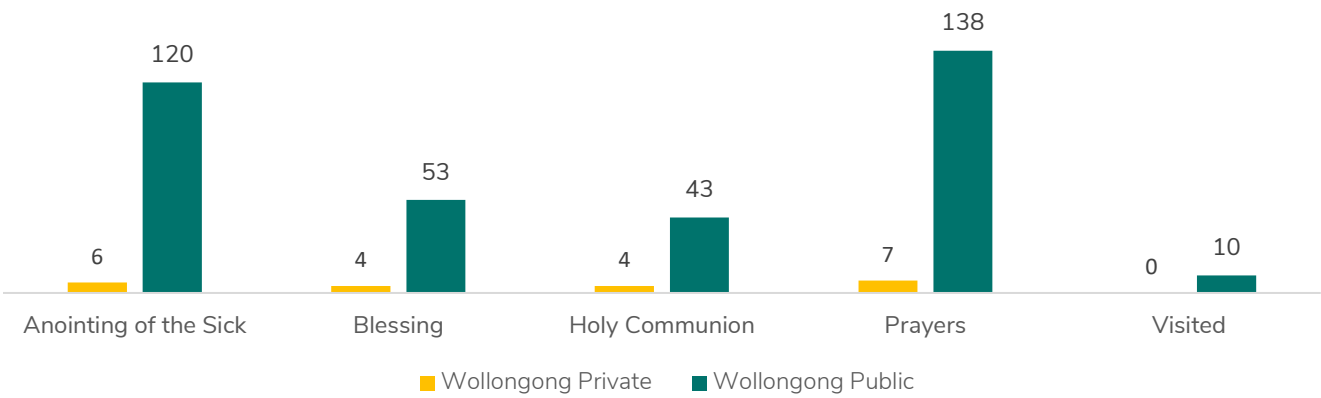
HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

Fr John Stork is the Wollongong Private and Public Hospital Chaplain. In this capacity, Fr John provides sacraments and spiritual support within our local hospitals.

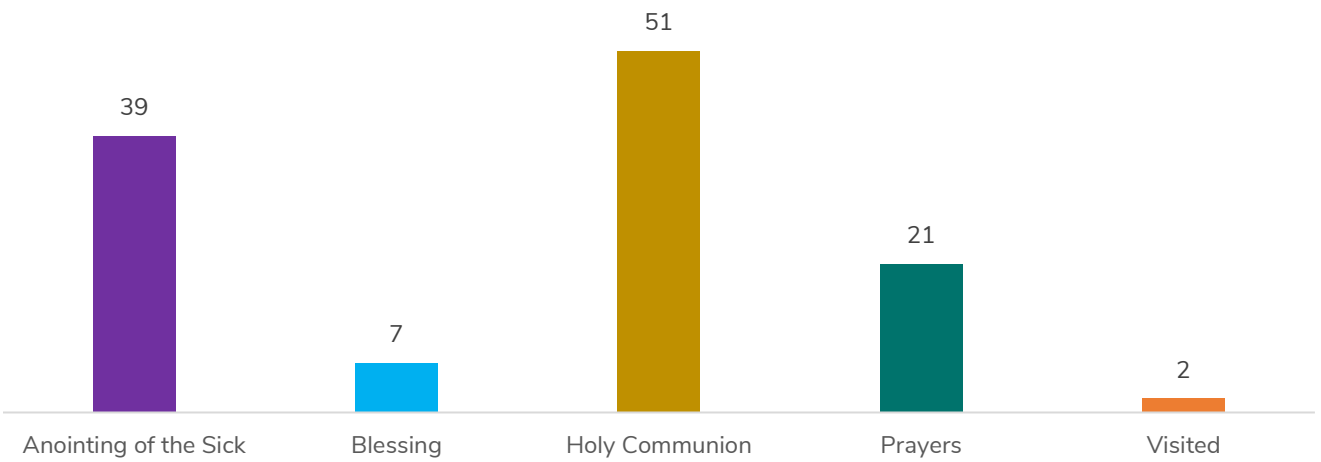
Lay parishioners from our parish also help support the Hospital Chaplain with bedside communion service and prayers for Catholic parishioners from our parish and in our diocese. Our priests and parishioners also assist in ministering to the local aged care facilities, ensuring a continued spiritual presence in these important community spaces.

We are fortunate to have Fr John in this role, and I encourage you to keep Fr John Stork in your prayers as he administers the sacraments in our hospitals.

Sacraments Administered at Wollongong Public and Private Hospital - 2023



Sacraments Administered in Agedcare Centres 2023



MUSIC

Music in our parish community

Our parish community is truly blessed to have an outstanding team dedicated to enhancing our worship experience through the gift of music.

Our Music Director is Kathy Uroda who coordinates our music roster and inspire us with her exceptional musical talent.

Our parish churches grace us with a music team that is a testament to the power of collaboration and the beauty that arises when individuals come together in harmony.

If you wish to join our parish choirs please contact Kathy by email:

wollongong@dow.org.au

Concerts in our Cathedral

This year, we had the pleasure of hosting seven unforgettable concerts within the sacred walls of St Francis Xavier Cathedral, each moment filled with the magic of music and the warmth of shared experiences.

Stay tuned for more details and mark your calendars because 2024 promises to be a harmonious journey that parishioners will not want to miss!

IN OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

St Brigid's Catholic Parish Primary School, Gwynneville

Student's enrolments at St Brigid's School in 2023

Religion	
Catholic	113
Other	23
Not Stated	21
Eastern Orthodox	7
Hindu	6
Maronite Catholic	2
Anglican	1
No Religion	1
Total Students in 2023	174



Other	
ASTI	83
LBOTE	8
ESL	3

At St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Gwynneville, we foster a love of learning and the seeking of wisdom through a quality, contemporary education encourages our students to use the 'good gifts' given to them, equipping them to take their place in the world.

Our students feel supported – academically as well as spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically. We provide an engaging faith and contemporary learning environment, where we are committed to excellence and growth and every student's individuality and uniqueness is recognised and valued.

Our personalised teaching and learning is designed to meet each individual student's needs, and we encourage active student participation in learning by using 21st century skills and competencies. We have excellent buildings and facilities, and beautiful outdoor learning spaces and areas that provide students with a wide choice of options for their learning and play.

ASTI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
LBOTE	Language Background Other Than English
ESL	English-language learner

Good Samaritan School, Fairy Meadow

Student's enrolments at Good Samaritan School in 2023.

Religion	
Catholic	117
Other	11
Not Stated	3
Eastern Orthodox	8
Hindu	8
Maronite Catholic	0
Anglican	4
No Religion	49
Total Students in 2023	368

Other	
ASTI	10
LBOTE	149
ESL	35



At Good Samaritan Catholic Primary School, Fairy Meadow, we aim to create an educational environment of love, faith, respect, trust, co-operation and harmony for each individual.

We strive to achieve educational excellence in offering each student the opportunity to develop their individual abilities each day. In our educational programs, we are committed to developing every facet of the child – spiritual, physical, intellectual, social, emotional, aesthetic and a sense of citizenship.

We believe that the child will thrive when parents and teachers hold the same beliefs and values regarding the education of the child and value highly the growth in faith of each child.

We recognise that each child has an individual rate of growth and development, achieving mastery levels in each of the curriculum areas at different rates and in different stages. We insist that attitude and effort are as important as achievement.

ASTI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
LBOTE	Language Background Other Than English
ESL	English-language learner

SACRAMENTAL LIFE IN OUR PARISH

Lumen Christi Parish Statistics

Parish life is integral to the organisation of Christian worship and life. In our parish we gather to hear the Word of God and celebrate the Sacraments of Christ. The church building stands as a symbol of ourselves as the Body of Christ called to witness to the presence and love of Christ for the salvation of the world.

It is a way of giving thanks for the good work done in the service of others and seeing the present stage of growth of our parish. In 2023 the number of people who celebrated the sacraments was:

Sacraments	#
Baptism	95
Eucharist	90
Confirmation	92
RCIA	3
Marriages	19
Funerals	53

CATECHISTS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Special Religious Education (SRE)

SRE is an important ministry within our parishes which supports parents, students, clergy, and parishes in the religious education attending government schools. Do you have a calling to spread the joy of the Good News to children in 2024?

Are you able to be there to support the children in the SRE classroom and the replace the Catechists who have retired or are unable to return?

Our vibrant team of Catechists bring the Word of God’s love to the Catholic children in our local government primary schools.

Balgownie Public ♦ Coniston Public ♦ Fairy Meadow Public ♦ Gwynneville Public
Keiraville Public ♦ Mt Ousley Public ♦ Mt St Thomas Public ♦ Pleasant Heights Public
Towradgi Public ♦ Wollongong Public

Join Us!

If you would like to join our team, please contact our Coordinator
Patricia Calabro ♦ patricia.calabro@dow.org.au

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH

Parish collections

A parish is dependent on the generosity of its parishioners to sustain itself and its many charitable and pastoral works. Generally, this support is through two collections at each Sunday Mass.

FIRST COLLECTION FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY



Stipend



Health
Insurance



Superannuation

Historically, these have been funds for the parish priest to use as an allowance for his financial livelihood, a stipend (small salary) for the assistant priest(s), and his weekly sustenance. After the Second Vatican Council in the early 1960s dioceses were encouraged to establish a central fund to which the proceeds of each parish's first collection (less their deductions for sustenance needs) was directed and from which stipends were then paid according to an equitable arrangement.

In 1984, a central fund known as the Clergy Remuneration Fund was established.

Today, this fund provides for a priest's:

- Monthly stipend
- Private health insurance
- Superannuation contribution

This fund also provides a co-contribution towards the financial support of a priest who is on light duties due to ill health or who has retired.

If you wish to contribute to this fund, please see page 27.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE FIRST COLLECTION FOR THE CLERY

1

Placing your donation into the first collection at Mass or dropping your donation into the collection boxes at the doors of our churches

2

You can make deposit directly into the Lumen Christi Parish account.

BSB: 066 711
Account Number: 002286
Ref: Your Name

3

Fill out the online form authorising the diocese's Catholic Development Fund to direct debit the money from your bank account

Go to: lumenchristi.org.au/give

4

Make a once off donation for the care of our clergy
Go to: lumenchristi.org.au/clergy

SECOND COLLECTION FOR OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



Planned Giving (which comprises envelopes and direct debits) and any loose cash donated at this collection are banked into a parish account which is overseen by your Parish Finance Council. The many costs of running a parish are deducted from this account. Some of the expenses covered include:

- Parish operating costs such as insurance, utilities, telecommunications, general maintenance and upkeep of the church, presbytery, buildings and parish property
- Any loan debt servicing for parish buildings
- Parish pastoral programs
- Parish staff salaries including superannuation
- Car expenses for the priest(s) in the parish
- A Cathedraticum (contribution) to the Bishop towards the costs of running the Diocese (10%) of the collection revenue.

The Envelope Collection is part of the Parish Plan Giving Programme whereby a family chooses to take a set of envelopes for the year, marked with the date for each week, and decides on an agreed amount they will contribute. You can request a set of planned giving envelopes by contacting the parish office on 4211 0500 or email wollongong@dow.org.au

If you wish to contribute to this fund, please see page 29.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE PARISH

1

Placing your donation into the second collection at Mass or dropping your donation into the collection boxes at the doors of our churches

2

You can make deposit directly into the Lumen Christi Parish account.

BSB: 066 711
Account Number: 008056
Ref: Your Name

3

Fill out the online form authorising the diocese's Catholic Development Fund to direct debit the money from your bank account

Go to: lumenchristi.org.au/give

4

Make a once off donation for the care of our clergy
Go to: lumenchristi.org.au/donate

BEQUEST GIVING

Remembering your faith community in your Will

After providing for family members in your Will, have you ever considered leaving a bequest directly to your local parish? This is called a legacy or bequest.

Over the years, many people who have felt a special connection with their local parish have left part of their Estate to be used for the need of the Parish. Like a gift to a charity, a bequest of any amount to the Church is a way of saying “thank you” for the spiritual nurturing provided to you and your family over the years.

Your Parish

Many of us have a special connection to our parish, nurtured by years of faith-sharing, schooling, friendships, and support.

A bequest to your parish, no matter how small, will help the faith community which has meant so much to you to continue its good works and its loving outreach. It is also a means by which you can plan a lasting gift for your parish which might not be possible in your lifetime.

In receiving a bequest, a parish may be able to use the gift to attend to much-needed maintenance and improvements to the church and other Parish property or put the gift towards building a new church or refurbishing their existing one. These kinds of gifts help the Parish free up other income to use toward pastoral care programs.

Lumen Christi Catholic Parish

The need for material and spiritual assistance provided by the parish is always growing. One of the many areas of need is to provide financial support in ongoing operational costs such as utility costs, wages for parish staff, and repairs and maintenance of our church buildings.

No matter the size of the gift, a bequest of any kind in your Will can make a significant difference.

Your Gift

The following are some examples of how a bequest may be given:

- A Specific Bequest: a detailed gift, for example, an item of property, shares, or an insurance policy

- Percentage of your Estate: nominating a set percentage of your Estate for your chosen beneficiaries
- Residuary Bequest: nominating a beneficiary to receive any leftover monies from your Estate
- Whole Estate: nominating your entire Estate for your chosen beneficiary

Would you like to know more?

If you would like to know more about how to remember your Parish in your Will, please contact the parish office on (02) 4211 0500 or email wollongong@dow.org.au. You can be assured that all enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Finance Council

Bishop Brian Mascord (Parish Priest), Fr Bernard Gordon (Administrator), Kevin Galea (General Manager), Vicky Davidson (Chair), Lisa de Paiva (Deputy Chair), Lynne Hudson (Member), Dunstan Saverimuttu (Member), Riccardo Biondini (Member), Julius Abraham (Member), Jenny Bell (Member/Secretary).

Pastoral Council

Bishop Brian Mascord (Parish Priest), Fr Bernard Gordon (Administrator), Kevin Galea (General Manager), Lisa de Paiva (Chair), Sergio Ambrosi (Deputy Chair), Tanaya Mills (Member), Jozo Frankovic (Member), Jennifer Piazza (Member), Jenny Bell (Member/Secretary).

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