

The Diocese of Cork and Ross administers funds as part of its pastoral mission. The funds which are provided by the faithful of the diocese and elsewhere are in the trust of the Bishop of Cork and Ross. Annual accounts are prepared by Declan O'Connell & Co, Chartered Accountants. These accounts are independently audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The previous set of diocesan accounts was published in *The Fold* magazine. This presentation of accounts covers the financial year to 30th June 2003 (with comparative figures from June 2002) and the financial year to 30th June 2004.

The diocese has six groups of funds which are accounted for separately and reflect particular purposes for which they were established.

Fund Headings

SPECIFIC FUNDS: This is a group of separate accounts which serve specific charitable purposes, according to the intention of the donor or initiated by the bishop for a specific reason. Each account is only used for the purpose for which it is intended. Annual and once-off special collections (e.g. Trócaire appeals) are part of this fund.

MISSION FUND: The Diocese of Cork and Ross took pastoral responsibility for missions in Trujillo, Peru, in the 1960s and for parishes in Manta, Ecuador, in 1993. Funds were set up by the diocese to finance these missions. Income is received from mission boxes in the churches, donations, bequests and fundraising by individuals and groups, as well as bank interest. Ongoing financial support is provided to the parishes of Manta and Trujillo and the Mercy and Bon Secours Sisters in Peru.

PRIESTS' FUND: The clergy of the diocese contribute annually to a Benevolent Fund which provides a stipend for priests who are retired, ill or unable to derive a stipend otherwise. An annual parish levy (6% of ordinary income from collections) also contributes to the fund. The fund also pays nursing-home costs for priests.

PRIESTHOOD EDUCATION FUND: The annual collection for the education of seminarians is part of these funds. Donations and bequests for education of priests are held in this fund. It also finances the cost of post-graduate study for priests of the diocese.

CENTRAL FUND: The Central Fund of the diocese supports the centralised activities of the diocese, including providing personnel and running costs for the Cork and Ross Offices, Redemption Road (Bishop's office, Education offices, Communications office, archives); The Cork and Ross Family Centre, 34 Paul Street; the Cork Regional Marriage Tribunal, The Lough; the Diocesan Social Services Administration at St., Finbarr's South; and the Office for Parish Pastoral Development. These funds are principally financed by contributions from the parishes, contributions from other Munster dioceses for the services of the Marriage Tribunal, from income on investments and donations, and bequests by the faithful.

GENERAL FUND: These are charitable funds which have been contributed for charitable and pastoral needs for disbursement at the discretion of the bishop.

Comparative overview of the income and expenditure of diocesan funds from July 1, 2002 to June 30th, 2004 (all amounts are in thousands of euro).

Consolidated Fund Movements

(Year end is June 30th.)

	2004 '000	2003 '000	2002 '000
Opening balance at beginning of year	7,454	7,395	8,367
<i>Income</i>			
Church collections, donations and bequests	1,318	1,797	1,337
Contributions from parishes and other dioceses	1,022	788	572
Contributions from priests	69	54	57
Investment income, gains on disposals /revaluations of investments (loss in brackets)	551	(445)	(498)
Sundry Income	-	-	46
	2,960	2,194	1,514
<i>Expenditure</i>			
Assistance to parishes	102	106	142
Assistance to other diocesan activities and beneficiaries of funds, including pastoral services	1,099	1,166	1,550
Central services	593	692	500
Payments to sick and retired priests	218	171	269
Office renovations	-	-	25
	2,012	2,135	2,486
Closing balance at end of year	8,402	7,454	7,395

Fund movements to year ended 30 June 2004

	Specific Funds €'000	Mission Funds €'000	Priests Funds €'000	Priesthood Education Fund	Central Funds €'000	General Funds €'000	2004 Total €'000	2003 Total €'000
Opening balance at 1 July 2003	1,371	514	2,361	274	1,591	1,343	7,454	7,395
Church collections	413	33	-	83	72	-	601	712
Donations and bequests	30	286	33	25	141	202	717	1,085
Contributions from other dioceses	-	17	-	-	276	-	293	77
Contributions from parishes	-	-	305	-	424	-	729	711
Contribution from priests	-	-	69	-	-	-	69	54
Investment income	-	2	42	-	62	10	116	146
Bank interest (net)	9	3	11	4	6	1	34	46
Profit/(loss) on revaluation of investments	82	8	179	-	68	64	401	(637)
Assistance to parishes	-	-	-	-	(64)	(38)	(102)	(106)
Assistance to other diocesan activities and beneficiaries of funds	(313)	(317)	-	-	(166)	(79)	(875)	(1,095)
Pastoral services	(60)	-	(5)	-	(115)	(44)	(224)	(71)
Payments to sick and retired priests	-	-	(218)	-	-	-	(218)	(171)
Central services	-	-	(28)	(105)	(320)	(140)	(593)	(692)
Fund transfers	-	-	(264)	264	-	-	-	-
Closing balance at 30 June 2004	1,532	546	2,485	545	1,975	1,319	8,402	7,454

Fund movements to year ended 30 June 2003

	Specific Funds €'000	Mission Funds €'000	Priests Funds €'000	Priesthood Education Fund	Central Funds €'000	General Funds €'000	2003 Total €'000	2002 Total €'000
Opening balance at 1 July 2002	1,336	305	2,079	-	1,680	1,995	7,395	8,367
Church collections	411	150	-	91	60	-	712	543
Donations and bequests	18	391	171	13	425	67	1,085	661
Contributions from other dioceses	-	20	-	-	57	-	77	41
Contributions from parishes	-	-	289	-	422	-	711	531
Contribution from priests	-	-	54	-	-	-	54	57
Investment income	-	-	68	-	78	-	146	118
Bank interest (net)	9	6	6	4	11	10	46	25
(Loss) on revaluation of investments	(163)	(10)	(182)	-	(86)	(196)	(637)	(641)
Sundry income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
Assistance to parishes	-	-	-	-	(106)	-	(106)	(142)
Assistance to other diocesan activities and beneficiaries of funds	(466)	(347)	(9)	-	(213)	(60)	(1,095)	(1,398)
Pastoral services	19	-	-	-	(46)	(6)	(71)	(19)
Payments to sick and retired priests	-	-	(171)	-	-	-	(171)	(269)
Central services	(7)	-	(69)	(28)	(401)	(187)	(692)	(500)
Renovations to diocesan office	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(25)
Fund transfers	252	(1)	125	194	(290)	(280)	-	-
Closing balance at 30 June 2003	1,371	514	2,361	274	1,591	1,343	7,454	7,395

Observations & Notes

The account of the funds held by the diocese as presented in the previous pages is extracted from the PricewaterhouseCoopers auditor's reports. These extracts give an overview of the finances of the diocese for the period up to June 2004.

When combined with the comparative summary figures from the previously published accounts for the year to June 2002, the following observations (not the auditor's) can be made:

1. The total value of all the funds at June 2004 (€8,402,000) is almost the same as the total from June 2002 (€8,367,000).
2. Over 60% (€5.5m) of that total is in funds over which the bishop has no discretion regarding spending. Funds for the missions, the training of priests, the care of retired priests, stipends donated for Masses, and the proceeds of collections for purposes such as Peter's Pence, can only be disbursed for those purposes.
3. The two years to June 2003 saw the value of invested funds fall as a result of international trends. Investments are made in low-risk funds but the market trends still took their toll. The accounts of the year to June 2004 show the investments recovering—which also contributed to the overall increase in the value of the funds at year end.
4. The increase in total funds over the last financial year is largely attributable to (a) the up-turn in the value of investments, (b) an increase in contributions from other Munster dioceses (including arrears) for the funding of the Regional Marriage Tribunal. (These costs are contributed to by five dioceses but they are administered by Cork and Ross).
5. Income from special collections and bequests was down from 2003 to 2004. Donations and bequests vary from year to year and the annual diocesan collection for the missions in South America was discontinued after 2003. (The latter fund still benefits from donations and bequests which are used to meet the on-going commitments made to the missions.) Special appeals, e.g. famine relief, are not held every year.
6. Contributions to diocesan funds from the parishes, which are based on levies on the weekend collections did not vary significantly between the two years.

(–Rev. Tom Hayes)

[The income from special collections, including a parish-by-parish breakdown, is published on the diocesan website soon after each collection is taken up. See www.corkandross.org]