

THE DIOCESE OF ELPHIN GENERAL TRUST FUND



**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2019**

CHY 3703 / Registered Charity No 20004729

THE DIOCESE OF ELPHIN GENERAL TRUST FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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THE DIOCESE OF ELPHIN GENERAL TRUST FUND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

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).

This is the fifth consecutive year in which a full audit of the Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund has taken place.

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

- a) A "diocesan needs levy" on each of the parishes of the diocese. It is assessed as a percentage of the operational income of the parish for the last year for which audited accounts are available
- b) An annual income deriving from investments and bequests

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 and Young-adult Ministry, the Diocesan Safeguarding Service, the Diocesan Education Office, the Diocesan Vocations Service, the formation of seminarians, deacons and catechists, as well as partial funding of the services provided by Accord. Also included are a proportion of the costs associated with the employment of a Data Protection Officer who is shared between eight Dioceses.

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, together with the income of three others:

- Director of Safeguarding,
- Director of Vocations and Youth Ministry,
- Director of Pastoral and Faith Development Services – including Secondary RE Advisory Service.

The fund also provides stipends and expenses for four part-time staff members, who provide professional services in the areas of education and safeguarding.

Seminarians and Clergy

There was an increase in the number of seminarians in formation (from two to four) in the third quarter of 2019, the resulting increase in the associated costs will not appear until 2020.

The cost of the Vocations Service in the year under review were marginally up on 2018 due to an increase in activity. The induction costs of overseas clergy induction programme increased significantly, as clergy returning home were being replaced. One of our Permanent Deacons was assigned to post-graduate studies in the last quarter of 2018, but 2019 is the first full year of fees for that programme, with a resulting increase in the Permanent Diaconate costs. No candidates are currently in formation.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The *Partners in the Gospel Programme*, for the formation of volunteer Diocesan Catechists, is costed for each academic year (from August to July). Each academic year is broken over two financial years. The costs *per capita* were slightly lower in 2019, due to a small reduction in numbers and these costs were, once again, significantly offset by a grant from the Albert Gubay Trust.

In the year under review, the cost to the Diocese of the mission of the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother, which included significant social communications work on behalf of the Diocese, was reduced from €25,251 to €18,092 because of a related contribution from the parishes in which they are also assigned.

The Relief of Poverty and other Special Projects

During the year under review, out of a total of €42,374 paid out in charitable subscriptions and donations, the Diocese of Elphin made direct contributions totalling €9,736 to various charities for the alleviation of poverty, both in Ireland and overseas.

During the same period, however, the people of the Diocese, contributed a total of €216,289 to organisations such as Trocaire, Peter's Pence (Pontifical Charities), Emigrant Services, Overseas Missions, and to the Holy Places (Christian community in the Holy Land). This represents a good recovery on the 2018 figures which were lower than previous years. 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 same 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.

National Pastoral Services

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, the Galway Regional Marriage Tribunal and the Councils, Commissions and Services of the Episcopal Conference. This includes services to marriage preparation and counselling services, migrants, prisoners overseas, justice and peace as well as a range of administrative supports. This is now funded from the contributions of the parishes

Dependence on Exceptional Income

The accounts for the year under review, in relation to the ordinary operations of the Diocese, show an excess of expenditure over income of €188,409. In the year under review, exceptional income and exceptional expenditure were almost level, resulting in a net deficit of €190,652, which is a slight improvement (just under €10,000) on the previous year. The level of dependence on exceptional income is significantly reduced on the previous year.

THE DIOCESE OF ELPHIN GENERAL TRUST FUND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Investments

The Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund does have some investments which are carefully managed as an essential reserve to meet the cost of projects such as those described above and also to respond to unforeseen demands such as might be expected to arise in these uncertain economic times. Investment income improved in 2019, realising €62,835, which was available for use for the pastoral mission of the Diocese.

It is perhaps worth noting at the conclusion of this report that, while the report is presented in late 2020, the activity which it represents all occurred in 2019, before there was any question of the COVID-19 pandemic. In line with the extension granted by the CRA, the report is submitted slightly later than usual, due to the significant logistical challenges posed by the pandemic throughout 2020.

On behalf of the Trustees



Bishop Kevin Doran

Dated this 15th day of December 2020

THE DIOCESE OF ELPHIN GENERAL TRUST FUND

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish legislation requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland. The Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the entity as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the entity for the financial year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the entity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the entity keeps adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the entity, enable at any time the assets liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the entity to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Report of the Trustees comply with applicable legislation and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the entity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Trustees



Bishop Kevin Doran

Dated this 15th day of December 2020

INDEPENDENT REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE DIOCESE OF ELPHIN GENERAL TRUST FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

We have audited the financial statements of the Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund for the year ended 31 December 2019, which comprises of the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

This report is made solely to the Trustees of the Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trustees those matters that we are required to state to them in the audit report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trustees of the Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund or the Trustees' members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with relevant legislation, as required. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the entity's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed, the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

INDEPENDENT REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE DIOCESE OF ELPHIN GENERAL TRUST FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the entity as at 31 December 2019 and its surplus for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework

Matters on which we are required to report

- We have obtained all the information and explanations, which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the Charity were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the Report of the Trustees is consistent with the financial statements.

Anthony Porter

For and on behalf of:

Porter and Co

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Millennium House

Stephen Street

Sligo

Dated this 15th day of December 2020

**DIOCESE OF ELPHIN GENERAL TRUST FUND
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	Notes	2019 €	2018 €
Diocesan Office Levy		480,496	403,385
Parish contributions and other donations to Welfare Fund		53,769	62,965
Parish contributions and other donations to Stewardship Fund		59,764	66,496
Investment income	1	62,835	24,085
Sundry income		11,833	11,833
Income for Commissions and Agencies of the Episcopal Conference		6,035	1,275
		<hr/> 674,732	<hr/> 570,039
Levy for Commissions and Agencies of the Episcopal Conference		(50,668)	(51,120)
Operating expenses	2	(812,809)	(823,083)
Surplus on Angelus Diocesan publication		336	2,639
Deficit before exceptional income and expenditure		<hr/> (188,409)	<hr/> (301,525)
Exceptional income	3	53,536	260,782
Exceptional expenditure	4	(55,779)	(159,606)
Net deficit for year		<hr/> (190,652)	<hr/> (200,349)

DIOCESE OF ELPHIN GENERAL TRUST FUND
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019	2018
	€	€
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets	573,434	577,433
Investments at cost	782,927	397,748
	<u>1,356,361</u>	<u>975,181</u>
Current assets		
Debtors and prepayments	587,303	637,287
Cash at bank and in hand	1,788,138	2,539,481
	<u>2,375,441</u>	<u>3,176,768</u>
Creditors: (amounts falling due within one year)	(183,610)	(448,203)
Net current assets	<u>2,191,831</u>	<u>2,728,565</u>
Total net assets	<u>3,548,192</u>	<u>3,703,746</u>
Accumulated Fund:		
Balance at beginning of year	3,703,746	3,933,603
(Deficit) / surplus for year	(190,652)	(200,349)
Transfer to Building Fund	35,098	-
Adjustment of inter-agency debt repaid	-	(29,508)
Balance at end of year	<u>3,548,192</u>	<u>3,703,746</u>

DIOCESE OF ELPHIN GENERAL TRUST FUND
NOTES TO THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019		2018	
	€	€	€	€
1. Investment income				
Dividend and interest income		11,420		286
Rental income	80,959		53,285	
Rental costs	(29,544)	51,415	(29,486)	23,799
		<u>62,835</u>		<u>24,085</u>
2. Operating expenses:				
Salaries		345,553		336,987
Child protection and safeguarding costs		31,870		36,278
Pastoral Development Office costs		18,551		8,741
Charitable subscriptions		14,000		12,550
Vocation committee costs		2,593		2,458
General insurance		19,025		21,730
Seminars, retreats, courses and meetings		10,836		20,673
Cura contributions		-		2,184
Chaplaincy costs	90,736		92,394	
Less contribution received	(94,245)	(3,509)	(94,500)	(2,106)
Permanent diaconate costs		17,491		8,634
Seminarian and ongoing formation costs		55,948		25,033
Priests' expenses		43,861		63,799
Catechetics - primary level		14,443		26,556
Catechetics & chaplaincy - secondary level		12,454		21,490
Education management costs		1,891		13,973
Overseas Priests induction costs		35,362		16,127
Property maintenance costs		6,931		7,545
Diocesan Youth Office costs		12,089		27,358
Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother	36,692		44,901	
Less contribution received	(18,600)	18,092	(19,650)	25,251
Partners in the Gospel programme	41,491		44,422	
Less Gubay Foundation grant received	(20,539)	20,952	(19,910)	24,512
Polish Chaplaincy costs		19,738		18,912
Audit fees		7,011		7,011
Marriage Tribunal		19,994		23,346
Miscellaneous subscriptions and donations		28,374		24,808
Postage, stationery and advertising		8,060		9,516
Family Ministry		8,796		-
Ain Karim Project	1,000		-	
Less contribution received	(1,000)	-	-	-
Other overheads		42,403		39,717
		<u>812,809</u>		<u>823,083</u>

**DIOCESE OF ELPHIN GENERAL TRUST FUND
NOTES TO THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	2019	2018
	€	€
3. Exceptional income		
Gifts and bequests	46,399	7,723
Sundry income	2,468	405
Disposal of properties	-	6,112
Profit on disposal of investment	4,669	246,542
	<u>53,536</u>	<u>260,782</u>
4. Exceptional expenses		
Property refurbishment costs	-	2,043
Jubilee expenses	1,360	740
World Meeting of Families	41,496	8,362
Diminution in value of investment	-	98,461
Contribution to Summerhill College	-	50,000
Summerhill College Athlone	10,099	-
Sale of property – related professional fee	2,824	-
	<u>55,779</u>	<u>159,606</u>