

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin
Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020



Porter and Co.
Millennium House
Stephen Street
Sligo
Republic of Ireland

Charity Number: CHY 6942
Charities Regulatory Authority Number: 20014018

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin

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The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Number	CHY 6942
Charities Regulatory Authority Number	20014018
Auditors	Porter and Co. Millennium House Stephen Street Sligo Republic of Ireland
Trustees	Bishop Kevin Doran Fr Raymond Milton Canon Liam Devine Fr Thomas Hever
Bankers	Allied Irish Banks Various Branch Addresses Bank of Ireland Various Branch Addresses Post Office Various Branch Addresses Credit Union Various Branch Addresses Permanent TSB Various Branch Addresses Ulster Bank Various Branch Addresses

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

The trustees present their Trustees' Report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the Fund are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the Charity's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 2020.

The charity is a registered charity and although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015), the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

Background

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. There are thirty seven parishes in the Diocese. This does not represent any change on the previous year. These parishes, together with a number of chaplaincies, are served by sixty seven priests. There are also eight permanent deacons whose ministry is largely voluntary. While the public profile of the parish is associated with the celebration of the Mass and the Sacraments, other key activities include the pastoral care of the sick and bereaved, and to the poor, faith development activities, and a significant engagement with children and their families through the medium of the parish schools. There are a total of eighty seven churches many of which are protected structures. In addition, there are 109 parish primary schools.

Under the heading of CHY6942, in addition to the Parishes of the Diocese, there are also included a small number of semi-autonomous agencies, including one Family Life Centre, the Star of the Sea Retreat Centre, the Chaplaincy at Sligo University Hospital, the Lourdes Pilgrimage and a community of Sisters exercising ministry at Diocesan level.

The accounts presented for 2020 are in the form of a consolidation of the income and expenditure of the individual parishes and agencies of the diocese. This is sixth year in which a full audit has taken place. Many new policies and procedures were introduced in 2015 and, as a result of on-going internal management and support, significant progress has again been made in implementing these new best-practice procedures during the year under review. All parishes operate a system of dual authorisation and most have introduced the practice of providing annual financial reports to parishioners. All parishes have been working towards a greater consistency with respect to controls and reporting mechanisms and most have achieved high levels of compliance.

The complexity of the Charity and its significant dependence on volunteers makes us all the more aware of the need for internal audit, not only to protect the Charity itself, but also to protect the volunteers. We welcome the very generous engagement of lay volunteers with the requirements of the Charities Act.

The current Trustees are set out on page 3.

Sources of Income

The income of the parishes derives primarily, as can be seen, from the contributions of the faithful in the Sunday collection, described in the financial statements as Parish Offertory Collections. Notwithstanding the generosity of parishioners, this income dropped by circa €800k in the year under review, due to the restrictions imposed on gatherings of the faithful.

Some parishes receive income from the rental of properties and bequests, but this is minimal. Indeed, many parishes see it as part of their mission to support the building of community by making vacant properties available for the use of community groups at a nominal cost. This works well enough if the building is run by a parish committee which is answerable to the parish finance council. On occasion, however, the occupier / user ceases to be accountable to the parish and this can present difficulties, if there is no formal legal agreement in place, as was often the practice in the

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

past. The current Diocesan policy is to ensure that a lease or license is in place to clarify the relationship between the occupier and the parish. There has been resistance to this in some quarters.

Parish income is primarily categorised under two headings as follows:

- a) Income to support the day to day mission of the parishes was €2,316,607 in 2020, reflecting a drop of circa 25% on the previous year. This income is applied to fund the supplies, heat and light, insurances, administrative costs and the maintenance of buildings. This income also provides for the payment of:
 - a diocesan needs levy to the Diocese of Elphin (CHY 3703), which is normally calculated as 15% of the operational income of the parish for the year under review. This is intended to cover the costs of Diocesan Administration and the provision of a range of central services for the benefit of all the parishes of the diocese.
 - certain expenses of the priest, including health insurance, motor tax and insurance.
- b) Income collected specifically for the support of the priest(s) of the parish. It includes a single special collection at Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and on one weekend in November, together with the offerings which may be made on the occasions of Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals and Stations (the latter being replaced in some parishes by a Harvest collection).

The annual income for each priest is determined from time to time by the Bishop in consultation with the Council of Priests. The base income amounted to €21,004 per annum for Parish priests and €19,732 for Curates. In the year under review the priests agreed to a reduction in income over a four month period, corresponding with the duration of the first lock-down. Even while public mass was suspended, many parishioners continued to make contributions, but the impossibility of gathering for almost six of the twelve months did have a significant impact on income. The clergy income came to a total of €859,865 in the year under review (a decrease of €330k on the previous year).

In parishes where the income designated for the support of the priests does not reach the base level described above, the balance is made up from the parish account. This happened in more parishes in the year under review due to the impact of COVID-19. Priests were not in a position to benefit from any of the Government income-support schemes during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In parishes where the income exceeds the minimum required for the support of the priests, 40% of the surplus is shared between the priests of the parish and 20% is ceded by the priests of the parish on a voluntary basis to each of the following:

- The Diocese of Elphin Sick and Retired Priests Welfare Fund (known generally as the Sick and Retired Priests Fund), which is reported as a separate charity (CHY 2740).
- The Welfare Fund, which provides support for priests who are not in parochial ministry and for continuing professional development of clergy. This fund is consolidated with the accounts of the Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund (CHY3703).
- The Stewardship Fund, which covers a significant portion of the costs associated with operating the safeguarding service of the diocese. This fund is also consolidated with the accounts of the Diocese of Elphin General Trust Fund (CHY 3703).

Notwithstanding the overall reduction in clergy income, each of those funds received between €40k and €50k in the year under review.

NOTE: The use of the word Welfare in the names of two of the funds is a legacy of history but they serve two different purposes.

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

In addition to the above, on a combined basis, the Parishes are in receipt of Revenue Commissioner Rebates amounting to €558k for the year under review, which comprise tax relief on donations received together with amounts received under the VAT compensation scheme for charities and employment wage subsidies.

The remaining income of the Parishes include insurance claims in relation to property, receipt of charitable funds administered by the Parishes (Trocaire etc), and other income as described in more detail at Note 3 to the financial statements.

Restricted Funds

As this Charity consolidates the accounts of a large number of entities, the funds of each parish or entity are treated as restricted, with respect to the others.

Annual collections are taken up in all of the parishes for agencies which do not belong to the diocese, but which are associated with the mission of the Church, e.g, Trocaire (the Catholic Agency for Development), Migrants, Peter's Pence (Pontifical Charities) and Holy Places. These collections are transferred directly to the relevant agency via the Elphin Diocesan Office, before the end of the financial year, using an account which is designated for this specific purpose. These monies are shown as part of the income of the parish, described as Administration of Charitable funds. Much of this income is designated specifically to alleviate poverty and disadvantage. The total of such restricted funds, in the year under review, amounted to €101,974 reflecting a decrease of circa €63k.

Expenditure

As might be expected, over one third of the expenditure is in personnel costs. While the majority of this related to the modest income of the clergy, there are significant further personnel costs relating to the provision of lay staff, including parish secretaries and sacristans, together with personnel engaged by the Family Life Centre and the Retreat Centre. With the reduction in the numbers of clergy, provision will need to be made for more administrative staff in the future, and this will be one substantial draw on the financial reserves of the parishes. Many staff, regrettably, had to be temporarily laid off due to COVID-19 restrictions, and availed of PUP. It should be acknowledged that these employed staff are backed up in many parishes by volunteers who carry out similar roles. Once public Mass resumed, many additional volunteers were required to manage the safe return of congregations.

The second largest cost across all of the parishes is the cost of repairs and refurbishment. This comes to a total of €1.39m (a slight increase over the previous year). While much of this is planned refurbishment, a certain amount of unplanned expenditure must be budgeted for, given the age of most of the buildings that are in service throughout the diocese.

Diocesan policy is to dispose responsibly of property (other than Churches) for which there is no use within the foreseeable future, thereby reducing maintenance and insurance costs.

Financial Review

The results for the financial year are set out on page 12 and additional notes are provided showing income and expenditure in greater detail.

Total income of the fund for the financial year ending 31st December 2020 was €5,105,925, representing a decrease as compared to the previous year. This decrease can be attributed to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, which gave rise to a substantial decrease in parish offertory collections and collections for the support of the clergy.

Total expenditure in the year under review amounted to €5,258,362, representing a reduction as compared to the previous year, which primarily arose due to decreased personnel costs arising during the year, together with a reduction in operational costs of Parishes due to the restrictions imposed on gatherings due to the Pandemic and decreased Diocesan Needs and Sick and Retired Priest Fund levies.

The results for the year also include gains on investments held by the Fund, which amounted to €143,465.

The net result for the financial year, including the gain on investments, was a deficit amounting to €8,972 (2019: surplus of €444,504).

The operational deficit before gains on investments amounted to €152,437 as compared to a surplus of €373,277 in the previous year. However, the surplus for 2019 included income from sale of properties amounting to €335,879.

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin can continue to operate as a going concern. It must be acknowledged, however, that this is largely due to the generosity of a minority of parishioners. The actual contribution rate from parishioners ranges from 10% of families in some urban areas to 40% in some rural communities.

The contributions made by parishioners are totally voluntary. It is part of the ethos of the Catholic Church that no individual will be refused access to the ministry or services of the Church because of inability to pay. While there is undoubtedly some decline in regular sacramental practice, it must be said that significant numbers of those who do make use of parish services and facilities do not contribute regularly. Notwithstanding this, the mission of the Church, both to practicing Catholics and to the wider community of the Baptised must continue. Parishes, together with the services they provide, are greatly dependent on the generosity of the minority.

The availability of a full audit report allows us to gain a broad overview of the finances of all the parishes and agencies. While some of the parishes recorded a deficit for the year under review, this is related in most cases to planned development or emergency repairs and is being managed in accordance with an agreed plan. Most of the parishes have some level of surplus cash, which is not inconsistent with the need to be in a position to respond to unforeseen costs, particularly in respect of the maintenance of buildings. There is scope for some parishes, out of their surplus, to contribute to new pastoral initiatives or to easing the burden on Parishes which are more heavily burdened.

Results

At the end of the financial year the charity has assets of €11,502,068 (2019 - €11,414,856) and liabilities of €634,015 (2019 - €537,831). The net assets of the charity have decreased by €8,972.

Assets

The audit report is qualified in relation to the absence of a completed asset register for the Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin. We believe that we have identified all the buildings and lands that are owned by the parishes. The work of ensuring the properties are properly registered and that the trustees are up to date, has proved far more time consuming than was anticipated. We have become aware of some properties in respect of which the trustees were not the Diocesan trustees, have since died and were not replaced. Significant work has been done to ensure that all the buildings and lands of which parishes are the beneficial owners are registered to the Elphin Diocesan Trust, which will avoid this difficulty arising in the future. As many of the properties are quite old and have the status of protected structures, there is often a significant discrepancy between their replacement value for insurance purposes (which may be quite high) and their market value (which may be little or nothing). It has taken some time to identify an appropriate and acceptable means of valuing them as assets. This work is on-going and it is expected that it will be completed in early 2022.

Catholic Primary Schools under diocesan patronage have traditionally benefitted from the charitable status of the parish with which they are affiliated. This dates from a time when the Parish Priest was the sole manager of the primary school. These schools, while remaining under the patronage of the bishop, now have their own Boards of Management which are responsible for all the financial operations of the school. The buildings and lands of these schools do, however, form part of the fixed assets of the Diocese.

Most second level schools are not under the patronage of the bishop, but the exceptions are the three diocesan colleges. These, like the primary schools have their own Boards of Management which are responsible for all the financial operations of the school, but the buildings and lands of these schools form part of the fixed assets of the Diocese. The new College building at Summerhill Athlone (Coláiste Chiaráin) completed the construction phase in the year under review and is now fully operational. There will be significant costs to the Diocese related to the demolition of a derelict building on the site and the funding of an oratory in the new school. These costs will be reflected in due course in the accounts of the Elphin Diocesan Trust Fund (CHY3703).

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The charity engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin subscribes to and is compliant with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The Charity is in compliance with the Charities Governance Code and the Trustees of the Charity have completed the Compliance Record Form for 2020.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 29th October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Bishop of Elphin

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin
TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

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

The law applicable to charities in the Republic of Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the charity as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the charity and otherwise comply with the Charities Act, 2009.

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


- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework, 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 charity will continue in operation.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2009 and the provisions of the charity's constitution and rules. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the Republic of Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 29th October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Bishop of Elphin

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin

Report on the audit of the financial statements

We have audited the charity financial statements of The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin for the financial year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Basis for Qualified Opinion on Financial Statements

Our opinion on the financial statements is qualified in relation to the fixed asset of the Charity, which are not represented on its Balance Sheet, other than Family Life Centre assets and assets acquired since 2015. The process of identifying all Parish assets, their legal and beneficial ownership and the valuation thereof has not been completed to the extent that fixed assets can be represented, in full, on the Balance Sheet.

It is not possible to quantify the financial effects of this matter, if any.

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion on the Financial Statements paragraph above, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the charity as at 31 December 2020 and of its deficit for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014 and having regard to the Charities SORP;

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are 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. In our opinion the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Thomas Anthony Porter
PORTER AND CO.

Millennium House
Stephen Street
Sligo


Dated this 29th day of October 2021

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

		Restricted Funds 2020	Total 2020	Restricted Funds 2019 (Restated)	Total 2019 (Restated)
		€	€	€	€
	Notes				
Income:					
Charitable Activities	3.1	4,606,416	4,606,416	5,771,734	5,771,734
Donations and legacies	3.2	108,674	108,674	147,722	147,722
Other Trading Activities	3.3	287,423	287,423	626,118	626,118
Investments	3.4	57,423	57,423	97,029	97,029
Other – Sale of Fixed Assets	3.5	45,989	45,989	335,879	335,879
		<u>5,105,925</u>	<u>5,105,925</u>	<u>6,978,482</u>	<u>6,978,482</u>
Expenditure:					
Charitable Activities	4.1	5,076,795	5,076,795	6,333,055	6,333,055
Cost of raising funds	4.2	132,715	132,715	187,525	187,525
Other costs	4.3	48,852	48,852	84,625	84,625
		<u>5,258,362</u>	<u>5,258,362</u>	<u>6,605,205</u>	<u>6,605,205</u>
Net (deficit)/surplus before gain on investments		(152,437)	(152,437)	373,277	373,277
Net gain on investments	5	143,465	143,465	71,227	71,227
		<u>(8,972)</u>	<u>(8,972)</u>	<u>444,504</u>	<u>444,504</u>
Net (deficit)/surplus		(8,972)	(8,972)	444,504	444,504
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		10,877,025	10,877,025	10,450,557	10,450,557
Transfer of Family Life Centre to independent charitable entity		-	-	(18,036)	(18,036)
		<u>10,868,053</u>	<u>10,868,053</u>	<u>10,877,025</u>	<u>10,877,025</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year.
All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 29th October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Bishop of Elphin

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin
BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 December 2020

		Restricted Funds 2020 €	Total 2020 €	Restricted Funds 2019 €	Total 2019 €
	Notes				
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	6	511,762	511,762	246,235	246,235
Current assets:					
Investments	7	2,242,608	2,242,608	2,301,886	2,301,886
Cash at bank and in hand	8	8,582,089	8,582,089	8,836,808	8,836,808
Debtors and prepayments	9	165,610	165,610	29,927	29,927
		<u>10,990,307</u>	<u>10,990,307</u>	<u>11,168,621</u>	<u>11,168,621</u>
Creditors: (amounts falling due within one year)	10	<u>(634,015)</u>	<u>(634,015)</u>	<u>(537,831)</u>	<u>(537,831)</u>
Net current assets		<u>10,356,292</u>	<u>10,356,292</u>	<u>11,168,621</u>	<u>10,630,790</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>10,868,053</u>	<u>10,868,053</u>	<u>11,414,856</u>	<u>10,877,025</u>
Total net assets		<u>10,868,053</u>	<u>10,868,053</u>	<u>11,414,856</u>	<u>10,877,025</u>
The Funds of the Charity					
General Funds	11	<u>10,868,053</u>	<u>10,868,053</u>	<u>10,877,025</u>	<u>10,877,025</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 29th October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:





The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin is a charity established in the Republic of Ireland. The registered office of the charity is St Mary's, Temple Street, Sligo, which is also the principal place of business of the charity. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the charity.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)".

The charity has applied the Charities SORP on a voluntary basis as its application is not a requirement of the current regulations for charities registered in the Republic of Ireland.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the charity for the financial year ended 31 December 2020 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)" and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Fund accounting

The following are the categories of funds maintained:

Restricted funds

Restricted Funds represent income received which can only be used for particular purposes, as specified by the donors. Such purposes are within the overall objectives of the charity.

Each Parish is an individual and autonomous entity, with the Parish Priest being the Trustee. Accordingly, Parish funds are restricted to the use of the individual Parish unless otherwise agreed as is the case with regard to Diocesan levies. On this basis, all funds included in these financial statements are regarded as Restricted Funds.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds consist of General and Designated funds.

- General funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the board, in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.
- Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that the board has, at its discretion, set aside for particular purposes. These designations have an administrative purpose only, and do not legally restrict the board's discretion to apply the fund.

As these financial statements represent the consolidation of the funds of the Parishes of the Diocese, which by their nature are restricted to the Parish, there are no unrestricted funds.

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

continued

Income

Income is recognised by inclusion in the Statement of Financial Activities only when the charity is legally entitled to the income, performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, the amounts involved can be measured with sufficient reliability and it is probable that the income will be received by the charity.

Charitable Activities

Income from Charitable Activities, including Parish Offertory Collections, Income designated for the support of Clergy, Shrines and income from other charitable activities is recognised when received or receivable. Where the donor has requested the donation is spent for a particular purpose the income is included in the Statement of Financial Activity when the required performance criteria is met. Where the donation, contribution, collection or stipend is unrestricted, the income is included in the Statement of Financial Activity when received or receivable.

Where income is received in advance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, it is accrued in debtors.

Grants from governments and other co-funders typically include one of the following types of conditions:

- Performance based conditions: whereby the charity is contractually entitled to funding only to the extent that the core objectives of the grant agreement are achieved. Where the charity is meeting the core objectives of a grant agreement, it recognises the related expenditure, to the extent that it is reimbursable by the donor, as income.

- Time based conditions: whereby the charity is contractually entitled to funding on the condition that it is utilised in a particular period. In these cases the charity recognises the income to the extent it is utilised within the period specified in the agreement.

In the absence of such conditions, assuming that receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured, grant income is recognised once the charity is notified of entitlement.

Grants received towards capital expenditure are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable, whichever is earlier.

Legacies and Bequests

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the Charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the Charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the Charity, or the Charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income from Trading Activities

Income from Trading Activities is recognised as the income falls due.

Income from Investments

Income from bank interest receivable, shares and investments and rental income is recognised as the income falls due.

Other Income

Other income relates to the sale of Parish properties which is recognised when the parish property is sold and the Parish is contractually entitled to the sales proceeds.

Expenditure

Expenditure is analysed between costs of charitable activities, raising funds and other costs. The costs of each activity are separately accumulated and disclosed, and analysed according to their major components. Expenditure is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, a transfer of economic benefits is required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be reliably measured. Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but cannot be attributed to one activity. Such costs are allocated to activities in proportion to staff time spent or other suitable measure for each activity.

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

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Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost. As set out in the Report of the Trustees, only Family Life Centre assets and properties acquired since 2015 are included in the financial statements.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses on investments are included in the Statement of Financial Activity.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Income recognised by the charity from donors, tenants and Parishes, but not yet received at financial year end, is included in debtors.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand comprises cash on deposit at banks requiring less than three months notice of withdrawal.

Taxation and deferred taxation

No current or deferred taxation arises as the charity has been granted charitable exemption. Irrecoverable valued added tax is expensed as incurred.

Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

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3. INCOME

	Restricted Funds 2020 €	Total 2020 €	Restricted Funds 2019 €	Total 2019 €
3.1 Charitable Activities				
Parish Offertory Collections	2,316,607	2,316,607	3,107,805	3,107,805
Collections designated for Renovation of Church Properties	90,669	90,669	158,185	158,185
Income designated for the support of Clergy	859,865	859,865	1,189,974	1,189,974
Shrines	279,835	279,835	314,611	314,611
Public and Heritage Grant Assistance	45,673	45,673	30,162	30,162
Revenue Commissioner Rebates	558,346	558,346	414,803	414,803
Sundry	5,729	5,729	94,968	94,968
HSE Chaplaincy	15,000	15,000	15,003	15,003
Insurance claim	207,491	207,491	33,991	33,991
Graves and Cemetery upkeep	20,044	20,044	24,075	24,075
Parish History Book, newsletters, books etc	10,832	10,832	20,822	20,822
Lourdes Pilgrimage income	4,630	4,630	87,244	87,244
Family Life Centre operating income	2,570	2,570	8,789	8,789
Diocesan Office levy contribution	46,721	46,721	62,979	62,979
Sick and Retired Priests Fund contributions	20,006	20,006	27,298	27,298
Special collections and levies	20,424	20,424	16,307	16,307
Administration of charitable funds	101,974	101,974	164,718	164,718
	<u>4,606,416</u>	<u>4,606,416</u>	<u>5,771,734</u>	<u>5,771,734</u>
3.2 Donations and legacies				
Donations and bequests	108,674	108,674	147,722	147,722
	<u>108,674</u>	<u>108,674</u>	<u>147,722</u>	<u>147,722</u>
3.3 Other Trading Activities				
Carpark	69,163	69,163	102,345	102,345
Hall Income	65,583	65,583	156,507	156,507
Retreat Centre operating income	31,620	31,620	170,763	170,763
Fund Raising Events and Raffles	121,057	121,057	196,503	196,503
	<u>287,423</u>	<u>287,423</u>	<u>626,118</u>	<u>626,118</u>
3.4 Investments				
Bank Interest	964	964	1,611	1,611
Income from shares and investments	1,439	1,439	49,252	49,252
Property rental income	55,020	55,020	46,166	46,166
	<u>57,423</u>	<u>57,423</u>	<u>97,029</u>	<u>97,029</u>
3.5 Other				
Sale of Parish Property	45,989	45,989	335,879	335,879
	<u>45,989</u>	<u>45,989</u>	<u>335,879</u>	<u>335,879</u>

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

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4. EXPENDITURE

4.1 Charitable Activities

Personnel costs:

	Restricted Funds 2020 €	Total 2020 €	Restricted Funds 2019 €	Total 2019 €
Clergy Stipends	1,056,027	1,056,027	1,188,524	1,188,524
Ancillary Parish salaries and stipends	598,241	598,241	807,889	807,889
Family Life Centre staff costs	4,204	4,204	9,480	9,480
	<u>1,658,472</u>	<u>1,658,472</u>	<u>2,005,893</u>	<u>2,005,893</u>
Repairs, refurbishment and maintenance	1,394,547	1,394,547	1,354,280	1,354,280
Heat, light and power	476,529	476,529	613,001	613,001
Insurances (Parish, VHI, motor)	477,185	477,185	522,641	522,641
Altar supplies	154,816	154,816	190,849	190,849
Missalettes and newsletters	66,700	66,700	104,757	104,757
Lourdes Pilgrimage costs	-	-	83,182	83,182
Postage and stationery	104,580	104,580	149,639	149,639
Telephone	83,737	83,737	77,003	77,003
Sundry expenses	8,691	8,691	57,628	57,628
Local Property Tax	11,239	11,239	18,642	18,642
Rates and water charges	9,158	9,158	10,382	10,382
Rent	33,910	33,910	24,240	24,240
Donations, sponsorships and retreats	82,980	82,980	129,624	129,624
Bank charges	30,840	30,840	37,747	37,747
Diocesan Office levies	227,211	227,211	480,496	480,496
Contribution to Sick and Retired Priests Fund	49,508	49,508	146,610	146,610
Contribution to Welfare Fund	40,525	40,525	53,769	53,769
Contribution to Stewardship Fund	44,525	44,525	59,764	59,764
Special collections and levies	19,541	19,541	47,174	47,174
Administration of charitable funds	102,101	102,101	165,734	165,734
	<u>5,076,795</u>	<u>5,076,795</u>	<u>6,333,055</u>	<u>6,333,055</u>

4.2 Cost of raising funds

Retreat Centre staff costs	21,668	21,668	43,755	43,755
Retreat Centre operating costs	51,773	51,773	73,851	73,851
Parish hall costs	28,362	28,362	16,313	16,313
Fundraising, prizes etc	16,125	16,125	39,891	39,891
Investment management fees	14,787	14,787	13,715	13,715
	<u>132,715</u>	<u>132,715</u>	<u>187,525</u>	<u>187,525</u>

4.3 Other costs

Professional fees	29,418	29,418	65,191	65,191
Audit fees	19,434	19,434	19,434	19,434
	<u>48,852</u>	<u>48,852</u>	<u>84,625</u>	<u>84,625</u>

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

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5. INVESTMENT AND OTHER INCOME

	Restricted Funds 2020 €	Total 2020 €	Restricted Funds 2019 €	Total 2019 €
Realised gain on investments	143,465	143,465	71,227	71,227

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and buildings freehold €	Total €
Cost		
At 1 January 2020	246,235	246,235
Additions	265,527	265,527
At 31 December 2020	511,762	511,762
Net book value		
At 31 December 2020	511,762	511,762
At 31 December 2019	246,235	246,235

The above fixed assets include a Family Life Centre property and properties acquired since 2015, all of which are stated at cost.

6.1 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS PRIOR FINANCIAL YEAR

	Fixtures and fittings €	Land and buildings freehold €	Total €
Cost			
At 1 January 2019	7,667	214,434	222,101
Additions	-	31,801	31,801
Disposals	(7,667)	-	(7,667)
At 31 December 2019	-	246,235	246,235
Net book value			
At 31 December 2019	-	246,235	246,235
At 31 December 2018	7,667	246,235	246,235

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

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7.	INVESTMENTS	2020 €	2019 €			
	Quoted investments at valuation – Restricted Funds	<u>2,242,608</u>	<u>2,301,886</u>			
8.	CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2020 €	2019 €			
	Cash and bank balances – Restricted Funds	<u>8,582,089</u>	<u>8,836,808</u>			
9.	DEBTORS	2020 €	2019 €			
	Receivables and prepayments – Restricted Funds	<u>165,610</u>	<u>29,927</u>			
10.	CREDITORS (Amounts Falling Due Within One Year)					
	Diocesan Building Fund- Restricted	277,768	219,992			
	Creditors and accruals	<u>356,247</u>	<u>317,839</u>			
		<u>634,015</u>	<u>537,831</u>			
11.	FUNDS					
11.1	RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	Restricted Funds €	Total Funds €			
	At 1 January 2019	10,450,557	10,450,557			
	Surplus for year	444,504	444,504			
	Transfer of Family Life Centre to independent charitable entity	(18,036)	(18,036)			
	At 31 December 2019	<u>10,877,025</u>	<u>10,877,025</u>			
	Movement during the financial year	(8,972)	(8,972)			
	At 31 December 2020	<u>10,868,053</u>	<u>10,868,053</u>			
11.2	ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON FUNDS					
		Balance 1 January 2020 €	Income €	Expenditure €	Gain on investments €	Balance 31 December 2020 €
	Restricted funds					
	Restricted General	<u>10,877,025</u>	<u>5,105,925</u>	<u>5,258,362</u>	<u>143,465</u>	<u>10,868,053</u>
	Total funds	<u>10,877,025</u>	<u>5,105,925</u>	<u>5,258,362</u>	<u>143,465</u>	<u>10,868,053</u>

The Parishes of the Diocese of Elphin
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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11.3 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Fixed assets	Current Assets	Current Liabilities	Total
	€	€	€	€
Restricted general funds	511,762	10,990,307	634,015	10,868,053
	<u>511,762</u>	<u>10,990,307</u>	<u>634,015</u>	<u>10,868,053</u>

12. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the financial year-end.

13. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 29th October 2021.