

Parish finance update

On the next page is a brief discussion of some key Blackfriars Parish finance matters, and an explanation of the Planned Giving Scheme. On this page, the Parish Finance Council (PFC) takes the opportunity to explain its role in the life of the Parish.

Role of Parish Finance Council

The role of the Parish Finance Council (PFC) is to advise the Parish Priest in *his* role as steward and administrator of Parish property. The PFC operates under rules issued by the Archbishop.

Membership of the PFC is one of the many ways of participating and sharing responsibility for the life and mission of the Parish.

Areas that the PFC engages in, include:

- overseeing the Parish budget;
- considering proposals for major items of expenditure (by, for example, analysing affordability, reviewing quotes, analysing whether to buy or lease equipment);
- liaising, as appropriate, with the Archdiocesan Office, the Australian Catholic University and others (such as other groups within the Parish);
- overseeing maintenance of Parish property; and
- reviewing Work, Health & Safety matters.

In supporting Parish life and its mission, the PFC deliberations keep in mind the best interests of the Parish, its parishioners and those who work for the Parish.

The Archdiocesan rules list some of the skills and competencies that are useful for Parish Finance Councils: property management, architecture, building, maintenance, law, accountancy, information technology and business expertise. They also encourage a balance of male and female members and, where possible, across a range of ages to ensure that a variety of perspectives is available.

There are currently 5 members of the PFC: Fr Kieran (Chairman), Anne O'Donnell, Chris Ryan, Ruth Walpole and Roger Paul (Secretary). We would welcome more members, particularly younger parishioners. If you are interested in becoming a member, please fill in a Census card (see next page). Or if you have any questions or would like to find out more about what the PFC does, please approach one of the members or contact the Parish Office.

Parish surpluses and deficits

In 2017, Blackfriars Parish had financial deficit of about \$7000. In 2018, the Parish had a financial surplus of about \$13,500.

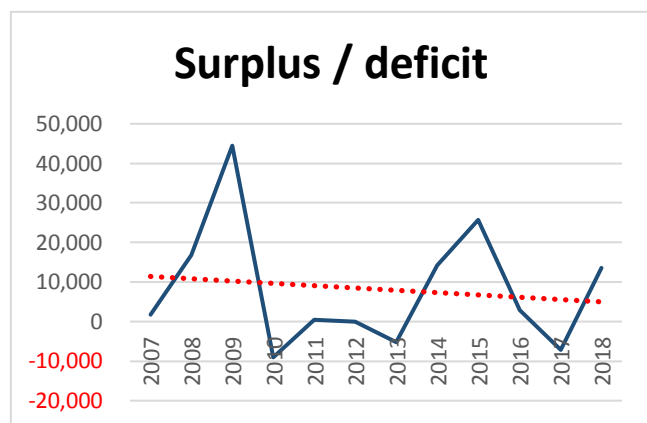
This was a very welcome turnaround and due, in part, to an increase in the Planned Giving receipts.

It was also due to a decrease in expenditure. However, it cannot be assumed that this will continue. In certain areas, it is quite possible that there will be reasonably substantial amounts of expenditure in the near term for projects such as:

- installation of solar panels (and possibly batteries); and
- refurbishment of the Parish Centre.

Surpluses allow the Parish to save funds for major items of expenditure such as these, as well as for unplanned expenditure.

This chart shows the Parish surpluses and deficits from 2007 to 2018. Although in most of those years there has been a surplus, there have been a few deficits and the overall trend has been downward (notwithstanding the financial improvement last year).



Planned Giving Scheme

The Planned Giving Scheme (via envelopes or direct debit/credit card) and loose contributions to the second collection go to meeting the Parish financial commitments, including running costs, donations, Archdiocesan Levies / Quotas and other payments.

Without your support the Parish cannot operate effectively. On behalf of the Parish, we accordingly encourage all parishioners who have an income to join the Planned Giving Scheme and share in the responsibility of funding our Parish community. If you are already a contributor, you are asked to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider whether you can augment your contribution. Your level of contribution is obviously a very personal decision.

Further information on the Parish finances can be found in the Parish financial statements, the latest of which is made available in the church foyer.

On behalf of the Parish, we take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing membership of Blackfriars Parish community. Thank you also for your financial contributions and for all the volunteer work that is undertaken in the Parish.

You are also asked to fill in the Parish Census card, copies of which will be available in the pews this weekend and after that on the tables at the exit of the church and in the church foyer. Please place the card on the second collection plate, leave it in the Sacristy or hand into the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Parish Finance Council
1 and 2 June 2019