

Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund

(CHY 3703; Charity Reg. No.: 20004729)



Annual Activity Report - Year Ended Dec. 31st, 2014

Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund – CHY3703

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust comprises the central administration of the Diocese of Elphin, together with the various offices and agencies which provide central services to the parishes of the diocese. The Diocese of Elphin includes much of Co. Sligo, most of Co. Roscommon and also part of East Galway and has a Catholic population of almost 90,000. Most of the pastoral activity of the Diocese actually takes place under the auspices of the individual parishes and has been reported under that Charity (CHY 6942)

The regular income of the Elphin General Trust Fund comes from two principal sources.

- a) A "diocesan needs levy" on each of the parishes of the diocese, based on the number of families in the parish.
- b) An annual income deriving from investments

The expenditure of the Elphin Diocesan Trust Fund includes the running costs of the central office of the Diocese, the diocesan Pastoral and Faith Development Service, the Elphin Youth Service, the diocesan Safeguarding Service the diocesan Education Office and the diocesan Vocations Service, as well as partial funding of the services provided by Accord.

Staff salaries and stipends are included in the accounts of the fund. The income of the central office staff is included under the Salaries heading in the accounts, while the income of two others is accounted for under the costs of the service to which they are allocated. The fund also provides stipends and expenses for six part-time staff members, who provide professional services in the areas of education and safeguarding.

An overview of the accounts of the fund shows that, in the year under review, the sum of €10,200 was devoted to the needs of the poor. This might initially give the impression that the diocese is inattentive to this important dimension of the Church's mission. In reality, however, the people of the Diocese, in the year under review, contributed a total of €193,005 to organisations such as Trocaire, Peter's Pence (Pontifical Charities), Emigrant Services, overseas Missions and the Holy Places (Christian community in the Holy Land). These contributions do not appear in the income and expenditure accounts of the Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund, since the money does not belong at any stage to the Diocese. The contributions are collected in the parishes on behalf of the charities concerned and remitted to them via the Diocesan Office, passing into and out of the designated account of the diocese in the one tax year.

In addition, it should be mentioned that the annual Christmas collection taken up in the Churches of the diocese for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are accounted for directly by the local members of SVP, which is a separate charity. The Diocese does not have a record of the amounts involved.

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund, through the medium of levies and direct payments for service, contributes towards the cost of pastoral services established at provincial and national level, including Cura, the Galway Regional Marriage Tribunal as well as the councils and commissions of the Episcopal Conference.

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The priests of the Diocese, through the medium of the Stewardship Fund, which is consolidated with the General Trust Fund, carry the costs of the diocesan Safeguarding Service as well as the diocesan contribution to the provision of safeguarding at national level, e.g., *Towards Healing* and the *National Board for Safeguarding*.

In the year under review, there was an excess of expenditure over income. This excess is accounted for primarily by once-off costs such as an investment in IT and maintenance and extensive repair of two diocesan properties.

The Diocese has liquid assets and investments which provide an annual income. In a time of economic uncertainty these investments provide the diocese with the financial security which is necessary to continue with its mission. These investments are crucial to the capacity of the Diocese to deal with either

- a) unforeseen costs in the area of building maintenance, or
- b) an inability on the part of the Sick Priests and Welfare Fund to fully cover the retirement and healthcare costs of a rapidly ageing population of priests, a responsibility which ultimately falls to the Diocese.

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund (CHY 3703) includes the Elphin Diocesan Trust, a bare trust in which all properties owned by the Diocese or by individual parishes are vested. Churches, parochial houses and parish centres remain the property of the individual parishes. Relatively few properties are owned directly by the Diocese.

An asset register for the Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund, which will detail buildings, lands and movable assets is in the course of preparation and it is anticipated that this will be included in future reports of the charity.

Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund
(Elphin Diocesan Office, Welfare Fund and Stewardship Fund)
Income and Expenditure Account
For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

	Notes	€
Diocesan Office Levy		291,733
Parish contributions - Welfare Fund		58,578
Parish contributions - Stewardship Fund		107,365
Investment income	1	81,922
Exceptional income	2	18,427
Income for Commissions and Agencies of the Episcopal Conference		25,593
Other income		<u>19,820</u>
		603,438
Levy for Commissions and Agencies of the Episcopal Conference		(48,862)
Operating expenses	3	(537,305)
Loss on Angelus Diocesan publication		<u>(5,235)</u>
Surplus before exceptional expenditure		12,036
Exceptional expenditure	4	<u>(115,652)</u>
Deficit after exceptional expenditure		(103,616)
Sale of Diocesan properties		<u>128,283</u>
Net surplus for year		<u><u>24,667</u></u>

Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund
(Elphin Diocesan Office, Welfare Fund and Stewardship Fund)
Notes to the Income and Expenditure Account
For the Year Ended 31 December 2014

	Notes	€
1. Investment income		
Dividend and interest income		50,022
Rental income		31,900
		<u>81,922</u>
2. Exceptional income		
Gifts and bequests		13,580
Sundry income		4,847
		<u>18,427</u>
3. Operating expenses:		
Salaries		71,053
Child protection and safeguarding costs		89,405
Pastoral Development Office costs		74,718
Charitable subscriptions		10,200
Vocation committee costs		320
General insurance		11,834
Seminars, retreats, courses and meetings		19,927
Cura contributions		4,368
Permanent diaconate costs		11,927
Seminarian and ongoing formation costs		40,303
Catechetics - primary level		20,993
Catechetics and chaplaincy - secondary level		51,966
Education management costs		3,773
Property maintenance costs		20,552
Diocesan Youth Office costs		19,322
Other overheads		86,644
		<u>537,305</u>
4. Exceptional expenses		
Legal and professional fees		3,512
Property refurbishment costs		31,951
Jubilee expenses		4,700
Diocesan gatherings		35,956
Legacy parish related costs		36,474
Loss on disposal of investment		3,059
		<u>115,652</u>

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