**Parish finance update 2022**

# 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:

* oversighting the Parish budget;
* considering proposals for major items of expenditure;
* liaising, as appropriate, with the Archdiocesan Office and others (such as other groups within the Parish);
* oversighting 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.

There are currently 6 members of the PFC: Fr Mannes (Chairman), Chris Ryan, Kate Markcrow, Maree Caitlin, Terry Johnson and Roger Paul (Secretary). 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 2018, Blackfriars Parish had a financial surplus of approximately $13,5000. However, surpluses have been less than that since then, as illustrated in the accompanying chart.

This chart shows the Parish surpluses and deficits from 2007 to 2020. Although in most of those years there has been a surplus, there have been a few deficits and the overall trend has been downward.

The COVID-19 pandemic, including lockdowns in 2020 and 2021 and ongoing lower attendances at Masses, have contributed to a decline in parishioner contributions. This has contributed to a decline in Parish financial surpluses. In 2020, the decline was offset somewhat by the effect of the JobKeeper scheme.

Since the last Parish finance update (in 2019), a formal agreement between the Parish and the Australian Catholic University (ACU) for the use of the Parish car park has been put into place. This puts the use of the car park by ACU on a clearer and more sustainable footing, and has also offset the decline in Parish financial surpluses to some degree.

Surpluses allow the Parish to save funds for major items of expenditure, as well as for unplanned expenditure. Planned expenditure this year includes the installation of solar panels, which is expected to reduce the Parish’s carbon footprint as well as lead to reduced electricity expenses over a number of years. Other planned expenditure includes the installation of hot water taps in church bathrooms.

Refurbishment of the Parish Centre and financial support for a youth ministry are future possible major expenses for the Parish.

# 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.

Parish Finance Council

21/22 May 2022