

NORTHAMPTON ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 234091

Details

Other names	THE ROYAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON
Status	Registered
Legal form	Trust
Company number	00442173
Registered	1969-04-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Bishops House Marriott Street Semilong Northampton NN2 6AW
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Activities

Objects: IN OR TOWARDS ADVANCING THE ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGION IN THE DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON AND FOR THE SERVICE AND SUPPORT OF CHARITABLE WORKS AND OBJECTS PROMOTED BY THE CHURCH

Activities: The advancement of the Roman Catholic religion in the Diocese of Northampton through parishes, schools and other curial bodies.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON
- Bedford
- Buckinghamshire
- Central Bedfordshire
- Luton
- Milton Keynes
- Northamptonshire
- Slough

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£9,169,268	£10,733,198	£33,084,685	114
2024-03-31	£10,412,306	£8,792,757	£34,272,953	117
2023-03-31	£7,763,370	£8,429,044	£31,338,564	110
2022-03-31	£7,737,510	£6,211,720	£31,743,659	104
2021-03-31	£7,691,304	£6,364,286	£29,767,813	109

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Northampton Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee(The)		2020-04-30

NORTHAMPTON ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 234091

Accounts

financial statements

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Registered charity number: 234091

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

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Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Trust information

Registered charity number	234091
Governing instrument	Trust Deed 30 April 1949 as amended 11 October 2006
The board of trustees	<p>The trustees who served during the period and since the year end were as follows:</p> <p>Rt Rev Bishop D J Oakley (President) Mrs M M Cripps (resigned 17th May 2024) Rev Dr B Killeen Rev C Perry Mr A Clutterbuck Mr P E Commons (resigned 15th November 2024) Rev Canon M Harrison Mrs S H Campbell Mrs D V Purfield Mr C E J Gallagher Miss K A Brooks Rev S Penhalagan (appointed 20th September 2024) Mr C Bird (appointed 1st April 2025) (resigned 11th October 2025)</p>
Secretary	Mr T F O Larkin
Registered Office	Bishop's House Marriott Street Northampton NN2 6AW
Auditors	HaysMac LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG
Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc 41 The Drapery Northampton NN1 2EU
Investment advisers	<p>Rathbones 30 Gresham Street London EC2V 7QN</p> <p>CCLA Investment Management Limited One Angel Lane London EC4R 3AB</p> <p>Brewin Dolphin 1 The Avenue, Spinningfields Square Manchester M3 3AP</p>

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2025

Report of the Trustees

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the financial statements, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is governed by a trust deed, dated 30 April 1949 as amended on 11 October 2006, registered charity number 234091. It specifically covers the Counties of Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and that part of Berkshire north of the River Thames.

Trustees

The Trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet as the Finance Board on a regular basis to review developments and activities and to make decisions on key issues. In setting objectives and planning activities, the Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 section 17 to have due regard to the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee is a registered company number 00442173 incorporated under the Companies Act 1929 on 13 September 1947. The members of the company who served on the Main Finance Board during the year to 31st March 2025 are set out in the Trust Information on page 1.

Members of the Finance Board are appointed and can be removed by the Bishop who is ex officio President of the Corporation and ex officio a member of the Main Finance Board. The Corporation has an Honorary Secretary appointed in writing by the President. The Honorary Secretary can be removed from office by the Bishop in writing. New members of the Finance Board are provided with copies of the Trust document, the most recent published accounts and a process of induction. Recent minutes of the Finance Board are also made available to them. Appropriate training is made available to new members, dependant on their experience of charitable, legal and financial matters. In addition, all members of the Finance Board are kept up to date on new legislation and recommended practices.

Membership of the Main Finance Board is reviewed on a regular basis.

Organisational structure and decision-making process

The day-to-day management of the charity's activities and implementation of its policies are delegated to a number of subcommittees and consultative bodies and to appropriate staff. There are a number of curial departments such as Finance, Property, Safeguarding, Education and Youth Ministry, each of which employ appropriately trained and qualified staff to manage and carry out those activities. Similarly, parishes have a number of paid employees and volunteers to assist in the running of activities at local level.

An important focus of the Trustees is the care and maintenance of Diocesan property and decisions on projects proposed in the Diocese, dependant on type and size, are made at the appropriate level, with advice being obtained as necessary from professional advisers appointed by the Diocese. A Property and Health and Safety Subcommittee of the Finance Board has been formed, and this considers project proposals and recommends appropriate action to the Trustees. This subcommittee is made up of Trustees, a professional lay advisor and Diocesan officials.

The Art and Architecture section of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission considers applications for church improvements and reports regularly to the Bishop and to the Finance Board. The Diocesan Historic Churches Committee, a statutory body, has remit over the listed places of worship of the Diocese, processing applications for works to those buildings and monitoring progress.

Day to day management of the finance and property functions is the responsibility of the Diocesan Chief Operating Officer together with appropriately qualified professionals.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2025

Key management personnel

The Board considers that the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team whose total remuneration is set out in note 13 of the accounts comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis. In the year to March 2025 these included the Chief Operating Officer and the senior lay personnel in the major curial departments. The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually. All Trustees give of their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses are disclosed in note 14 of the accounts. When new roles are created, or significant roles change hands, benchmarking against market rates for similar positions is employed to attract the best candidates for those roles.

Risk management

A review of the major financial and reputational risks to which the charity is exposed has been carried out and systems put in place to mitigate those risks. Any risks identified and their resultant impact on reserves and/or reputation of the Diocese are considered by the Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee and the Finance Board of Trustees. Risks are monitored and any new risks identified and recorded.

In particular, the Diocese has procedures, and a subcommittee focussed on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Board, which includes a number of external members from statutory bodies, reviews the actions and decision of the Diocese in regard to issues arising. In addition, there is an audit of our safeguarding processes undertaken by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency. Our most recent audit judged us to be joint top across England and Wales.

Regarding Health and Safety, the health and safety of those using our churches and other facilities is a high priority and the Diocese has policies in place to assess and manage the associated risks, overseen by our internal Property department and reviewed by the Property, Health & Safety Subcommittee of Trustees. We have introduced a commercial tool to monitor and consolidate all health and safety information to follow-up and provide advice to parishes on the necessary works to maintain compliance. The Diocese receives professional Health and Safety advice from NatWest Mentor.

The increasing age and declining number of diocesan priests is considered by the trustees to be a significant risk for the Diocese. The Diocese is addressing the issue through the utilisation of priests on mission from overseas locations as well as the Synodal Discernment process, which examines the longer-term planning for our pastoral areas. The Synodal Discernment Reviews aim for a sustainable balance between our Mission goals, growing/declining congregation numbers depending on area, availability of priests, the costs of maintaining our property estate, and the overall financial viability of our parishes. This is a detailed, exhaustive process. The Diocese expects to reach half-way through in 2026.

Cyber security remains a growing area of focus. We have introduced online monitoring tools to evaluate a range of risks together with promoting awareness for our staff and volunteers of the nature of risks. We also ensure that all our IT infrastructure is up to date with software patches applied and full hardware compliance. Trustees continue to monitor the global risk horizon and evaluate appropriate responses to new and emerging risks.

Financial Review

Total income during 2024/25 reduced to £9,169,268 (2024: £10,412,306) versus the previous year (down 11.9%). This year saw increased fundraising and rental income. Unrestricted collections and donations in parishes rose by 3.9%. Restricted curial collections and donations reduced by £299k and second collections fell by £183k, due to timing differences including changing Easter dates. There was no additional income from the sale of assets as in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased to £10,733,198 (2024: £8,792,757) – 22.1% higher than the prior year. 75% of the expenditure came from expenditure in support of parish life (2024: 70%). Church property

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2025

maintenance and repairs increased by 155.6% to £1,941,854 (2024: £759,770) due to the backlog of repairs deferred from previous years, utility costs, council tax and property insurance.

There was a decrease of £412,378 (25.6%) to £1,195,424 in our debtors due to reduced recoverable school expenditure and legacies accrued for. Cash and cash equivalent balances decreased in the year by £1.6m or 16.8% from increased costs and asset acquisitions, including homes for priests moving into retirement.

Related parties

The attached accounts include the assets and activities of four trusts which are incorporated as separate charities: -

Northampton Diocese Education Fund	Charity Number 267132
Lord Braye's Foundation	Charity Number 242281
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	Charity Number 252034
Northampton Slough Diocese Educational Trust	Charity Number 1165631

The objects of these charities are consistent with the objects of the Diocese.

The Diocese also encompasses several Catholic schools. Those schools which are voluntary aided are exempt Charities under the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1988 and their activities are not reflected in the financial statements attached to this report. The Bishop of Northampton appoints Foundation Governors to the Governing Bodies of these schools, and those appointed by the Bishop make the majority of the Governing Bodies. Several schools have converted to academy status and are formed within multi-academy trusts. The Bishop has similar powers of appointment of the Trustees of those Trusts and again their activities are not reflected in the financial statements attached to this report. At the date of this report there are 42 schools of which 28 are academies, 12 Voluntary aided schools and 2 independent colleges. The addresses of all our schools can be found in the Diocesan Directory.

Investment policy

There are no specific investment powers, other than those provided under the Trustees Act 2000. Investments are made at the absolute discretion of the Trustees acting on advice of its professional advisers and an Investment Committee which reports to the Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee. Meetings of the Investment Committee take place every 6 months and are attended by our investment advisers and senior personnel. An ethical investment policy has been agreed by Trustees to provide a framework for investing in securities which are in line with Catholic Social Teaching, and to avoid those which are environmentally unsound.

At 31 March 2025, the portfolio of investments had a market value of £10,480,602 (2024: £10,586,971). There were realised losses of £10,195 (2024: £32,381) and unrealised losses of £49,143 (2024: gains of £783,457). Total investment income in the year was £430,096 (2024: £413,491).

The investment policy is to maximise total return through a diversified portfolio. The Trustees are aware of the effect of movements in the value of this investment portfolio on reserve levels. Over the last three years there has been significant volatility in our investments as they have dipped and then subsequently recovered broadly in line with the overall market. The Diocese considers itself a long-term investor and together with its advisers takes steps to mitigate the risk of significant volatility. The Trustees are satisfied with the current performance of the investments.

Public benefit

The Charities Act 2006 requires charities to describe the benefit that is provided to the public. The Charity Commission has commented that "religion helps to provide a moral and ethical framework for people to live by and can play an important part in building social capital and community cohesion".

The adherence to, and advancing of, the Catholic faith to the public within the Northampton Diocese has many public benefits. It provides an ethical and moral code for society; it provides sacred places, churches, services of worship, public ritual and ceremonies, including baptisms, weddings and funerals; it contributes to the spiritual well-being of the public; it contributes to the spiritual and moral education

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2025

of children; it promotes social understanding and cohesion, and contributes to practical ways of addressing social needs such as visiting the sick and housebound, and furthering other charitable purposes.

The above is demonstrated by 22,437 people (2024: 21,934) attending mass each Sunday together with masses also being said each day in our parishes. 20,868 children (2024: 21,060), both Catholic and non-Catholic, attended our schools. Donations of £649,032 (2024: £810,366) were made by our parishioners to causes both internal and external to our Diocese. Many programs were made available in our parishes in areas such as spiritual development, Marriage and Family Life and Justice and Peace.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the charity include not only parishioners and those young people attending our schools but also the recipients of aid from the many causes supported by the Diocese through contributions to among others CAFOD, Stella Maris (formally known as Apostleship of the Sea), The Association for the Propagation of the Faith as well as a number of projects supported by individual parishes. Churches and schools around the Diocese are welcoming and help to integrate into the community large numbers of new parishioners and students both from the UK and overseas.

Objectives, activities and achievements

Principal objects

The principal objects of the Charity are as declared in the Trust Deed dated 11 July 1949 “in or towards advancing the Roman Catholic religion in the Diocese by such means as the Bishop may think fit and proper and for the service and support whether in the Diocese or outside the Diocese by such means as aforesaid of charitable works and objects promoted by the Church” (**Clause 2 of the Trust Deed**).

The long-term strategies set to achieve these objects are to ensure that the life of the Catholic Community is well supported and responsive to changing requirements and to generate and maintain sufficient reserves to ensure the long-term future of the charity. It carries out these strategies through a number of key activities as set out below: -

Significant activities

The objects of the charity are fulfilled by the many activities carried out in its parishes, its schools and through a number of organisations run by the Diocesan Curia.

Parish life

Parish life is supported through the provision of clergy and buildings, and the organisation of many groups of volunteers, as a result of which support is provided to the local and national community in improving social cohesion, both within the community and the family unit, and in many other ways. While the celebration of Mass is mainly in churches owned and maintained by the Diocese through its parishes and supported by the curial departments, parishes also reach out to the local community through their activities and support their parishioners through home visits, hospital chaplaincy, school chaplaincy, and a range of courses and other programs.

The Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation were celebrated all around the Diocese and many groups met in prayer and reflection on the word of God in scripture. At the last census up to December 2024, 22,437 people attended mass on a weekly basis and there were 887 baptisms (2024: 1,551), 1,416 people confirmed (2024: 955) and 151 marriages (2024: 208) during the year.

The facilitation and nourishment of spiritual life and the concern for neighbours in the Diocese are the principal aims of the charity and while weekly attendance figures and the number of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, etc are indications of the success of the work, performance can also be measured by the continuing strength of our parish and school communities and the individual journeys of faith of our parishioners. Sick and elderly parishioners received the Eucharist and Sacrament of the Sick, the dying and their relatives received comfort and support, and the deceased received dignified burial and cremation services, which aided the grieving process for their relatives.

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Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees recognise the effect of types of one-off income including the inherent uncertainty of legacy income. An anticipated increase in capital works on Church property, the general inflationary increase of many costs, and the cost-of-living crisis in the UK have led to a reflection across the pastoral areas of the Diocese on how to find ways of raising income whilst managing costs.

Parishes carry out their own fundraising activities in support of parish projects both internal to the parish and external. The total income raised by the Diocese was £712,062 (2024: £556,074).

Churches, presbyteries and halls

Repairs and maintenance requirements resulting from the quinquennial survey reports on buildings owned by the trust and the system including those of close contact between parishes, the trust and the professionals appointed by the Diocese, resulted in £1,941,854 (2024: £759,770) being spent during the year at parish and Diocesan level. The projects undertaken included the replacements of the church roof at Daventry, refurbishment of Shefford presbytery, Burnham church re-ordering and other priority repairs that were addressed as part of the backlog in post COVID repair works.

The work was supervised by the Diocesan Property Department, reporting to the Trustees who together with professional advisers appointed by the Diocese, ensure that the work is carried out to the highest possible standard.

Parish clubs

There are now four parish member social clubs, all but one of which occupy under license buildings owned by the Diocese trustee. These social clubs have converted to community interest companies where the relationship with the Diocese as landlord is better clarified. They have separate Directors and are managed by independent professionals paid directly by the clubs.

Volunteers

The charity is heavily reliant on the work of many volunteers, especially in its parishes but also on a number of committees and subcommittees. These volunteers include Lay Ministers of the Eucharist and Readers, Catechists, altar servers, parish workers, choirs and musicians, health and safety representatives, child and vulnerable adult safeguarding representatives, members of the St Vincent de Paul Society who help the poor and needy, and many other roles. The Trustees are very grateful to all of these people for their contribution to the work of the Diocese.

Schools

As has been the case for many years the Diocese has looked to fulfil its objects partly by the facilitation of education within a Catholic environment. Most of these schools are within our two Multi-Academy Trusts. Others are voluntary aided schools, at both primary and secondary level. All are supported by the Diocesan Schools Commission, together with our two independent colleges they operate with a Catholic ethos and while following legislation and curriculum set by the State. They also have specific policies and procedures set by or in consultation with the Catholic Education Service.

During the year, a sum of £1.2m (2024: £2.1m) of Government grants was spent on voluntary aided school buildings owned by the trust. This represents 90% of project costs, with the remaining 10% funded by the schools from the parental voluntary contribution scheme, the schools reserves or other sources. The Diocesan Schools Commission supports our schools and their Governors in the work that they do.

Many different projects were carried out around the Diocese as part of the ongoing maintenance and development of our school buildings.

Curial activities

Curial activities include the training of new priests, permanent deacons, catechists, and lay ministers, the support of existing and retired priests, youth ministry, adult education, ecumenism and multi-faith dialogue, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, justice and peace commission, and a number of commissions covering liturgy, historic churches, pastoral strategy, marriage and family life and the Diocesan Tribunal, amongst others.

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Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2025

In common with many other Dioceses there is a declining number of priests available to serve parishes which, together with the advancing age of those still in service, provides an ongoing challenge to the Charity. We currently have three men in seminary training for the priesthood and nine for the permanent diaconate. Vocations to the diaconate and new forms of lay ministry continue to develop with support from the Diocese.

This Diocese looks forward positively to the creation of new housing developments across its geographical area, especially in its city and larger towns. Discussions continue as to the measures required to welcome and provide for the spiritual life of both current and new residents. Each pastoral area is being challenged to develop plans to shape the Church in their area.

Fundraising approach and performance

The charity undertakes fundraising activity via appeals, events, emails and correspondence in line with the Fundraising Code of Practice set by the Fundraising Regulator. Our fundraising promise is

'When you support you can be sure of the following:

- *We will never sell your contact details to anyone*
- *We will only contact you if you have expressed an interest in our work*
- *If we phone you, we will always check you are happy to take the call*
- *If you ask us to change how we communicate with you, or stop, we will respect that*
- *We do not engage in cold-calling, door to door or street fundraising*
- *We try hard to ensure no one ever feels pressurised to support our work*
- *We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adhere to the Fundraising Code of Practice.*
- *All our activities are open, fair, honest and legal.*

No professional fundraisers were used during the year under review.

The Diocese has robust procedures in place regarding vulnerable people and treating donors in a fair manner.

The charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the standards of the Fundraising Code of Practice. Trustees are not aware of any complaints made regarding fundraising activities carried out during the year or prior year.

Details of fundraising performance is detailed elsewhere in this report.

Designated funds

Designated funds are held for a number of purposes including the education of priests, the maintenance of the Diocesan Curia, the advancement of education, mass stipends, the support of sick and needy priests and funds available for expenditure at the discretion of the Bishop in the course of his work, together with funds to support the retirement provision for priests. Expenditure is made from these funds on a regular basis. The continued need for these funds will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Financial management

While each parish under Canon Law is a separate juridical person with the right to acquire, retain, administer and alienate temporal goods in their own right, they operate under financial guidelines issued by the Diocese. These give approval and cheque signing limits and require parishes to file returns with the Diocese on a quarterly basis. There are also approval and cheque signatory policies operating centrally, and a cycle of internal checks on the operation of financial procedures at parish level, in addition to those carried out by the external auditor.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2025

Funding sources

The principal funding source of the Diocese is the parish offertory collection. Significant levels of income are also received from investments, fundraising activities and rents received from investment properties. Legacies also form a material portion of Diocesan income. The Trustees are very grateful for those who leave a legacy to the Diocese in their will. They also recognise the uncertain timing of legacies and the material effect that the receipt or otherwise of major gifts can have on the results for any year. The anticipation of significant legacies is therefore discounted from the budgetary process unless the quantum of the receipt can be ascertained with reasonable certainty.

Expenditure

A major part of expenditure in the year is on the support of parish life and in particular, the establishment costs (gas, electricity, water, insurance, council tax and other miscellaneous expenditures). These increased by 25% from £1,475,844 in 2024 to £1,807,062 in 2025. This was in particular because of rising utility costs; The funding and support of building works in schools also resulted in a cost to the Diocese of £237,490 in the year (2024: £239,827).

Following liquidation of the St Francis Children's Society, the guarantee granted from the Diocese to the Bedfordshire Pension Fund continues to be valued at £513,000. This remains accrued within the 2025 accounts. The liability was settled in September 2025. The potential to recover part, or the full amount from the sale of the lease of the Society's building, continues to be pursued by the Diocese.

Results for the year

A summary of the results for the year is shown on page 15 of these financial statements. The Trustees report an overall loss for the year of £1,188,268 (2024: surplus £2,934,389). The deficit for the year is categorised as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
General income and expenditure account	(1,236,442)	2,103,684
Restricted funds	86,598	543,942
Designated funds	(38,424)	286,763
	<u>(1,188,268)</u>	<u>2,934,389</u>

There was net loss of £1,563,930 (2024: surplus £1,619,548) before revaluations and investment asset disposals. The net surplus on investment assets, including investment properties, was £375,662 (2024: £1,314,841) of which £385,857 was unrealised (2024: £783,457) and £nil (2024: £563,765) from investment property disposals.

The effect of the net surplus on investment assets is to decrease the loss of £1,563,930 (2024: surplus £1,619,548) to an overall loss for the year of £1,188,268 (2024: surplus £2,934,389).

Financial position

At 31 March 2025, the reserves were: -

	2025	2024
	£	£
General – fixed assets	15,065,328	14,964,579
General – unrestricted	8,155,505	9,492,696
Restricted	4,876,472	4,786,713
Restricted – fixed assets	126,484	129,645
Designated	4,707,190	4,741,771
Designated – fixed assets	153,706	157,549
	<u>£33,084,685</u>	<u>£34,272,953</u>

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Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2025

Restricted funds represent funds that are received for a specific purpose. This includes donations, legacies, fundraising campaigns (such as Together In Faith raising £1.27m) and special collections, including parish projects, Easter and Christmas offerings not yet paid out by the year end. A further £1.36m relates to our four separate charitable trusts.

Designated funds represent funds set aside for specific purposes, as listed in note 6 to these financial statements.

The general fund for fixed assets represents the value invested in fixed assets, principally churches and parishes.

Funds available to support the work of the Diocese in the future are those shown above as general unrestricted funds of £8,155,505 (2024: £9,492,696)

Our traded investment portfolio continued to experience turbulent market conditions from the effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and worldwide economic challenges. Following an unrealised gain in the prior year, the reported year saw further losses in the underlying financial markets. The unrealised loss is £49,143 (2024: Unrealised gain £783,457).

Our investment properties are revalued on a 2-year cycle and were revalued in August 2025, resulting in an unrealised gain on revaluation of £435,000.

Reserves policy

The Main Finance Board meets regularly to plan, monitor and review levels of expenditure on key or significant projects, and hence the impact on reserve levels. General income levels are also monitored regularly. The Trustees consider that a prudent level of free reserves (those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or designated for specific purposes) is the equivalent of 12 – 15 months' expenditure. This will allow the Diocese to deal effectively with a significant drop in income and also react to requests for funding arising from unexpected events.

At 31 March 2025, the free reserves of £8,155,505 represented approximately 14.6 months (2024: 14.3) of unrestricted expenditure.

Plans for the future

The Diocese will continue to monitor reserve levels to ensure that its long-term aims can be met. The continued support of parish life and the Catholic community remains a priority and how this is to be achieved is a major focus for the Charity.

The principal focus will be on a number of main issues: -

- Exploring new ways of evangelisation which may increase the numbers regularly exercising their faith including regular attendance Sunday Mass and other liturgies.
- Enabling our clergy to make better use of their pastoral ministry while remaining attentive to the increasing demands made upon them.
- Boosting the skills and abilities of lay professionals within our congregations to support the Mission focus of the Diocese and to reduce the burden on parish priests by exercising their professional skills in support of parish needs.
- Ensuring that the Parish Churches and ancillary buildings are maintained to a high standard to reduce the long-term cost burden while supporting the Mission of the Diocese.
- Ensuring the availability of Diocesan Funds in the event of national or international crises, subject to meeting the objects of the Charity.
- Enabling the resources of the Diocese to fund the core activities at the centre of the Charity's objectives.
- Developing a longer-term Mission focussed strategy that meets the evangelisation goals of the Diocese while ensuring a secure financial foundation.

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Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2025

Offertory appeals continue to be held around the Diocese to provide additional resources for projects within parishes, and the Curia.

Funds held on behalf of others

Assets held as custodian Trustees

Included within the Diocesan Investment Trust portfolio of shares are units held on behalf of a separately registered charity: The Northampton Diocesan Priests' Fund, whose objects are to aid the secular priests of the Diocese who are permanently or temporarily incapacitated by old age, infirmity, illness or accident. The assets within the overall portfolio are disclosed in note 2 and are separately distinguishable from assets of the Diocese. Quarterly reports are sent to the charity on the investment performance.

Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 2011 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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 charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information

On 18 November 2024 the company's auditor changed its name from Haysmacintyre LLP to HaysMac LLP.

Signed by order of the Trustees on 18th December 2025.

.....
Rev Michael Harrison

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Independent Auditors' Report To The Trustees' Year ended 31 March 2025

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of the Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated and Parent Charity Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of the group's and of the parent charity's net movement in funds for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, 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 group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from 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 Report of the Trustees. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Independent Auditors' Report To The Trustees' Year ended 31 March 2025

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the group and parent charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the group and parent charity financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 10, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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 group's and the parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charity or to cease operations, or have 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 (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the group and of the parent charity and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to Canon Law, employment law, safeguarding regulations and Charity Law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as Charities Act 2011 and Charities SORP.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Review of minutes of trustees' meetings;
- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals; and

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Independent Auditors' Report To The Trustees' Year ended 31 March 2025

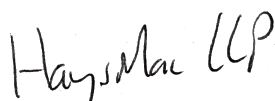
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates. These related to depreciation, investment property valuations and accrued legacies.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 responsibility to anyone other than the charity's trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



HaysMac LLP
Statutory Auditors

10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

Date: 18/12/2025.....

HaysMac LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets

Year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		Group £	Charity £	Group £	Charity £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	1	15,345,518	15,345,518	15,251,773	15,251,773
Investments	2	10,480,602	9,457,816	10,586,971	9,555,357
Investment properties	2	4,150,000	4,150,000	3,952,726	3,952,726
		<u>29,976,120</u>	<u>28,953,334</u>	<u>29,791,470</u>	<u>28,759,856</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	3	1,195,424	1,195,424	1,607,802	1,607,802
Cash at bank and in hand		8,027,905	7,688,865	9,647,605	9,301,605
		<u>9,223,329</u>	<u>8,884,289</u>	<u>11,255,407</u>	<u>10,909,407</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>(3,635,609)</u>	<u>(3,635,609)</u>	<u>(3,652,328)</u>	<u>(3,652,328)</u>
Net current assets		<u>5,587,720</u>	<u>5,248,680</u>	<u>7,603,079</u>	<u>7,257,079</u>
Total assets plus current assets		<u>35,563,840</u>	<u>34,202,014</u>	<u>37,394,549</u>	<u>36,016,935</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	5	<u>(2,479,155)</u>	<u>(2,479,155)</u>	<u>(3,121,596)</u>	<u>(3,121,596)</u>
Net assets		<u>£33,084,685</u>	<u>£31,722,859</u>	<u>£34,272,953</u>	<u>£32,895,339</u>
Funds					
General – unrestricted	6	8,155,505	8,155,505	9,492,696	9,492,696
General – fixed assets	6	15,065,328	15,065,328	14,964,579	14,964,579
		<u>23,220,833</u>	<u>23,220,833</u>	<u>24,457,275</u>	<u>24,457,275</u>
Designated	6	4,707,190	4,707,190	4,741,771	4,741,771
Designated – fixed assets	6	153,706	153,706	157,549	157,549
Restricted	6	4,876,472	3,514,646	4,786,713	3,409,099
Restricted – fixed assets	6	126,484	126,484	129,645	129,645
Net assets		<u>£33,084,685</u>	<u>£31,722,859</u>	<u>£34,272,953</u>	<u>£32,895,339</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 18th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev Michael Harrison
Trustee



Rev Dr B Killeen
Trustee

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Parochial		Curial		Diocesan	
		Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 £	2024 £
Income from:							
<i>Donations and legacies</i>							
Collections & donations		238,060	5,712,551	9,787	202,484	6,162,882	6,443,098
Second collections	11	305,484	-	-	-	305,484	488,676
Legacies		-	349,011	-	235,901	584,912	687,862
Grants received		-	2,500	158,248	-	160,748	233,037
Fundraising		305,929	395,732	2,654	7,747	712,062	556,074
<i>Investments</i>							
Dividend income		-	53,971	16,318	359,807	430,096	413,491
Bank interest		-	-	-	28,396	28,396	9,354
Rental income		-	774,864	-	9,824	784,688	693,153
<i>Other</i>							
Sales of assets		-	-	-	-	-	887,561
Total income		849,473	7,288,629	187,007	844,159	9,169,268	10,412,306
Expenditure on:							
<i>Raising funds:</i>	9						
Costs of generating voluntary income		64,730	89,725	-	4,177	158,632	130,272
Investment & property management costs		-	-	2,154	44,877	47,031	43,845
<i>Charitable activities:</i>							
2 nd collections & grants	11	447,781	18,668	-	1,907	468,356	500,973
Support of parish life	7	194,273	6,632,850	72,832	1,154,023	8,053,978	6,179,651
Curial activities	7	-	-	164,572	1,603,139	1,767,711	1,698,189
Sch buildings provision	7	-	-	-	237,490	237,490	239,827
Total expenditure		706,784	6,741,243	239,558	3,045,613	10,733,198	8,792,757
		142,689	547,386	(52,551)	(2,201,454)	(1,563,930)	1,619,548
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets:							
Realised on disposal investment properties	2	-	-	-	-	-	563,765
Realised on disposal shares	2	-	-	-	(10,195)	(10,195)	(32,381)
Unrealised- Investments	2	-	-	(3,540)	(45,603)	(49,143)	783,457
Unrealised- Investment Properties	2	-	-	-	435,000	435,000	-
Net (expenditure)/income		142,689	547,386	(56,091)	(1,822,252)	(1,188,268)	2,934,389
Transfers between funds	6	-	(1,842,947)	-	1,842,947	-	-
Net movement in funds		142,689	(1,295,561)	(56,091)	20,695	(1,188,268)	2,934,389
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		1,395,652	13,753,778	3,520,706	15,602,817	34,272,953	31,338,564
Total funds carried forward at 31 Mar 2025		1,538,341	12,458,217	3,464,615	15,623,512	33,084,685	34,272,953

All the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

Detailed comparatives are shown in Note 17 to these financial statements.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities				
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities (see below)		(1,593,373)		78,176
Cash flows from investing activities				
Interest received	28,396		9,354	
Dividends received	430,096		413,491	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(328,871)		(413,507)	
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	-		887,561	
Purchase of investments	(3,173,279)		(3,889,403)	
Sale of investments	3,220,310		3,680,562	
Purchase of investment property	-		(237,726)	
Sale of investment properties	-		2,063,765	
Net cash provided by investing activities		176,652		2,514,097
Cash flows from financing activities				
Loans repaid	(117,868)		(114,543)	
Interest charged on loans	(85,111)		(72,125)	
Net cash used in financing activities		(202,979)		(186,668)
Change in cash and cash equivalents		(1,619,700)		2,405,605
Cash and cash equivalents at start of reporting period		9,647,605		7,242,000
Cash and cash equivalents at end of reporting period		£8,027,905		£9,647,605

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2025

(i) Reconciliation of net (expenditure) / income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net (expenditure) / income for the reporting period (as per the SOFA)	(1,188,268)	2,934,389
Unrealised loss / (gain) on traded investments	49,143	(783,457)
Realised loss on traded investments	10,195	-
Gain on revaluation of investment property	(435,000)	-
Investment income	(458,492)	(422,845)
Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	(887,561)
Surplus on disposal of investment property	-	(563,765)
Depreciation	472,852	460,810
Interest on loans	85,111	72,125
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	412,378	(632,439)
Decrease in creditors	(541,292)	(99,081)
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	<u>£(1,593,373)</u>	<u>£78,176</u>

(ii) Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

Net funds at 1 April	9,647,605	7,242,000
(Decrease) / increase in cash in the period	(1,619,700)	2,405,605
Net funds at 31 March	<u>£8,027,905</u>	<u>£9,647,605</u>

(iii) Analysis of changes in net funds/(debt)

	1 April 2024 £	Cash Flow £	Other Changes £	31 March 2025 £
Cash in hand and at bank	9,647,605	(1,619,700)	-	8,027,905
Debt due within 1 year	(117,309)	117,868	(122,483)	(121,924)
Debt due after 1 year	(2,601,638)	-	122,483	(2,479,155)
	<u>£6,928,658</u>	<u>£(1,501,832)</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£5,426,826</u>

	1 April 2023 £	Cash Flow £	Other Changes £	31 March 2024 £
Cash in hand and at bank	7,242,000	2,405,605	-	9,647,605
Debt due within 1 year	(113,240)	114,543	(118,612)	(117,309)
Debt due after 1 year	(2,720,250)	-	118,612	(2,601,638)
	<u>£4,408,510</u>	<u>£2,520,148</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£6,928,658</u>

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies which are adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below:

Basis of accounting

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following 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) issued on 1 January 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of listed investments and investment properties to market value and are in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 (effective 1 January 2019) ('the SORP'), the Charities Act 2011 and applicable United Kingdom accounting standards.

Consolidation

The accounts consolidate the results of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton and the 4 trusts registered as separate charities referred to in note 6.

The charity has two subsidiary companies, RCDN Property Services Ltd and St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd. In the opinion of the trustees, the activities of RCDN Property Services Ltd and St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd are immaterial to the group as a whole and therefore these companies have not been consolidated into these financial statements.

In line with the SORP the parent charity has not published its own SOFA and the related notes.

Reduced Disclosures

The charity is a qualifying entity for the purposes of FRS 102, being a member of a group where the parent of that group prepares publicly available consolidated financial statements, including the charity, which are intended to give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the group. The charity has therefore taken advantage of exemptions from the following disclosure requirements:

- Section 7 - "Statement of Cash Flows" - Presentation of an entity only Statement of Cash Flow and related notes and disclosures.
- Section 11 - "Basic Financial Instruments" & Section 12 'Other Financial Instrument Issues' - interest income/expenses and net gains/losses for each category of financial instrument. The financial statements of the charity are consolidated in these financial statements.

General information

The Charity is a charity registered in England and Wales (charity number: 234091). The Charity's registered office address is Bishop's House, Marriott Street, Northampton, NN2 6AW.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties which would cast doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Trust has significant fixed assets including financial investments valued at 30th September 2025 at £11.7m. It also has a cash balance as at 30th September 2025 (not including funds held on behalf of schools, priests fund or clubs) of £3.03m. This balance includes £2.54m of bank loan finance. Forecast projections for 12 months from the date these accounts are signed indicate that the charity continues to be a going concern in the foreseeable future.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

Income and expenditure

Income is recognised in the period in which its receipt is probable, the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty and the charity has entitlement to the funds. Income from parochial activities and other voluntary donations is recognised on a receipt's basis. Income from investments, grant agencies, rental properties and other sources of a non-ex-gratia nature are recognised on an accrual's basis. Legacies are recognised once the charity is advised that payment is due, and the amount involved can be quantified this is normally when probate has been granted demonstrating entitlement and a reasonable estimate of the value of the estate has been provided.

Costs of raising funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the management of the Charity's investments.

Costs of charitable activities consist of all expenditure directly relating to the objects of the Charity.

Support costs which cannot be directly allocated are apportioned between charitable activities and governance costs on the basis of the trustee's estimate of the time spent on the relevant functions.

Employment benefits, including holiday pay, are recognised in the period in which they are earned. Termination benefits are recognised in the period in which the decision is made and communicated to the relevant employee(s).

Governance costs include expenditure on management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements together with an allocation of support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is included with the category of expenses to which it relates.

Tangible assets

a. Freehold land and buildings

Functional land and buildings

1. Churches, Presbyteries, Halls and Offices etc.

Freehold land

Functional land (i.e. land used for the prime purpose of the Charity), is included in the financial statements at original cost or, where this is not available, at an estimate of its historic cost (or in the case of donated land, at its fair value at the date of receipt). Freehold land is not depreciated because it has an indefinitely long useful life.

Freehold buildings

Functional buildings (i.e. buildings used for the prime purpose of the Charity), which are still in use by the Charity are included in the financial statements at original cost, or where this is not available, at an estimate of their historic cost (or in the case of donated buildings, at an estimate of their fair value at the date of receipt). All new functional buildings, improvements and major renovations are capitalised at the cost of construction. Buildings which were in use at 31 March 1996 are depreciated at rates calculated to write off their estimated historic cost (less the estimated residual value) evenly over the remainder of their useful life.

The estimate of the useful life of a building varies depending on the condition and its future use, however, in general it is expected that a building in a reasonable state of repair will continue in use without major renovations or improvements for the following period:

Unlisted Churches	25 to 100 years
Cathedral and Listed Churches	100 to 200 years
Presbyteries	25 to 50 years
Other buildings	25 to 75 years

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

1. Churches, Presbyteries, Halls and Offices etc. (continued)

Depreciation rates are calculated using the age of the building and its expected useful life.

Addresses of Diocesan Churches and other buildings can be found in the Diocesan yearbook.

2. Voluntary Aided Schools

Land

The charity owns the land on which its Voluntary Aided Schools are built. The nature of the occupation of the land by these exempt and excepted charities means that the Diocesan trustees do not have the power to dispose of the land, until the school ceases its occupation, which in turn would require the approval of the governors and the Secretary of State. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the land is included at nil value unless a s554 order is in place giving entitlement to the proceeds on sale to the Diocese. The cost of any land acquired for the purposes of a Voluntary Aided School is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of acquisition.

Buildings

The school buildings are occupied, improved, extended and repaired by the school governors. The nature of the occupation of these buildings by these exempt and excepted charities means that the Diocesan trustees do not have control over the buildings, until the school ceases its occupation, which in turn would require the approval of the governors and the Secretary of State. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the buildings are included at nil value unless a s554 order is in place giving entitlement to the proceeds on sale to the Diocese. The school governors account for the building, improvement and repair costs of the schools and account for any grants received in respect of these costs. Grants made by the Diocese or parishes to the governors in order to assist them with their liability for school building costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of payment.

Details of the Diocesan Voluntary Aided Schools are given in the Diocesan Yearbook.

3. Academies

Land

The charity owns the land on which its Academies are built. The nature of the occupation of the land by these multi-academy trusts by long term lease or other agreement means that the Diocesan trustees do not have the power to dispose of the land, until the school ceases its occupation, under the terms of occupancy. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the land is included at nil value unless a s554 order is in place giving entitlement to the proceeds on sale to the Diocese. The cost of any land acquired for the purposes of an Academy is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of acquisition.

Buildings

The school buildings are occupied, improved, extended and repaired by the Academy trustees. The nature of the occupation of these buildings by these multi-academy trusts means that the Diocesan trustees do not have control over the buildings, until the school ceases its occupation under the terms of the lease or occupation terms. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the buildings are included at nil value unless a s554 order is in place giving entitlement to the proceeds on sale to the Diocese. The academy trustees account for the building, improvement and repair costs of the schools and account for any grants received in respect of these costs. Grants made by the Diocese or parishes to the academy trust in order to assist them with its liability for school building costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of payment.

Details of the Academies are given in the Diocesan Yearbook.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

b. Fixtures, fittings and equipment

Fixtures, fittings and equipment which were in use at 31 March 1996 and which had a current replacement cost exceeding £2,000 have been capitalised and included in the financial statements at an estimate of their historical costs (or in the case of donated assets, at an estimate of value at the date of acquisition). Subsequent acquisitions with a cost, (or in the case of donated assets, estimated value) of over £2,000 are capitalised on the same basis. They are depreciated at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less the estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Church furniture/plate	Over 50 years
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	Over 10 years
Computers	Over 3 years

Financial Instruments

The charity only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable and investments in stocks and shares. The measurement basis used for these financial instruments is detailed below.

Investments

Investments are disclosed at market value at the balance sheet date. All changes in value in the year, whether or not realised, are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Details of the date and basis of valuation and valuer in respect of investment properties are given in note 2 to these financial statements. As these assets are recorded at current market value, no charge for depreciation is made in the financial statements.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivables are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Pension schemes

Contributions towards employees' personal pension schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they become payable. The Diocese is neither liable to finance any funding shortfall, nor entitled to benefit from any over-funding.

The Diocese makes contributions to the personal pension money purchase schemes of a number of its priests. Such contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they fall due. The Diocese also makes provision to pay an income in retirement to priests who do not participate in the money purchase scheme. This provision is held as a designated fund and is funded principally by an annual transfer from general unrestricted funds.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

Funds

Restricted funds are funds where the income is restricted by the conditions imposed by the donors. They represent special collections and Easter and Christmas offerings to priests, not yet paid out by the year end. They also include legacies and other funds received for specific purposes.

Designated funds represent funds set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes, as listed in note 6 to these financial statements.

The general fund for fixed assets represents the value invested in fixed assets, principally churches and presbyteries. The balance of unrestricted funds represents funds available to support the work of the Diocese in the future.

Significant judgements

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees have had to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in these financial statements. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Key areas subject to judgement and estimation relate to depreciation, investment property valuations and accrued legacies.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

1. FIXED ASSETS

Group and Charity Cost	Church Property £	Furniture and Fittings £	Total £
At 1 April 2024	26,044,292	2,911,956	28,956,248
Additions	24,544	304,327	328,871
Transfer from investment property	237,726	-	237,726
At 31 March 2025	26,306,562	3,216,283	29,522,845
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	11,437,786	2,266,689	13,704,475
Charge for year	381,681	91,171	472,852
At 31 March 2025	11,819,467	2,357,860	14,177,327
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	£14,487,095	£858,423	£15,345,518
At 31 March 2024	£14,606,506	£645,267	£15,251,773

All assets are used for the furtherance of the charity's charitable objectives. The properties, comprising churches, church halls and presbyteries, and contents are stated at actual or estimated historical cost. The market value of fixed assets has not been determined as the benefit to the readers of the financial statements does not, in the opinion of the trustees, justify the cost. In the year a property purchased for retired priests has been transferred from investment property to church property.

2. ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS

	Market Value	
	2025	2024
	£	£
	10,531,243	10,638,299
Total investments controlled by the Diocese		
Diocesan Investment Trust units held by The Northampton Diocesan Priests Fund	(50,641)	(51,328)
Total investments held by the Group	£10,480,602	£10,586,971
Investments held by separate charitable trusts:		
Northampton Diocesan Education Fund	(468,303)	(474,642)
Northampton Slough Diocese Educational Trust	(404,902)	(410,383)
Lord Braye's Foundation	(49,519)	(40,873)
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	(100,062)	(105,716)
Total investments held by the Charity	£9,457,816	£9,555,357

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

2. ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS (cont)

Group	2025 £	2024 £
Market value		
At 1 April	10,586,971	9,594,673
Additions	3,173,279	3,889,403
Disposals	(3,413,952)	(3,437,500)
Unrealised (losses) / gains on investments	(49,143)	783,457
Realised losses on investments	(10,195)	(32,381)
Movement on bank accounts	193,642	(210,681)
At 31 March	£10,480,602	£10,586,971
Analysis by type		
UK Listed securities	3,551,910	4,444,937
Non-UK Listed Securities	6,635,734	6,121,851
Cash balance	343,599	71,511
At 31 March	£10,531,243	£10,638,299
Group and Charity	2025	2024
	£	£
Investment property		
At valuation		
At 1 April	3,952,726	5,215,000
Additions	-	237,726
Disposal proceeds	-	(2,063,765)
Realised gain on investment property	-	563,765
Unrealised gain on revaluation	435,000	-
Transfer to fixed assets	(237,726)	-
At 31 March	£4,150,000	£3,952,726

The investment properties were valued by Ben Coleman Associates, BScFRICS, Chartered Surveyor in August 2025.

The investments are held for both maximising total investment return and to provide income for charitable activities.

3. DEBTORS	2025 £	2024 £
Group and Charity		
School expenditure recoverable	162,134	380,175
Prepayments and accrued income	1,033,290	1,227,627
	£1,195,424	£1,607,802

Included in accrued income above are legacies of £465,306 (2024: £622,916) part of which have been received after the year end but were notified prior to this date.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

4. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2025 £	2024 £
Group and Charity		
Other creditors	875,286	1,215,148
School devolved formula capital monies	542,362	583,698
Other school monies	1,367,502	1,470,533
PAYE and social security	48,465	46,084
Accruals and deferred income	167,070	219,556
Bank loan	121,924	117,309
SFCS Pension Expense due within one year	513,000	-
	<u>£3,635,609</u>	<u>£3,652,328</u>
5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR		
	2025 £	2024 £
Group and Charity		
Loans due within one to two years	2,479,155	123,174
Loans due within two to five years	-	2,478,464
Other Creditors due with two to five years	-	6,958
SFCS Pension Expense due two to five years	-	513,000
	<u>£2,479,155</u>	<u>£3,121,596</u>

The Diocese had two bank loans due within five years as at 31st March 2025

1. £2,000,000 provided by Barclays Bank PLC. The loan is secured on the Cathedral Centre in Northampton and attracts interest at a fixed rate of 2.98% for the duration of the loan. The loan is due to be repaid on 12th April 2026 and had a balance outstanding of £1,708,321 as at 31st March 2025.
2. £1,000,000 provided by Barclays Bank PLC. The loan is secured on the Cathedral Centre in Northampton and attracts interest at a fixed rate of 3.69% for the duration of the loan. The loan is due to be repaid on 8th February 2027 and had a balance outstanding of £892,758 as at 31st March 2025.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

6. FUNDS

	2024 £	Movement in year £	Transfer Between Funds £	2025 £
Restricted:				
Restricted: Parishes and other	2,237,278	135,660	-	2,372,938
Restricted: Together in Faith	1,171,819	(30,111)	-	1,141,708
Fixed Assets	129,645	(3,161)	-	126,484
	<u>3,538,742</u>	<u>102,388</u>	-	<u>3,641,130</u>
General: fixed assets	14,964,579	100,749	-	15,065,328
General: diocesan fund	9,492,696	(1,337,191)	-	8,155,505
Designated funds:				
Diocesan maintenance	219,283	8,240	-	227,523
Ecclesiastical Education	302,360	(34,031)	-	268,329
Mass funds	240,236	1,110	-	241,346
Fox Den Trust	192,670	-	-	192,670
Fox Den Trust fixed assets	157,549	(3,843)	-	153,706
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	46,877	212	-	47,089
Chapter fund	864	114	-	978
Sick clergy insurance	69,287	53,598	-	122,885
Theological Education	9,875	-	-	9,875
Jubilee Fund	817,855	(55,481)	-	762,374
Cathedral Centre Campaign	-	-	-	-
Property Fund	2,116,729	-	-	2,116,729
Trust funds	724,588	(8,343)	-	716,245
Ezekiel	1,147	-	-	1,147
	<u>4,899,320</u>	<u>(38,424)</u>	-	<u>4,860,896</u>
Charity total funds	£32,895,337	£(1,172,478)	£-	£31,722,859
Separate charitable trusts held in group restricted funds:				
Educational Trust	747,622	3,683	-	751,305
Northampton Slough Diocesan Education Trust	468,587	3,185	-	471,772
Lord Braye's Foundation	47,031	(8,344)	-	38,687
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	114,376	(14,314)	-	100,062
Group total funds	£34,272,953	£(1,188,268)	£-	£33,084,685

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

6. FUNDS (Continued)

	2023 £	Movement in year £	Transfer Between Funds £	2024 £
Restricted:				
Restricted: Parishes and other	1,841,326	465,399	(69,447)	2,237,278
Restricted: Together in Faith	1,170,370	1,449	-	1,171,819
Fixed Assets	132,807	(3,162)	-	129,645
	<u>3,144,503</u>	<u>463,686</u>	<u>(69,447)</u>	<u>3,538,742</u>
General: fixed assets	15,004,877	(40,298)	-	14,964,579
General: diocesan fund	7,431,272	1,991,977	69,447	9,492,696
Designated funds:				
Diocesan maintenance	195,720	23,563	-	219,283
Ecclesiastical Education	209,685	92,675	-	302,360
Mass funds	228,660	11,576	-	240,236
Fox Den Trust	192,670	-	-	192,670
Fox Den Trust fixed assets	161,392	(3,843)	-	157,549
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	42,931	3,946	-	46,877
Chapter fund	(318)	1,182	-	864
Sick clergy insurance	92,600	(23,313)	-	69,287
Theological Education	9,875	-	-	9,875
Jubilee Fund	854,749	(36,895)	-	817,855
Property Fund	1,924,395	192,335	-	2,116,729
Trust funds	689,345	35,243	-	724,588
Ezekiel	1,147	-	-	1,147
	<u>4,602,851</u>	<u>296,469</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,899,320</u>
Charity total funds	£30,183,503	£2,711,834	£-	£32,895,337
Separate charitable trusts held in group restricted funds:				
Educational Trust	709,205	38,417	-	747,622
Northampton Slough Diocesan Education Trust	435,371	33,216	-	468,587
Lord Braye's Foundation	4,733	42,298	-	47,031
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	5,752	108,624	-	114,376
Group total funds	£31,338,564	£2,934,389	£-	£34,272,953

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

6. FUNDS (Continued)

Restricted funds (Parish and others) represent monies raised for specific purposes and Easter and Christmas offerings to priests, not yet paid out by the year end. They also include legacies received and fundraising for specific purposes, provisions made for the retirement of priests and voluntary parental contributions to building costs of our voluntary aided schools.

Restricted Together in Faith represents donations made to meet costs to support retired clergy and the training of new priests, as well as the funding of catechists and lay training and also particular parish projects.

The SoFA shows transfers in the year as agreed by Trustees. This represents a transfer of unrestricted funds of £1,842,947, being Parish and Jubilee Pension levies. These transfers net off within the General: diocesan fund since both parochial and curial unrestricted funds make up this fund. The above transfer includes an amount transferred from parochial unrestricted to curial unrestricted of £1,639,869 (2024: £1,635,302) which relates to levies charged to parishes. An amount transferred from parochial unrestricted to curial unrestricted of £203,078 (2024: £203,850) relates to the Jubilee Pension Levy representing contributions made in the year by parishes to the retirement fund for priests. The Diocesan Board and Council of Priests agreed to increase the levies from 23% to 38% to cover the cost of central services and retired Priests, which was historically under-funded.

The Jubilee Fund represents the Jubilee levy on parishes which is used to fund income in retirement and costs for priests no longer in active ministry.

The Property Fund represents a 25% share of net sale proceeds from parish properties, allocated to the Curia to be used to fund urgent parish project works in exceptional circumstances.

The Trust Funds represents a number of individual funds left to the Diocese without restriction, to be used at their discretion or the Discretion of the Bishop.

An amount transferred from parochial unrestricted to curial unrestricted of £nil (2024: £192,339) relates to the parish element of the sale of St Aidan's Manor Road recognised as being available for the support of Diocesan general expenditure.

Designated funds are amounts set aside at the discretion of the trustees and are for longer term purposes. They include funds set aside for the support of the Bishop, the education of new priests and the laity, the provision of some accommodation for retired priests and the support of schools. Expenditure is made from the majority of these funds on an annual basis, but where this is not the case, the trustees are continually reviewing their purpose to ensure their designation remains appropriate.

The Diocese are currently undergoing a project to review all designated funds held with the intention to combine/release funds appropriately in the 2025/26 Financial Year

Group restricted funds. The funds above incorporate all funds under the control of the Diocese and these include 4 trusts registered as separate charities: -

Northampton Diocesan Education Fund	Charity Number 267132
Lord Braye's Foundation	Charity Number 242281
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	Charity Number 252034
Northampton Slough Diocese Educational Trust	Charity Number 1165631

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Total £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Total £
Support of parish life						
Liturgical and pastoral	165,833	693,930	859,763	98,241	592,486	690,727
Domestic	-	335,941	335,941	-	304,027	304,027
Establishment	-	1,807,062	1,807,062	-	1,475,844	1,475,844
Office	-	552,553	552,553	-	468,094	468,094
Travel	-	86,692	86,692	-	98,425	98,425
Personnel	69,670	1,112,764	1,182,434	41,929	1,057,622	1,099,551
Parish workers	-	763,017	763,017	-	709,010	709,010
Repository	-	51,810	51,810	-	113,393	113,393
Parish church and presbytery repairs	28,440	570,071	598,511	23,834	794,764	818,598
Church and presbytery repairs	-	1,343,343	1,343,343	-	(58,828)	(58,828)
Depreciation	3,162	469,690	472,852	3,162	457,648	460,810
Subtotal	267,105	7,786,873	8,053,978	167,166	6,012,485	6,179,651
Activities carried out centrally						
Religious advisers expenses	-	140,618	140,618	-	239,966	239,966
Expenses of diocesan commission	-	509,313	509,313	-	418,263	418,263
Mass funds	-	-	-	-	(3,842)	(3,842)
Marriage tribunal	-	37,744	37,744	-	35,301	35,301
Youth service	-	96,979	96,979	-	140,870	140,870
Diocesan maintenance	-	410,199	410,199	-	297,883	297,883
Ecclesiastical education	139,598	11,900	151,498	100,061	4,870	104,931
Personnel	24,974	262,964	287,938	45,336	302,347	347,683
Diocesan communications	-	135,329	135,329	-	116,331	116,331
Vocations	-	(1,907)	(1,907)	-	803	803
Subtotal	164,572	1,603,139	1,767,711	145,397	1,552,792	1,698,189

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS (Continued)

Provision of Catholic school building and Maintenance

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Total £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Total £
School repairs	-	237,490	237,490	-	239,827	239,827
Subtotal	-	237,490	237,490	-	239,827	239,827
Totals	431,677	9,627,502	10,059,179	312,563	7,805,104	8,117,667

Included within expenditure is an amount of £85,111 (2024: £72,125) of interest payable (£21,278 allocated to curial unrestricted and £63,833 allocated to parochial unrestricted) in relation to interest on bank loans.

8. SUPPORT COSTS

Finance, admin and property salary costs of £514,422, bank charges and interest of £87,367 and office running costs of £296,524 are split per the below:

	2025 £	2024 £
Schools	213,276	188,820
Parish	538,899	475,909
Curial	146,138	124,881
	£898,313	£789,610

These costs are apportioned to activities either on a direct cost basis, on a staff time basis or on an estimated usage basis of 75% parish life, 20% curia activities, 5% provision of school buildings.

9. RAISING FUNDS

	2025 £	2024 £
Fundraising	158,632	130,752
Planned giving expenses	-	(480)
Investment management costs	47,031	43,845
	£205,663	£174,117

10. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2025 £	2024 £
External auditors' fees gross of VAT	60,000	84,000
Internal auditors' fees	2,225	2,638
	£62,225	£86,638

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

11. SECOND COLLECTIONS PAYABLE IN FURTHERANCE OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS

These are special collections held at each parish in support of certain organisations related to the church or supported by individual parishes and the work that they carry out. These incoming donations are held as restricted funds and are then paid out to the relevant organisation.

	2025 £	2024 £
Incoming second collections	305,484	488,676
Amounts paid out	468,356	500,973

Not included in these figures are second collections taken and paid out in full in relation to a number of organisations where it is either mandatory or customary to support those charities. The monies raised and paid out are treated as conduit funding and so are excluded from the Diocesan accounts. The total of such monies received and paid out in full was £343,547 (2024: £321,690). The organisations supported include Holy Shrines, Mass Media, Peter's Pence, Stella Maris (formerly Apostleship of the Sea), Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, Third World Aid, Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD), St Vincent de Paul Society, Survive-MIVA (Missionary Vehicle Association).

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Group	Tangible fixed assets £	Investments £	Net current assets plus non-current liabilities £	Total £
2025				
Restricted funds	126,484	1,763,077	3,113,395	5,002,956
General	15,065,328	11,036,085	(2,880,580)	23,220,833
Designated	153,706	1,831,440	2,875,750	4,860,896
Total funds	15,345,518	14,630,602	3,108,565	33,084,685
2024				
Restricted funds	129,645	873,875	3,912,838	4,916,358
General	14,964,579	11,081,599	(1,588,903)	24,457,275
Designated	157,549	2,584,223	2,157,548	4,899,320
Total funds	15,251,773	14,539,697	4,481,483	34,272,953
Charity				
2025				
Restricted funds	126,484	770,150	2,744,496	3,641,130
General	15,065,328	11,036,085	(2,880,580)	23,220,833
Designated	153,706	1,831,440	2,875,750	4,860,896
Total funds	15,345,518	13,637,675	2,739,666	31,722,859
2024				
Restricted funds	129,645	3,670	3,318,664	3,451,979
General	14,964,579	11,081,599	(1,492,434)	24,553,744
Designated	157,549	2,422,814	2,309,253	4,889,616
Total funds	15,251,773	13,508,083	4,135,483	32,895,339

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

13. STAFF COSTS	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross salaries	2,048,738	1,958,696
Employer's national insurance	153,528	143,976
Employer's pension contributions	63,432	61,149
	<u>£2,265,698</u>	<u>£2,163,821</u>

The average number of employees analysed, by function, was:

	Number	Number
Fundraising and publicity	1	1
Direct charitable	109	112
Management and administration of the charity	4	4
	<u>114</u>	<u>117</u>
	2025	2024
	Number	Number
£60,001 to £70,000	1	1
£70,001 to £80,000	1	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

Key management personnel received salary, employer's national insurance and pension contributions of £289,491 (2024: £283,097).

Redundancy and termination payments of £nil were paid during the year (2024: £9,839).

14. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

No trustee received remuneration (2024: None) and one trustee was reimbursed £141 (2024: one trustee was reimbursed £140) for expenses in their role as trustee during the year. Insurance premiums paid include trustees' indemnity insurance. A total of £7,360 (2024: £11,756) donations were received from trustees during the year.

15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no other related party transactions during the year (2024: £nil).

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

16. SUBSIDIARY CHARITIES

These accounts consolidate the results of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton, and the 4 trusts registered as separate charities referred to in note 6. A summary of the financial statements of all 4 trusts is provided below: -

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income	33,730	171,856
Gains/(losses) on investments	(19,661)	50,699
Surplus	14,069	222,555
Reserves	1,391,685	1,377,616
Investments	1,022,786	1,031,614
Current assets	368,899	346,002
Net assets	1,391,685	1,377,616

The charity has two wholly owned subsidiary companies which are considered immaterial to the group as a whole and therefore these companies have not been consolidated into these financial statements. RCDN Property Services Ltd (RCDN) provides property project management services to schools within the Diocese. St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd (STCCC) runs a restaurant provided to parishioners and the wider community. The charity owns 100% of the issued share capital of £100 in both companies. A summary of the financial statements for both companies for the year ending 31st March 2025 is provided below: -

2025	RCDN	STCCC	Total
	£	£	£
Turnover and other income	72,778	110,299	183,077
Expenses	(1,562)	(81,055)	(82,617)
Operating profit	71,216	29,244	100,460
Gift aid paid to parent charity	(97,717)	(21,209)	(118,926)
Operating (loss)/profit	(26,501)	8,035	(18,466)
Reserves	71,316	29,344	100,660
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	23,136	23,136
Current assets	73,067	13,805	86,872
Creditors: - amounts falling due within one year	(1,751)	(7,597)	(9,348)
Net assets	71,316	29,344	100,660

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

2024	RCDN	STCCC	Total
	£	£	£
Turnover and other income	99,157	92,048	191,205
Expenses	(1,440)	(69,365)	(70,805)
	<u>97,717</u>	<u>22,683</u>	<u>120,400</u>
Operating profit	97,717	22,683	120,400
Gift aid paid to parent charity	(87,929)	-	(87,929)
	<u>9,788</u>	<u>22,683</u>	<u>32,471</u>
Operating profit	9,788	22,683	32,471
Reserves	<u>97,817</u>	<u>21,309</u>	<u>119,126</u>
	<u>97,817</u>	<u>21,309</u>	<u>119,126</u>
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	15,943	15,943
Current assets	114,538	45,240	159,778
Creditors: - amounts falling due within one year	(16,721)	(39,874)	(56,595)
	<u>97,817</u>	<u>21,309</u>	<u>119,126</u>
Net assets	<u>97,817</u>	<u>21,309</u>	<u>119,126</u>

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

17. SOFA Comparative 2024

	Parochial		Curial		Diocesan	
	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 £	2023 £
Income from:						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
Collections & donations	251,302	5,499,156	308,533	384,107	6,443,098	5,539,780
Second collections	488,676	-	-	-	488,676	355,255
Legacies	-	148,937	-	538,925	687,862	186,663
Grants received	-	2,220	230,817	-	233,037	291,827
Fundraising	201,917	327,773	(1,019)	27,402	556,073	445,016
<i>Investments</i>						
Dividend income	-	61,087	19,421	332,983	413,491	246,187
Bank interest	-	-	-	9,354	9,354	44
Rental income	-	683,197	-	9,956	693,153	698,598
<i>Other</i>						
Sales of assets	-	-	-	887,561	887,561	-
Total income	941,895	6,722,370	557,752	2,190,288	10,412,305	7,763,370
Expenditure on:						
<i>Raising funds:</i>						
Costs of generating voluntary income	36,180	80,974	-	13,118	130,272	132,041
Investment & property management costs	-	-	2,448	41,397	43,845	56,485
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
2 nd collections & grants	489,784	10,811	-	378	500,973	434,908
Support of parish life	122,076	5,444,782	45,090	567,703	6,179,651	5,601,664
Curial activities	-	-	145,397	1,552,792	1,698,189	1,521,395
SFCS Pension	-	-	-	-	-	513,000
Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sch buildings provision	-	-	-	239,827	239,827	169,551
Total expenditure	648,040	5,536,567	192,935	2,415,215	8,792,757	8,429,044
	293,855	1,185,803	364,817	(224,927)	1,619,548	(665,674)
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets:						
Realised on disposal investment properties	-	-	-	563,765	563,765	83,774
Realised on disposal shares	-	-	(2,195)	(30,186)	(32,381)	(104,506)
Unrealised- Investments	-	-	29,767	753,690	783,457	(763,689)
Unrealised- Investment Properties	-	-	-	-	-	1,045,000
Net income/(expenditure)	293,855	1,185,803	392,389	1,062,342	2,934,389	(405,095)
Transfers between funds	(65,666)	(1,773,486)	(3,782)	1,842,934	-	-
Net movement in funds	228,189	(587,683)	388,607	2,905,276	2,934,389	(405,095)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	1,167,463	14,341,461	3,132,099	12,697,541	31,338,564	31,743,659
Total funds carried forward at 31 Mar 2024	1,395,652	13,753,778	3,520,706	15,602,817	34,272,953	31,338,564

NORTHAMPTON ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 234091

Accounts

financial statements

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Registered charity number: 234091

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

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Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Trust information

Registered charity number	234091
Governing instrument	Trust Deed 30 April 1949 as amended 11 October 2006
The board of trustees	<p>The trustees who served during the period and since the year end were as follows:</p> <p>Rt Rev Bishop David J Oakley (President) Mr T F O Larkin (resigned 2nd August 2023) Mrs K Goodwin (resigned 11th May 2023) Mrs M M Cripps (resigned 17th May 2024) Rev A W Brennan (resigned 23rd January 2024) Rev C Walking-Lea (resigned 23rd January 2024) Rev Dr B Killeen Rev Christopher Perry Mr A Clutterbuck Mr P E Commons (resigned 15th November 2024) Rev Canon Michael Harrison Mrs S H Campbell Mrs D V Purfield (appointed 31st May 2023) Mr C E J Gallagher (appointed 2nd August 2023) Mrs K A Brooks (appointed 19th June 2023) Mr C Bird (appointed 1st April 2025)</p>
Secretary	<p>Mr AJ McNiff (resigned 2nd August 2023) Mr T F O Larkin (appointed 2nd August 2023)</p>
Registered Office	<p>Bishop's House Marriott Street Northampton NN2 6AW</p>
Auditors	<p>HaysMac LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG</p>
Bankers	<p>National Westminster Bank plc 16 High Street Kettering Northants NN16 8SZ</p>
Investment advisers	<p>Rathbones 8 Finsbury Circus London EC2M 7AZ</p> <p>CCLA Investment Management Limited One Angel Lane London EC4R 3AB</p> <p>Brewin Dolphin 1 The Avenue, Spinningfields Square Manchester M3 3AP</p>

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2024

Report of the trustees

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the financial statements, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is governed by a trust deed, dated 30 April 1949 as amended on 11 October 2006, registered charity number 234091. It specifically covers the Counties of Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and that part of Berkshire north of the River Thames.

Trustees

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet as the Finance Board on a regular basis to review developments and activities and to make decisions on key issues. In setting objectives and planning activities, the trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 section 17 to have due regard to the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee is a registered company number 442173 incorporated under the Companies Act 1929 on 13 September 1947. The members of the company who served on the Main Finance Board during the year to 31st March 2024 are set out in the Trust Information on page 1.

Members of the Finance Board are appointed and can be removed by the Bishop who is ex officio President of the Corporation and ex officio a member of the Main Finance Board. The Corporation has an Honorary Secretary appointed in writing by the President. The Honorary Secretary can be removed from office by the Bishop in writing. New members of the Finance Board are provided with copies of the Trust document, the most recent published accounts and a process of induction. Recent minutes of the Finance Board are also made available to them. Appropriate training is made available to new members, dependant on their experience of charitable, legal and financial matters. In addition, all members of the Finance Board are kept up to date on new legislation and recommended practices.

Membership of the Main Finance Board is reviewed on a regular basis.

All trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration was paid to them in the year in relation to their role as trustee. One trustee was in receipt of expenses in the year £140 (2023: None).

On 18 November 2024 the company's auditor changed its name from Haysmacintyre LLP to HaysMac LLP.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the report of the trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 2011 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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 charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information

Organisational structure and decision-making process

The day-to-day management of the charity's activities and implementation of its policies are delegated to a number of subcommittees and consultative bodies and to appropriate staff. There are a number of curial departments such as Finance, Property, Safeguarding, Education and Youth Ministry, each of which employ appropriately trained and qualified staff to manage and carry out those activities. Similarly, parishes have a number of paid employees and volunteers to assist in the running of activities at local level.

An important focus of the trustees is the care and maintenance of Diocesan property and decisions on projects proposed in the Diocese, dependant on type and size, are made at the appropriate level, with advice being obtained as necessary from professional advisers appointed by the Diocese. A Property and Health and Safety Subcommittee of the Finance Board has been formed, and this considers project proposals and recommends appropriate action to the trustees. This subcommittee is made up of trustees, a professional lay advisor and Diocesan officials.

The Art and Architecture section of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission considers applications for church improvements and reports regularly to the Bishop and to the Finance Board. The Diocesan Historic Churches Committee, a statutory body, has remit over the listed places of worship of the Diocese, processing applications for works to those buildings and monitoring progress.

Day to day management of the finance and property functions is the responsibility of the Diocesan Chief Operating Officer together with three property professionals.

Key management personnel

The Board considers that the trustees and the Senior Leadership Team whose total remuneration is set out in note 13 of the accounts comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis. In the year to March 2024 these included the Chief Operating Officer and the senior lay personnel in the major curial departments. The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually. All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of trustees' expenses are disclosed in note 14 of the accounts. When new roles are created, or significant roles change hands, benchmarking against market rates for similar positions is employed to attract the best candidates for those roles.

Risk management

A review of the major financial and reputational risks to which the charity is exposed has been carried out and systems put in place to mitigate those risks. Any risks identified and their resultant impact on reserves and/or reputation of the Diocese are considered by the Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee and the Finance Board of trustees. Risks are monitored and any new risks identified and recorded.

In particular, the Diocese has procedures, and a subcommittee focussed on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The health and safety of those using our churches and other facilities is also a

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2024

high priority and the Diocese has policies in place to assess and manage the associated risks, overseen by a Property, Health & Safety Subcommittee. The Diocese receives professional Health and Safety advice from RBS & NatWest Mentor.

The increasing age and declining number of diocesan priests is considered by the trustees to be a significant risk for the Diocese. To plan for and mitigate the consequences of this risk factor, parishes have been asked to consider how pastoral areas, and individual parishes will provide facilities for the practicing of the Faith with significantly fewer priests.

Financial Review

Total income during 2023/24 improved significantly to £10,412,306 (2023: £7,763,370) versus the previous year (plus 34%). This was due to increased donations and from the sale of assets.

Total expenditure was however £8,792,757 (2023: £8,429,044) - 5% higher than the prior year. 70% of the expenditure came from expenditure in support of parish life (2023:66%). Church property maintenance and repairs increased by 28% to £1,102,891 (2023 £859,904) as we work to progress repairs deferred from previous years Utility costs, including council tax and property insurance remain high, £1,442,440.

There was an increase of £632, 439 (64.8%) in our debtors due to increased recoverable school expenditure and legacies accrued for. Cash and cash equivalent balances increased in the year by £2.4m or 33% from asset disposals.

Related parties

The attached accounts include the assets and activities of four trusts which are incorporated as separate charities: -

Northampton Diocese Education Fund	Charity Number 267132
Lord Braye's Foundation	Charity Number 242281
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	Charity Number 252034
Northampton Slough Diocese Educational Trust	Charity Number 1165631

The objects of these charities are consistent with the objects of the Diocese.

The Diocese also encompasses several Catholic schools. Those schools which are voluntary aided are exempt Charities under the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1988 and their activities are not reflected in the financial statements attached to this report. The Bishop of Northampton appoints Foundation Governors to the Governing Bodies of these schools, and they form most of those Governing Bodies. Several schools have converted to academy status and are formed within multi-academy trusts. The Bishop has similar powers of appointment of the trustees of those Trusts and again their activities are not reflected in the financial statements attached to this report. At the date of this report there are 42 schools of which 28 are academies, 12 Voluntary aided schools and 2 independent college. The addresses of all our schools can be found in the Diocesan Directory.

Investment policy

There are no specific investment powers, other than those provided under the Trustees Act 2000. Investments are made at the absolute discretion of the trustees acting on advice of its professional advisers and an Investment Committee which reports to the Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee. Meetings of the Investment Committee take place every 6 months and are attended by our investment advisers and senior personnel. An ethical investment policy has been agreed by trustees to provide a framework for investing in securities which are in line with Catholic Social Teaching, and to avoid those which are environmentally unsound.

At 31 March 2024, the portfolio of investments had a market value of £10,586,971 (2023: £9,594,673). There were realised losses of £32,381 (2023: £104,506) and unrealised gains of £783,457 (2023: £763,689 losses). Total investment income in the year was £413,491 (2023: £246,187).

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2024

The investment policy is to maximise total return through a diversified portfolio. The trustees are aware of the effect of movements in the value of this investment portfolio on reserve levels. Over the last three years there has been significant volatility in our investments as they have dipped and then subsequently recovered broadly in line with the overall market. The Diocese considers itself a long-term investor and together with its advisers takes steps to mitigate the risk of significant volatility. The trustees are satisfied with the current performance of the investments.

Public benefit

The Charities Act 2006 requires charities to describe the benefit that is provided to the public. The Charity Commission has commented that "religion helps to provide a moral and ethical framework for people to live by and can play an important part in building social capital and community cohesion".

The adherence to, and advancing of, the Catholic faith to the public within the Northampton Diocese has many public benefits. It provides an ethical and moral code for society; it provides sacred places, churches, services of worship, public ritual and ceremonies, including baptisms, weddings and funerals; it contributes to the spiritual well-being of the public; it contributes to the spiritual and moral education of children; it promotes social understanding and cohesion, and contributes to practical ways of addressing social needs such as visiting the sick and housebound, and furthering other charitable purposes.

The above is demonstrated by 21,934 people (2023: 20,025) attending mass each Sunday together with masses also being said each day in our parishes. 20,000 children (2023: 20,000), both Catholic and non-Catholic, attended our schools. Donations of £810,366 (2023: £703,425) were made by our parishioners to causes both internal and external to our Diocese. Many programs were made available in our parishes in areas such as spiritual development, Marriage and Family Life and Justice and Peace.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the charity include not only parishioners and those young people attending our schools but also the recipients of aid from the many causes supported by the Diocese through contributions to among others CAFOD, Stella Maris (formally known as Apostleship of the Sea), The Association for the Propagation of the Faith as well as a number of projects supported by individual parishes. Churches and schools around the Diocese are welcoming and help to integrate into the community large numbers of new parishioners and students both from the UK and overseas.

Objectives, activities and achievements

Principal objects

The principal objects of the Charity are as declared in the Trust Deed dated 11 July 1949 "in or towards advancing the Roman Catholic religion in the Diocese by such means as the Bishop may think fit and proper and for the service and support whether in the Diocese or outside the Diocese by such means as aforesaid of charitable works and objects promoted by the Church" (**Clause 2 of the Trust Deed**).

The long-term strategies set to achieve these objects are to ensure that the life of the Catholic Community is well supported and responsive to changing requirements and to generate and maintain sufficient reserves to ensure the long-term future of the charity. It carries out these strategies through a number of key activities as set out below: -

Significant activities

The objects of the charity are fulfilled by the many activities carried out in its parishes, its schools and through a number of organisations run by the Diocesan Curia.

Parish life

Parish life is supported through the provision of clergy and buildings, and the organisation of many groups of volunteers, as a result of which support is provided to the local and national community in improving social cohesion, both within the community and the family unit, and in many other ways. While the celebration of Mass is mainly in churches owned and maintained by the Diocese through its parishes and supported by the curial departments, parishes also reach out to the local community through their

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2024

activities and support their parishioners through home visits, hospital chaplaincy, school chaplaincy, and a range of courses and other programs.

The Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation were celebrated all around the Diocese and many groups met in prayer and reflection on the word of God in scripture. At the last census up to Dec 2024, 21,934 people attended mass on a weekly basis and there were 1,551 baptisms (2023: 1,548) , 955 people confirmed (2023: 1,129) and 208 marriages (2023: 208) during the year.

The facilitation and nourishment of spiritual life and the concern for neighbours in the Diocese are the principal aims of the charity and while weekly attendance figures and the number of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, etc are indications of the success of the work, performance can also be measured by the continuing strength of our parish and school communities and the individual journeys of faith of our parishioners. Sick and elderly parishioners received the Eucharist and Sacrament of the Sick, the dying and their relatives received comfort and support, and the deceased received dignified burial and cremation services, which aided the grieving process for their relatives.

The trustees recognise the effect of types of one-off income including the inherent uncertainty of legacy income. An anticipated increase in capital works on Church property, the general inflationary increase of many costs, and the cost-of-living crisis in the UK have led to a reflection across the pastoral areas of the Diocese on how to find ways of raising income whilst managing costs.

Parishes carry out their own fundraising activities in support of parish projects both internal to the parish and external. The total income raised was £556,074 (2023: £445,016).

Churches, presbyteries and halls

Repairs and maintenance requirements resulting from the quinquennial survey reports on buildings owned by the trust and the system of close contact between parishes, the trust and the professionals appointed by the Diocese, resulted in £650,289 (2023: £661,974) being spent during the year at parish and Diocesan level.

The work was supervised by the Diocesan Property Department, reporting to the trustees who together with professional advisers appointed by the Diocese, ensure that the work is carried out to the highest possible standard.

Parish clubs

There are now four parish member social clubs, all but one of which occupy under license buildings owned by the Diocese trustee. The Diocesan Finance and Property departments have continued to monitor their management and viability, along with professionals appointed by the clubs. These social clubs have converted to community interest companies where the relationship with the Diocese as landlord is better clarified.

Volunteers

The charity is heavily reliant on the work of many volunteers, especially in its parishes but also on a number of committees and subcommittees. These volunteers include Lay Ministers of the Eucharist and Readers, Catechists, altar servers, parish workers, choirs and musicians, health and safety representatives, child and vulnerable adult safeguarding representatives, members of the St Vincent de Paul Society who help the poor and needy, and many other roles. The trustees are very grateful to all of these people for their contribution to the work of the Diocese.

Schools

As has been the case for many years the Diocese has looked to fulfil its objects partly by the facilitation of education within a Catholic environment. Most of these schools are within the two Multi-Academy Trusts. Others are voluntary aided schools, at both primary and secondary level. All are supported by the Diocesan Schools Commission, together with our one independent school they operate with a Catholic ethos and while following legislation and curriculum set by the State. They also have specific policies and procedures set by or in consultation with the Catholic Education Service.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2024

During the year, a sum of £2.1m (2023: £1.51m) gross of Government grant was spent on voluntary aided school buildings owned by the trustee. For a significant proportion of this expenditure, 10% of the cost had to be found by the schools from the parental voluntary contribution scheme, the schools reserves or other sources. The Diocesan Schools Commission supports our schools and their Governors in the work that they do.

Many different projects were carried out around the Diocese as part of the ongoing maintenance and development of our school buildings.

Curial activities

Curial activities include the training of new priests, permanent deacons, catechists, and lay ministers, the support of existing and retired priests, youth ministry, adult education, ecumenism and multi-faith dialogue, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, justice and peace commission, and a number of commissions covering liturgy, historic churches, pastoral strategy, marriage and family life and the Diocesan Tribunal, amongst others.

In common with many other Dioceses there is a declining number of priests available to serve parishes which, together with the advancing age of those still in service provides an ongoing challenge to the Charity. We currently have three men in seminary training for the priesthood and nine for the permanent diaconate (six in formation and three in the propaedeutic year). Vocations to the diaconate and new forms of lay ministry are also developing and being supported by the Diocese.

This Diocese looks forward positively to the creation of new housing developments across its geographical area especially in its larger towns. Discussions continue as to the measures required to welcome and provide for the spiritual life of both current and new residents. Each pastoral area is being challenged to develop plans to shape the Church in their area.

Fundraising approach and performance

The charity undertakes fundraising activity via appeals, events, emails and correspondence in line with the Fundraising Code of Practice set by the Fundraising Regulator. Our fundraising promise is

'When you support you can be sure of the following:

- We will never sell your contact details to anyone*
- We will only contact you if you have expressed an interest in our work*
- If we phone you, we will always check you are happy to take the call*
- If you ask us to change how we communicate with you, or stop, we will respect that*
- We do not engage in cold-calling, door to door or street fundraising*
- We try hard to ensure no one ever feels pressurised to support our work*
- We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adhere to the Fundraising Code of Practice.*
- All our activities are open, fair, honest and legal.*

No professional fundraisers were used during the year under review.

The Diocese has robust procedures in place regarding vulnerable people and treating donors in a fair manner.

The charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the standards of the Fundraising Code of Practice. Trustees are not aware of any complaints made regarding fundraising activities carried out during the year.

Details of fundraising performance is detailed elsewhere in this report.

Designated funds

Designated funds are held for a number of purposes including the education of priests, the maintenance of the Diocesan Curia, the advancement of education, mass stipends, the support of sick and needy

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2024

priests and funds available for expenditure at the discretion of the Bishop in the course of his work, together with funds to support the retirement provision for priests. Expenditure is made from these funds on a regular basis. The continued need for these funds will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Financial management

While each parish under Canon Law is a separate juridical person with the right to acquire, retain, administer and alienate temporal goods in their own right, they operate under financial guidelines issued by the Diocese. These give approval and cheque signing limits and require parishes to file returns with the Diocese on a quarterly basis. There are also approval and cheque signatory policies operating centrally, and a cycle of internal checks on the operation of financial procedures at parish level, in addition to those carried out by the external auditor.

Funding sources

The principal funding source of the Diocese is the parish offertory collection. Significant levels of income are also received from investments, fundraising activities and rents received from investment properties. Legacies also form a material portion of Diocesan income. The trustees recognise the uncertain nature of legacies and the material effect that the receipt or otherwise of major gifts can have on the results for any year. The anticipation of significant legacies is therefore discounted from the budgetary process unless the quantum of the receipt can be ascertained with reasonable certainty.

Expenditure

A major part of expenditure in the year is on the support of parish life and in particular, the establishment costs (Gas, Electricity, water, Insurance, council tax and other miscellaneous expenditures). These increased by 5.4% from £1,368k in 2023 to £1,442k in 2024. This was as a result of rising utility costs. The funding and support of building works in schools also resulted in a cost to the Diocese of £239,827 in the year (2023: £169,551).

Following liquidation of the St Francis Children's Society, the guarantee granted from the Diocese to the Bedfordshire Pension Fund has been valued at £513,000. This has been accrued within the accounts. Dialogue with the administrators of the Society continues, and the potential to recover part, or the full amount from the sale of the lease of the society's building, continues to be pursued by the Diocese.

Results for the year

A summary of the results for the year is shown on page 13 of these financial statements. The trustees report an overall surplus for the year of £2,754,690 (2023: deficit £405,095). The surplus for the year is categorised as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
General income and expenditure account	2,103,684	(140,813)
Restricted funds	543,942	(235,930)
Designated funds	286,763	(28,352)
	<u>2,934,389</u>	<u>(405,095)</u>

There was net surplus of £1,619,548 (2023: loss £665,674) before revaluations and investment asset disposals. The net surplus on investment assets, including investment properties, was £1,314,841 (2023: £260,579) of which £783,457 was unrealised gain (2023: deficit £763,689) and £563,765 (2023: £83,774) from Investment Property Disposals.

The effect of the net surplus on investment assets is to increase the surplus of £1,619,548 (2023: deficit £665,674) to an overall surplus for the year of £2,934,389 (2023: deficit £405,095).

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2024

Financial position

At 31 March 2024, the reserves were: -

	2024 £	2023 £
Restricted	4,786,713	4,166,757
Restricted – fixed assets	129,645	132,807
Designated	4,741,771	4,441,459
Designated – fixed assets	157,549	161,392
General – fixed assets	14,964,579	15,004,877
General – unrestricted	9,492,696	7,431,272
	<u>£34,272,953</u>	<u>£31,338,564</u>

Restricted funds represent funds that are received for a specific purpose. This includes donations, legacies, fundraising campaigns, (Together In Faith, £1.3m) and special collections, (£1.3m) including parish projects, Easter and Christmas offerings, (£81k) not yet paid out by the year end. A further £1.3m relates to our four separate charitable trusts.

Designated funds represent funds set aside for specific purposes, as listed in note 6 to these financial statements.

The general fund for fixed assets represents the value invested in fixed assets, principally churches and presbyteries.

Funds available to support the work of the Diocese in the future are those shown above as general unrestricted funds of £9,492,696 (2023: £7,431,272)

Our traded investment portfolio continued to experience turbulent market conditions from the effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Following an unrealised loss in the prior year, the reported year saw a bounce back in the underlying financial markets. The unrealised gain is £783,457 (2023 Unrealised loss (£763,689)).

Our investment properties are revalued on a 2-year cycle. The Trustees have determined that there are no material movements in the value of the charity's investment properties in the year

Reserves policy

The Main Finance Board meets regularly to plan, monitor and review levels of expenditure on key or significant projects, and hence the impact on reserve levels. General income levels are also monitored regularly. The trustees consider that a prudent level of free reserves (those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or designated for specific purposes) is the equivalent of 12 – 15 months' expenditure. This will allow the Diocese to deal effectively with a significant drop in income and also react to requests for funding arising from unexpected events.

At 31 March 2024, the free reserves of £9,492,696 represented approximately 14.30 months (2023: 12.07) of unrestricted expenditure

Plans for the future

The Diocese will continue to monitor reserve levels to ensure that its long-term aims can be met. The continued support of parish life and the Catholic community remains a priority and how this is to be achieved is a major focus for the Charity.

The principal focus will be on a number of main issues: -

- Exploring new ways of evangelisation so as to increase the numbers regularly exercising their faith including regular attendance Sunday Mass and other liturgies.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2024

- Enabling our clergy to make better use of their pastoral ministry while remaining attentive to the increasing demands made upon them.
- Boosting the skills and abilities of lay professionals within our congregations to support the Mission focus of the Diocese and to reduce the burden on parish priests by exercising their professional skills in support of parish needs.
- Ensuring that the Parish Churches and ancillary buildings are maintained to a high standard to reduce the long-term cost burden while supporting the Mission of the Diocese.
- Ensuring the availability of Diocesan Funds in the event of national or international crises, subject to meeting the objects of the Charity.
- Enabling the resources of the Diocese to fund the core activities at the centre of the Charity's objectives.
- Developing a longer-term Mission focussed strategy that meets the evangelisation goals of the Diocese while ensuring a secure financial foundation.

Offertory appeals continue to be held around the Diocese to provide additional resources for projects within parishes, and through the levy/second collections, the Curia.

Funds held on behalf of others

Assets held as custodian trustees

Included within the Diocesan Investment Trust portfolio of shares are units held on behalf of a separately registered charity: The Northampton Diocesan Priests' Fund, whose objects are to aid the secular priests of the Diocese who are permanently or temporarily incapacitated by old age, infirmity, illness or accident. The assets within the overall portfolio are disclosed in note 2 and are separately distinguishable from assets of the Diocese. Quarterly reports are sent to the charity on the investment performance.

Signed by order of the trustees on 28th July 2025



Rt Rev Bishop D J Oakley

Signed copy kept in Bishop's House

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Independent Auditors' Report To The Trustees'
Year ended 31 March 2024

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Group Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and Parent Charity Balance Sheet, the Group Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of the group's and of the parent charity's net movement in funds for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, 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 group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from 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 Report of the Trustees. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Independent Auditors' Report To The Trustees' Year ended 31 March 2024

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the group and parent charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the group and parent charity financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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 group's and the parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charity or to cease operations, or have 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 (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the group and of the parent charity and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to Canon Law, employment law, safeguarding regulations and Charity Law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as Charities Act 2011 and Charities SORP.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Review of minutes of trustees' meetings;
- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals; and

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Independent Auditors' Report To The Trustees'
Year ended 31 March 2024

- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates. These related to depreciation, investment property valuations and accrued legacies.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 responsibility to anyone other than the charity's trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Haysmac LLP

Haysmac LLP
Statutory Auditors

10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

Date: 30/07/2025


Haysmac LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006


Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets
Year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		Group	Charity	Group	Charity
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	1	15,251,773	15,251,773	15,299,076	15,299,076
Investments	2	10,586,971	9,555,357	9,594,673	8,760,347
Investment properties	2	3,952,726	3,952,726	5,215,000	5,215,000
		<u>29,791,470</u>	<u>28,759,856</u>	<u>30,108,749</u>	<u>29,274,423</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	3	1,607,802	1,607,802	975,363	975,363
Cash at bank and in hand		9,647,605	9,301,604	7,242,000	6,921,265
		<u>11,255,407</u>	<u>10,909,407</u>	<u>8,217,363</u>	<u>7,896,628</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	(3,652,328)	(3,652,328)	(3,747,340)	(3,747,340)
Net current assets		<u>7,603,079</u>	<u>7,257,079</u>	<u>4,470,023</u>	<u>4,149,288</u>
Total assets plus current assets		<u>37,394,549</u>	<u>36,016,935</u>	<u>34,578,772</u>	<u>33,423,711</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	5	(3,121,596)	(3,121,596)	(3,240,208)	(3,240,208)
Net assets		<u>£34,272,953</u>	<u>£32,895,339</u>	<u>£31,338,564</u>	<u>£30,183,503</u>
Funds					
General – unrestricted	6	9,492,696	9,492,696	7,431,272	7,431,272
General – fixed assets	6	14,964,579	14,964,579	15,004,877	15,004,877
		<u>24,457,275</u>	<u>24,457,275</u>	<u>22,436,149</u>	<u>22,436,149</u>
Designated	6	4,741,771	4,741,771	4,441,459	4,441,459
Designated – fixed assets	6	157,549	157,549	161,392	161,392
Restricted	6	4,786,713	3,409,099	4,166,757	3,011,696
Restricted – fixed assets	6	129,645	129,645	132,807	132,807
Net assets		<u>£34,272,953</u>	<u>£32,895,339</u>	<u>£31,338,564</u>	<u>£30,183,503</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28th July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


Rt Rev Bishop D J Oakley
Trustee


Rev Dr B Killeen
Trustee

Signed copy kept in Bishop's House

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Parochial		Curial		Diocesan	
	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 £	2023 £
Income from:						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
Collections & donations	251,302	5,499,156	308,533	384,107	6,443,098	5,539,780
Second collections	11 488,676	-	-	-	488,676	355,255
Legacies	-	148,937	-	538,925	687,862	186,663
Grants received	-	2,220	230,817	-	233,037	291,827
Fundraising	201,917	327,773	(1,019)	27,403	556,074	445,016
<i>Investments</i>						
Dividend income	-	61,087	19,421	332,983	413,491	246,187
Bank interest	-	-	-	9,354	9,354	44
Rental income	-	683,197	-	9,956	693,153	698,598
<i>Other</i>						
Sales of assets	-	-	-	887,561	887,561	-
Total income	941,895	6,722,370	557,752	2,190,290	10,412,306	7,763,370
Expenditure on:						
<i>Raising funds:</i>						
Costs of generating voluntary income	9 36,180	80,974	-	13,118	130,272	132,041
Investment & property management costs	-	-	2,448	41,397	43,845	56,485
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
2 nd collections & grants	11 489,784	10,811	-	378	500,973	434,908
Support of parish life	7 122,076	5,444,782	45,090	567,703	6,179,651	5,601,664
Curial activities	7 -	-	145,397	1,552,792	1,698,189	1,521,395
SFCS Pension Expense	7 -	-	-	-	-	513,000
Sch buildings provision	7 -	-	-	239,827	239,827	169,551
Total expenditure	648,040	5,536,567	192,935	2,415,215	8,792,757	8,429,044
	293,855	1,185,803	364,817	(224,926)	1,619,548	(665,674)
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets:						
Realised on disposal investment properties	2 -	-	-	563,765	563,765	83,774
Realised on disposal shares	2 -	-	(2,195)	(30,186)	(32,381)	(104,506)
Unrealised- Investments	2 -	-	29,767	753,690	783,457	(763,689)
Unrealised- Investment Properties	2 -	-	-	-	-	1,045,000
Net income/(expenditure)	293,855	1,185,803	392,389	1,062,343	2,934,389	(405,095)
Transfers between funds	6 (65,666)	(1,773,486)	(3,782)	1,842,934	-	-
Net movement in funds	228,189	(587,683)	388,607	2,905,276	2,934,389	(405,095)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	1,167,463	14,341,461	3,132,099	12,697,541	31,338,564	31,743,659
Total funds carried forward at 31 Mar 2024	1,395,652	13,753,778	3,520,706	15,602,817	34,272,953	31,338,564

All the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

Detailed comparatives are shown in Note 17 to these financial statements.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2024

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating Activities				
Net cash provided by operating activities (see below)		78,177		553,705
Cash flows from investing activities				
Interest received	9,354		44	
Dividends received	413,491		246,187	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(413,507)		(298,188)	
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	887,561		-	
Purchase of investments	(3,889,403)		(5,088,752)	
Sale of investments	3,680,562		5,250,140	
Purchase of investment property	(237,726)		-	
Sale of investment properties	2,063,765		617,000	
Net cash provided by investing activities		2,514,097		726,431
Cash flows from financing activities				
Loans (repaid)/received	(114,543)		311,148	
Interest charged on loans	(72,125)		(116,385)	
Net cash (used in) / provided by financing activities		(186,668)		194,763
Change in cash and cash equivalents		2,405,606		1,474,899
Cash and cash equivalents at start of reporting period		7,242,000		5,767,101
Cash and cash equivalents at end of reporting period		<u>£9,647,606</u>		<u>£7,242,000</u>

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2024

(i) **Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the SOFA)	2,934,389	(405,095)
(Gain) / loss on traded investments	(783,457)	763,689
Gain on revaluation of investment property	-	(1,045,000)
Investment income	(422,845)	(246,231)
Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(887,561)	-
Surplus on disposal of investment property	(563,765)	(92,000)
Depreciation	460,810	435,545
Interest on loans	72,125	116,385
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(632,439)	872,069
(Decrease) Increase in creditors	(99,081)	154,343
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>£78,177</u>	<u>£553,705</u>

(ii) **Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds**

Net funds at 1 April	7,242,000	5,767,101
Increase in cash in the period	<u>2,405,606</u>	<u>1,474,899</u>
Net funds at 31 March	<u>£9,647,606</u>	<u>£7,242,000</u>

(iii) **Analysis of changes in Net Funds/(Debt)**

	1 April 2023 £	Cash Flow £	31 March 2024 £
Cash in hand and at bank	7,242,000	2,405,606	9,647,606
Debt due within 1 year	(113,240)	(4,069)	(117,309)
Debt due after 1 year	(2,720,250)	118,612	(2,601,638)
	<u>£4,408,510</u>	<u>£2,520,149</u>	<u>£6,928,659</u>
	1 April 2022 £	Cash Flow £	31 March 2023 £
Cash in hand and at bank	5,767,101	1,474,899	7,242,000
Debt due within 1 year	(311,148)	197,908	(113,240)
Debt due after 1 year	(2,833,490)	113,240	(2,720,250)
	<u>£2,622,463</u>	<u>1,786,047</u>	<u>£4,408,510</u>

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2024

The principal accounting policies which are adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of non-marketable assets held for charitable purposes, investment properties and listed investments at market value. The format of the financial statements has been presented to comply with the Charities Act 2011, FRS102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland* and the Statement of Recommended Practice *Accounting and Reporting by Charities* ("SORP 2019"). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102. Figures are presented in sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

Consolidation

The accounts consolidate the results of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton and the 4 trusts registered as separate charities referred to in note 6.

The charity has two subsidiary companies, RCDN Property Services Ltd and St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd. In the opinion of the trustees, the activities of RCDN Property Services Ltd and St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd are immaterial to the group as a whole and therefore these companies have not been consolidated into these financial statements.

General information

The Charity is a charity registered in England and Wales (charity number: 234091). The Charity's registered office address is Bishop's House, Marriott Street, Northampton, NN2 6AW.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties which would cast doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Trust has significant fixed assets including financial investments valued at 31st December 2024 at £11.0m. It also has a cash balance as at 31st December 2024 (not including funds held on behalf of schools, priests fund or clubs) of £5.3m. This balance includes £2.63m of bank loan finance. Forecast projections for 12 months from the date these accounts are signed indicate that the charity continues to be a going concern in the foreseeable future.

Income and expenditure

Income is recognised in the period in which its receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income from parochial activities and other voluntary donations is recognised on a receipt's basis. Income from investments, grant agencies, rental properties and other sources of a non-ex-gratia nature are recognised on an accrual's basis. Legacies are recognised once the charity is advised that payment is due, and the amount involved can be quantified this is normally when probate has been granted demonstrating entitlement and a reasonable estimate of the value of the estate has been provided.

Costs of raising funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the management of the Charity's investments.

Costs of charitable activities consist of all expenditure directly relating to the objects of the Charity. Support costs which cannot be directly allocated are apportioned between charitable activities and governance costs on the basis of the trustee's estimate of the time spent on the relevant functions.

Employment benefits, including holiday pay, are recognised in the period in which they are earned. Termination benefits are recognised in the period in which the decision is made and communicated to the relevant employee(s).

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2024

Governance costs include expenditure on management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements together with an allocation of support costs.
Irrecoverable VAT is included with the category of expenses to which it relates.

Tangible assets

a. Freehold land and buildings

Functional land and buildings

1. Churches, Presbyteries, Halls and Offices etc.

Freehold land

Functional land (i.e. land used for the prime purpose of the Charity), is included in the financial statements at original cost or, where this is not available, at an estimate of its historic cost (or in the case of donated land, at its fair value at the date of receipt). Freehold land is not depreciated because it has an indefinitely long useful life.

Freehold buildings

Functional buildings (i.e. buildings used for the prime purpose of the Charity), which are still in use by the Charity are included in the financial statements at original cost, or where this is not available, at an estimate of their historic cost (or in the case of donated buildings, at an estimate of their fair value at the date of receipt). All new functional buildings, improvements and major renovations are capitalised at the cost of construction. Buildings which were in use at 31 March 1996 are depreciated at rates calculated to write off their estimated historic cost (less the estimated residual value) evenly over the remainder of their useful life.

The estimate of the useful life of a building varies depending on the condition and its future use, however, in general it is expected that a building in a reasonable state of repair will continue in use without major renovations or improvements for the following period:

Unlisted Churches	25 to 100 years
Cathedral and Listed Churches	100 to 200 years
Presbyteries	25 to 50 years
Other buildings	25 to 75 years

Depreciation rates are calculated using the age of the building and its expected useful life.

Addresses of Diocesan Churches and other buildings can be found in the Diocesan yearbook.

2. Voluntary Aided Schools

Land

The charity owns the land on which its Voluntary Aided Schools are built. The nature of the occupation of the land by these exempt and excepted charities means that the Diocesan trustees do not have the power to dispose of the land, until the school ceases its occupation, which in turn would require the approval of the governors and the Secretary of State. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the land is included at nil value unless a s554 order is in place giving entitlement to the proceeds on sale to the Diocese. The cost of any land acquired for the purposes of a Voluntary Aided School is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of acquisition.

Buildings

The school buildings are occupied, improved, extended and repaired by the school governors. The nature of the occupation of these buildings by these exempt and excepted charities means that the Diocesan trustees do not have control over the buildings, until the school ceases its occupation, which in turn would require the approval of the governors and the Secretary of State. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the buildings are included at nil value unless a s554

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2024

order is in place giving entitlement to the proceeds on sale to the Diocese. The school governors account for the building, improvement and repair costs of the schools and account for any grants received in respect of these costs. Grants made by the Diocese or parishes to the governors in order to assist them with their liability for school building costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of payment.

Details of the Diocesan Voluntary Aided Schools are given in the Diocesan Yearbook.

3. Academies

Land

The charity owns the land on which its Academies are built. The nature of the occupation of the land by these multi-academy trusts by long term lease or other agreement means that the Diocesan trustees do not have the power to dispose of the land, until the school ceases its occupation, under the terms of occupancy. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the land is included at nil value unless a s554 order is in place giving entitlement to the proceeds on sale to the Diocese. The cost of any land acquired for the purposes of an Academy is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of acquisition.

Buildings

The school buildings are occupied, improved, extended and repaired by the Academy trustees. The nature of the occupation of these buildings by these multi-academy trusts means that the Diocesan trustees do not have control over the buildings, until the school ceases its occupation under the terms of the lease or occupation terms. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the buildings are included at nil value unless a s554 order is in place giving entitlement to the proceeds on sale to the Diocese. The academy trustees account for the building, improvement and repair costs of the schools and account for any grants received in respect of these costs. Grants made by the Diocese or parishes to the academy trust in order to assist them with its liability for school building costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of payment.

Details of the Academies are given in the Diocesan Yearbook.

b. Fixtures, fittings and equipment

Fixtures, fittings and equipment which were in use at 31 March 1996 and which had a current replacement cost exceeding £2,000 have been capitalised and included in the financial statements at an estimate of their historical costs (or in the case of donated assets, at an estimate of value at the date of acquisition). Subsequent acquisitions with a cost, (or in the case of donated assets, estimated value) of over £2,000 are capitalised on the same basis. They are depreciated at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less the estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Church furniture/plate	Over 50 years
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	Over 10 years
Computers	Over 3 years

Financial Instruments

The charity only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable and investments in stocks and shares. The measurement basis used for these financial instruments is detailed below.

Investments

Investments are disclosed at market value at the balance sheet date. All changes in value in the year, whether or not realised, are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Details of the date and basis of valuation and valuer in respect of investment properties are given in note 2 to these financial statements. As these assets are recorded at current market value, no charge for depreciation is made in the financial statements.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2024

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivables are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Pension schemes

Contributions towards employees' personal pension schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they become payable. The Diocese is neither liable to finance any funding shortfall, nor entitled to benefit from any over-funding.

The Diocese makes contributions to the personal pension money purchase schemes of a number of its priests. Such contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they fall due. The Diocese also makes provision to pay an income in retirement to priests who do not participate in the money purchase scheme. This provision is held as a designated fund and is funded principally by an annual transfer from general unrestricted funds.

Funds

Restricted funds are funds where the income is restricted by the conditions imposed by the donors. They represent special collections and Easter and Christmas offerings to priests, not yet paid out by the year end. They also include legacies and other funds received for specific purposes.

Designated funds represent funds set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes, as listed in note 6 to these financial statements.

The general fund for fixed assets represents the value invested in fixed assets, principally churches and presbyteries. The balance of unrestricted funds represents funds available to support the work of the Diocese in the future.

Significant judgements

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees have had to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in these financial statements. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Key areas subject to judgement and estimation relate to depreciation, investment property valuations and accrued legacies.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

1. FIXED ASSETS

Group and Charity Cost	Church Property £	Furniture and Fittings £	Total £
At 1 April 2023	25,843,924	2,698,817	28,542,741
Additions	200,368	213,139	413,507
Disposals			
At 31 March 2024	26,044,292	2,911,956	28,956,249
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	11,056,748	2,186,917	13,243,665
Charge for year	381,038	79,772	460,810
Disposals			
At 31 March 2024	11,437,786	2,266,689	13,704,476
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	£14,606,506	£645,267	£15,251,773
At 31 March 2023	£14,787,176	£511,900	£15,299,076

All assets are used for the furtherance of the charity's charitable objectives. The properties, comprising churches, church halls and presbyteries, and contents are stated at actual or estimated historical cost. The market value of fixed assets has not been determined as the benefit to the readers of the financial statements does not, in the opinion of the trustees, justify the cost. The trustees are satisfied that there have been no material changes to the value of the portfolio since the date of the last formal valuation.

2. ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS

	2024		2023	
	Market value £	Historical cost £	Market value £	Historical cost £
Hunting fund				
UK listed securities	442,020	397,133	465,432	394,410
Non-UK listed securities	820,863	652,704	658,663	560,282
Cash balance	7,349	7,349	40,778	40,778
	1,270,232	1,057,186	1,164,873	995,470
Lord Braye Trust				
UK listed securities	50,384	50,164	9,627	8,236
Cash balance	819	104	104	104
	51,203	50,268	9,731	8,340
Alice Chesterton Trust				
UK listed securities	105,716	105,716	-	-
	105,716	105,716	-	-
Special Reserve Fund				
UK listed securities	702,589	651,598	829,189	741,451
Non-UK listed securities	1,209,718	948,687	903,791	775,490
Cash balance	6,809	6,809	29,341	29,341
	1,919,116	1,607,094	1,762,321	1,546,282

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

2. ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS (cont)	2024		2023	
	Market value £	Historical cost £	Market value £	Historical cost £
Diocesan Investment Trust				
UK listed securities	1,739,724	1,587,179	2,033,939	1,757,905
Non-UK listed securities	2,574,853	2,021,665	1,981,097	1,732,450
Cash balance	46,062	46,062	96,298	96,298
	<u>4,360,639</u>	<u>3,634,906</u>	<u>4,111,334</u>	<u>3,586,653</u>
Together in Faith				
UK listed securities	291,400	261,132	283,880	261,132
Cash balance	1,258	1,258	1,258	1,258
	<u>292,658</u>	<u>262,390</u>	<u>285,138</u>	<u>262,390</u>
Legacy				
UK listed securities	372,292	364,237	478,446	479,374
Non-UK listed securities	595,712	518,664	362,793	374,110
Cash balance	3,219	3,219	51,404	51,405
	<u>971,223</u>	<u>886,120</u>	<u>892,643</u>	<u>904,889</u>
Parish Legacy				
UK listed securities	680,037	677,337	724,002	726,670
Non-UK listed securities	811,899	673,147	629,134	587,940
Cash balance	5,859	5,859	62,872	62,872
	<u>1,497,795</u>	<u>1,356,343</u>	<u>1,416,008</u>	<u>1,377,482</u>
RBC Brewin Dolphin				
UK listed securities	59,763	57,323	-	-
Non-UK listed securities	108,806	92,989	-	-
Cash balance	136	-	-	-
	<u>168,705</u>	<u>150,312</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Catholic Investment Fund				
UK listed securities	1,012	1,000	1,012	1,000
Total				
UK listed securities	4,443,925	4,131,819	4,824,515	4,369,178
Non-UK listed securities	6,121,851	4,907,856	4,535,478	4,030,272
Cash balance	72,523	71,660	283,067	283,056
	<u>10,638,299</u>	<u>9,111,335</u>	<u>9,643,060</u>	<u>8,682,505</u>

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

2. ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS (cont)	Market Value	
	2024	2023
	£	£
Total investments controlled by the Diocese	10,638,299	9,643,060
Diocesan Investment Trust units held by The Northampton Diocesan Priests Fund	(51,328)	(48,387)
Total investments held by the Group	£10,586,971	£9,594,673
Investments held by separate charitable trusts:		
Northampton Diocesan Education Fund	(474,642)	(447,452)
Northampton Slough Diocese Educational Trust	(410,383)	(386,874)
Lord Braye's Foundation	(40,873)	-
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	(105,716)	-
Total investments held by the Charity	£9,555,357	£8,760,347
Group	2024	2023
	£	£
Market value		
At 1 April	9,594,673	10,519,750
Additions	3,889,403	5,088,752
Disposals	(3,437,500)	(5,101,527)
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	783,457	(763,689)
Realised losses on investments	(32,381)	(104,506)
Movement on bank accounts	(210,681)	(44,107)
At 31 March	£10,586,971	£9,594,673
Group and Charity	2024	2023
	£	£
Investment property		
At valuation		
At 1 April	5,215,000	4,695,000
Additions	237,726	-
Disposal proceeds	(2,063,765)	(617,000)
Realised gain on investment property	563,765	92,000
Unrealised gain on revaluation	-	1,045,000
At 31 March	£3,952,726	£5,215,000

The investment properties were valued by Ben Coleman Associates, BScFRICS, Chartered Surveyor in November 2023. The Trustees are satisfied that there have been no material changes to the value of the portfolio since the date of the last formal valuation.

The investments are held for both maximising total investment return and to provide income for charitable activities.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. DEBTORS	2024	2023
	£	£
Group and Charity		
School expenditure recoverable	380,175	151,669
Prepayments and accrued income	1,227,627	823,694
	<u>£1,607,802</u>	<u>£975,363</u>

Included in accrued income above are legacies of £622,916 (2023: £373,800) part of which have been received after the year end but were notified prior to this date.

4. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2024	2023
	£	£
Group and Charity		
Other creditors	1,215,148	383,745
School devolved formula capital monies	583,698	719,887
Other school monies	1,470,533	2,226,421
PAYE and social security	46,084	46,047
Accruals and deferred income	219,556	258,000
Bank loan	117,309	113,240
	<u>£3,652,328</u>	<u>£3,747,340</u>

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	2024	2023
	£	£
Group and Charity		
Loans due within one to two years	123,174	118,902
Loans due within two to five years	2,478,464	2,601,348
Other Creditors due with two to five years	6,958	6,958
SFCS Pension Expense due two to five years	513,000	513,000
	<u>£3,121,596</u>	<u>£3,240,208</u>

The Diocese had two bank loans due within five years as at 31st March 2024:

1. £2,000,000 provided by Barclays Bank PLC. The loan is secured on the Cathedral Centre in Northampton and attracts interest at a fixed rate of 2.98% for the duration of the loan. The loan is due to be repaid on 12th April 2026 and had a balance outstanding of £1,790,565 as at 31st March 2024.
2. £1,000,000 provided by Barclays Bank PLC. The loan is secured on the Cathedral Centre in Northampton and attracts interest at a fixed rate of 3.69% for the duration of the loan. The loan is due to be repaid on 8th February 2027 and had a balance outstanding of £928,382 as at 31st March 2024.

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

6. FUNDS	2023 £	Movement in year £	Transfer Between Funds £	2024 £
Restricted:				
Restricted: Parishes and other	1,841,326	465,399	(69,447)	2,237,278
Restricted: Together in Faith	1,170,370	1,449	-	1,171,819
Fixed Assets	132,807	(3,162)	-	129,645
	<u>3,144,503</u>	<u>463,686</u>	<u>(69,447)</u>	<u>3,538,742</u>
General: fixed assets	15,004,877	(40,298)	-	14,964,579
General: diocesan fund	7,431,272	1,991,977	69,447	9,492,696
Designated funds:				
Diocesan maintenance	195,720	23,563	-	219,283
Ecclesiastical Education	209,685	92,675	-	302,360
Mass funds	228,660	11,576	-	240,236
Fox Den Trust	192,670	-	-	192,670
Fox Den Trust fixed assets	161,392	(3,843)	-	157,549
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	42,931	3,946	-	46,877
Chapter fund	(318)	1,182	-	864
Sick clergy insurance	92,600	(23,313)	-	69,287
Theological Education	9,875	-	-	9,875
Jubilee Fund	854,749	(36,895)	-	817,855
Property Fund	1,924,395	192,335	-	2,116,729
Trust funds	689,345	35,243	-	724,588
Ezekiel	1,147	-	-	1,147
	<u>4,602,851</u>	<u>296,469</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,899,320</u>
Charity total funds	£30,183,503	£2,711,834	£-	£32,895,337
Separate charitable trusts held in group restricted funds:				
Educational Trust	709,205	38,417	-	747,622
Northampton Slough Diocesan Education Trust	435,371	33,216	-	468,587
Lord Bray's Foundation	4,733	42,298	-	47,031
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	5,752	108,624	-	114,376
Group total funds	£31,338,564	£2,934,388	£-	£34,272,953

The SoFA shows transfers in the year as agreed by Trustees. This represents a transfer of unrestricted funds of £1,733,486, being Parish and Jubilee Pension levies and a transfer of £65,666 between restricted and unrestricted due to a reclassification of the separate charitable trusts

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

6. FUNDS (Continued)	2022 £	Movement in year £	Transfer Between Funds £	2023 £
Restricted:				
Restricted: Parishes and other	1,975,071	(119,834)	(13,911)	1,841,326
Restricted: Together in Faith	1,229,377	(59,007)	-	1,170,370
Fixed Assets	135,969	(3,162)	-	132,807
	<u>3,340,417</u>	<u>(182,003)</u>	<u>(13,911)</u>	<u>3,144,503</u>
General: fixed assets	15,135,229	(130,352)		15,004,877
General: diocesan fund	7,427,822	(10,461)	13,911	7,431,272
Designated funds:				
Diocesan maintenance	191,927	3,793	-	195,720
Ecclesiastical Education	237,115	(27,430)	-	209,685
Mass funds	238,084	(9,424)	-	228,660
Fox Den Trust	192,670	-	-	192,670
Fox Den Trust fixed assets	165,235	(3,843)	-	161,392
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	43,868	(937)	-	42,931
Chapter fund	644	(962)	-	(318)
Sick clergy insurance	107,517	(14,917)	-	92,600
Theological Education	9,875	-	-	9,875
Jubilee Fund	928,549	(73,800)	-	854,749
Property Fund	1,773,923	150,472	-	1,924,395
Trust funds	740,649	(51,304)	-	689,345
Ezekiel	1,147	-	-	1,147
	<u>4,631,203</u>	<u>(28,362)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,602,851</u>
Charity total funds	£30,534,671	£(351,168)	£-	£30,183,503
Separate charitable trusts held in group restricted funds:				
Educational Trust	740,481	(31,276)	-	709,205
Northampton Slough Diocesan Education Trust	462,312	(26,941)	-	435,371
Lord Braye's Foundation	3,347	1,386	-	4,733
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	2,848	2,904	-	5,752
Group total funds	£31,743,659	£(405,095)	£-	£31,338,564

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

6. FUNDS (Continued)

Restricted funds (Parish and others) represent monies raised for specific purposes and Easter and Christmas offerings to priests, not yet paid out by the year end. They also include legacies received and fundraising for specific purposes, provisions made for the retirement of priests and voluntary parental contributions to building costs of our voluntary aided schools.

Restricted Together in Faith represents donations made to meet costs to support retired clergy and the training of new priests, as well as the funding of catechists and lay training and also particular parish projects.

An amount transferred from parochial unrestricted to curial unrestricted of £1,635,302 (2023: £1,367,708) relates to levies charged to parishes. The Diocesan Board and Council of Priests agreed to increase the levies from 23% to 38% to cover the cost of central services and retired Priests, which was historically under-funded.

An amount transferred from parochial unrestricted to curial unrestricted of £192,339 (2023: £150,472) relates to the parish element of the sale of St Aidan's Manor Road recognised as being available for the support of Diocesan general expenditure.

Designated funds are amounts set aside at the discretion of the trustees and are for longer term purposes. They include funds set aside for the support of the Bishop, the education of new priests and the laity, the provision of some accommodation for retired priests and the support of schools. Expenditure is made from the majority of these funds on an annual basis, but where this is not the case, the trustees are continually reviewing their purpose to ensure their designation remains appropriate.

An amount of £203,850 (2023: £181,832) was transferred from unrestricted general funds to the Jubilee Pension Fund representing contributions made in the year by parishes to the retirement fund for priests.

Group restricted funds. The funds above incorporate all funds under the control of the Diocese and these include 4 trusts registered as separate charities: -

Northampton Diocesan Education Fund	Charity Number 267132
Lord Braye's Foundation	Charity Number 242281
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	Charity Number 252034
Northampton Slough Diocese Educational Trust	Charity Number 1165631

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Total £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Total £
Support of parish life						
Liturgical and pastoral	98,241	592,486	690,727	90,884	519,013	609,897
Domestic	-	304,027	304,027	-	264,197	264,197
Establishment	-	1,475,844	1,475,844	-	1,413,822	1,413,822
Office	-	468,094	468,094	-	432,142	432,142
Travel	-	98,425	98,425	-	85,832	85,832
Personnel	41,929	1,057,622	1,099,551	69,971	907,519	977,490
Parish workers	-	709,010	709,010	-	634,174	634,174
Repository	-	113,393	113,393	-	86,591	86,591
Parish church and presbytery repairs	23,834	794,764	818,598	11,685	276,257	287,942
Church and presbytery repairs	-	(58,828)	(58,828)	-	374,032	374,032
Depreciation	3,162	457,648	460,810	3,162	432,383	435,545
Subtotal	167,166	6,012,485	6,179,651	175,702	5,425,962	5,601,664
Activities carried out centrally						
Religious advisers expenses	-	239,966	239,966	-	314,258	314,258
Expenses of diocesan commission	-	418,263	418,263	-	320,827	320,827
Mass funds	-	(3,842)	(3,842)	-	-	-
Marriage tribunal	-	35,301	35,301	-	27,899	27,899
Youth service	-	140,870	140,870	-	126,439	126,439
Diocesan maintenance	-	297,883	297,883	-	202,283	202,283
Ecclesiastical education	100,061	4,870	104,931	72,792	8,451	81,243
Personnel	45,336	302,347	347,683	347,628	20,912	368,540
Diocesan communications	-	116,331	116,331	-	74,548	74,548
Vocations	-	803	803	-	5,358	5,358
Subtotal	145,397	1,552,792	1,698,189	420,420	1,100,975	1,521,395
SFCS Pension Expense	-	-	-	-	513,000	513,000
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	513,000	513,000

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS (Continued)

Provision of Catholic school building and Maintenance

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Total £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Total £
School repairs	-	239,827	239,827	-	169,551	169,551
Subtotal	-	239,827	239,827	-	169,551	169,551
Totals	312,563	7,805,104	8,117,667	596,122	7,209,488	7,805,610

Included within expenditure is an amount of £72,125 (2023: £116,385) of interest payable (£18,031 allocated to curial unrestricted and £54,094 allocated to parochial unrestricted) in relation to interest on bank loans.

Included within unrestricted curial income is an amount of £887,561 in relation to the proceeds received on the disposal of Aylesbury Guardian Angels Church and Great Billing Village Hall which were sold on 24 July 2023 and 26 March 2024 respectively.

8. SUPPORT COSTS

Finance office costs including salaries, bank charges, bank interest and office running costs.

	2024 £	2023 £
Schools	188,820	125,443
Parish	475,909	449,415
Curial	124,881	121,580
	789,611	660,775

These costs are apportioned to activities either on a direct cost basis, on a staff time basis or on an estimated usage basis of 75% parish life, 20% curia activities, 5% provision of school buildings.

9. RAISING FUNDS

	2024 £	2023 £
Fundraising	130,752	133,915
Planned giving expenses	(480)	(1,874)
Investment management costs	43,845	56,485
	£174,117	£188,526

10. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2024 £	2023 £
External auditors' fees gross of VAT	84,000	39,600
Internal auditors' fees	2,638	5,431
	£86,638	£45,031

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

11. SECOND COLLECTIONS PAYABLE IN FURTHERANCE OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS

These are special collections held at each parish in support of certain organisations related to the church or supported by individual parishes and the work that they carry out. These incoming donations are held as restricted funds and are then paid out to the relevant organisation.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Incoming second collections	488,676	355,255
Amounts paid out	500,973	434,908

Not included in these figures are second collections taken and paid out in full in relation to a number of organisations where it is either mandatory or customary to support those charities. The monies raised and paid out are treated as conduit funding and so are excluded from the Diocesan accounts. The total of such monies received and paid out in full was £321,690 (2023: £348,170). The organisations supported include Holy Shrines, Mass Media, Peter's Pence, Stella Maris (formerly Apostleship of the Sea), Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, Third World Aid, Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD), St Vincent de Paul Society, Survive-MIVA (Missionary Vehicle Association).

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Group	Tangible		Net	Total
	fixed assets	Investments	assets	
	£	£	£	£
2024				
Restricted funds	129,645	873,875	3,912,838	4,916,358
General	14,964,579	11,081,599	(1,588,903)	24,457,275
Designated	157,549	2,584,223	2,157,548	4,899,320
Total funds	15,251,773	14,539,697	4,481,484	34,272,954
2023				
Restricted funds	132,807	873,876	2,137,820	3,144,503
General	15,004,877	11,351,575	(3,920,303)	22,436,149
Designated	161,392	2,584,222	3,012,298	5,757,912
Total funds	15,299,076	14,809,673	1,229,815	31,338,564
Charity				
2024				
Restricted funds	129,645	3,670	3,318,664	3,451,979
General	14,964,579	11,081,599	(1,492,434)	24,553,744
Designated	157,549	2,422,814	2,309,251	4,889,614
Total funds	15,251,773	13,508,083	4,135,482	32,895,337
2023				
Restricted funds	132,807	39,550	1,817,085	1,989,442
General	15,004,877	11,351,575	(3,920,303)	22,436,149
Designated	161,392	2,584,222	3,012,298	5,757,912
Total funds	15,299,076	13,975,347	909,080	30,183,503

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

13. STAFF COSTS	2024 £	2023 £
Gross salaries	1,958,696	1,741,467
Employer's national insurance	143,976	136,242
Employer's pension contributions	61,149	56,290
	<u>£2,163,821</u>	<u>£1,933,999</u>

The average number of employees analysed, by function, was:

	Number	Number
Fundraising and publicity	1	1
Direct charitable	112	105
Management and administration of the charity	4	4
	<u>117</u>	<u>110</u>
	2024	2023
	Number	Number
£60,001 to £70,000	1	-
£70,001 to £80,000	-	1
£80,001 to £90,000	-	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

Employer contributions of £2,513 (2023: £6,513) were made to personal pension schemes on behalf of these employees.

Key management personnel received salary, employer's national insurance and pension contributions of £283,097 (2023: £303,267).

Redundancy and termination payments of £9,839 were paid during the year (2023: £21,045).

14. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

No trustee received remuneration (2023: None) and one trustee was reimbursed £140 (2023: no trustee expenses) for expenses in their role as trustee during the year. Insurance premiums paid include trustees' indemnity insurance. A total of £11,756 (2023: £18,611) donations were received from trustees during the year.

15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year (2023: £nil).

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

16. SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

These accounts consolidate the results of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton, and the 4 trusts registered as separate charities referred to in note 6. A summary of the financial statements of all 4 trusts is provided below: -

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income	171,856	25,660
Gains/(losses) on investments	50,699	(79,587)
Surplus/(deficit)	<u>222,555</u>	<u>(53,927)</u>
Reserves	<u>1,377,616</u>	<u>1,155,061</u>
Investments	1,031,614	834,326
Current assets	<u>346,002</u>	<u>320,735</u>
Net assets	<u>1,377,616</u>	<u>1,155,061</u>

The charity has two wholly owned subsidiary companies which are considered immaterial to the group as a whole and therefore these companies have not been consolidated into these financial statements. RCDN Property Services Ltd provides property project management services to schools within the Diocese. St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd runs a restaurant provided to parishioners and the wider community. The charity owns 100% of the issued share capital of £100 in both companies. A summary of the financial statements for both companies for the year ending 31st March 2024 is provided below: -

	2024	2023
	£	£
Turnover and other income	191,205	168,527
Expenses	(70,805)	(62,011)
Operating profit	<u>120,400</u>	<u>106,516</u>
Gift aid paid to parent charity	(87,929)	(136,779)
Operating profit/(loss)	<u>32,471</u>	<u>(30,263)</u>
Reserves	<u>119,126</u>	<u>86,655</u>
Tangible Fixed Assets	15,943	18,093
Current assets	159,778	159,592
Creditors: - amounts falling due within one year	<u>(56,595)</u>	<u>(91,030)</u>
Net assets	<u>119,126</u>	<u>86,655</u>

Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

17. SOFA Comparative 2023

	Parochial		Curial		Diocesan	
	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Income from:						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
Collections & donations	206,177	4,839,666	21,121	472,816	5,539,780	4,975,456
Second collections	355,255	-	-	-	355,255	270,861
Legacies	7,165	38,333	-	141,165	186,663	378,783
Grants received	-	28,383	190,610	72,834	291,827	519,787
Fundraising	111,089	311,219	(16,933)	39,641	445,016	375,746
<i>Investments</i>						
Dividend income	-	62,240	44,755	139,192	246,187	184,505
Bank interest	-	-	-	44	44	1
Rental income	-	687,797	-	10,801	698,598	550,952
<i>Other</i>						
Sales of assets	-	-	-	-	-	481,419
Total income	679,686	5,967,638	239,553	876,493	7,763,370	7,737,510
Expenditure on:						
<i>Raising funds:</i>						
Costs of generating voluntary income	19,966	77,301	-	34,774	132,041	93,879
Investment & property management costs	-	-	2,411	54,074	56,485	51,420
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
2 nd collections & grants	419,874	14,408	-	626	434,908	327,574
Support of parish life	102,570	4,806,491	73,133	619,470	5,601,664	4,681,142
Curial activities	-	-	420,419	1,100,976	1,521,395	1,501,134
SFCS Pension	-	-	-	513,000	513,000	-
Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sch buildings provision	-	-	-	169,551	169,551	(443,429)
Total expenditure	542,410	4,898,200	495,963	2,492,471	8,429,044	6,211,720
	137,276	1,069,438	(256,410)	(1,615,978)	(665,674)	1,525,790
Other recognised gains/ (losses) on investment assets:						
Realised on disposal properties	2	57,668	-	26,106	83,774	-
Realised on disposal share	2	-	(3,183)	(101,323)	(104,506)	(227,123)
Unrealised- Investments	2	-	(113,613)	(650,076)	(763,689)	677,179
Unrealised- Investment Properties	2	-	-	1,045,000	1,045,000	-
Net (expenditure)/income	137,276	1,127,106	(373,206)	(1,296,271)	(405,095)	1,975,846
Transfers between funds	6	(1,549,540)	(13,911)	1,563,451	-	-
Net movement in funds	137,276	(422,434)	(387,117)	267,180	(405,095)	1,975,846
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	1,030,189	14,763,895	3,519,216	12,430,359	31,743,659	29,767,813
Total funds carried forward at 31 Mar 2023	1,167,465	14,341,461	3,132,099	12,697,539	31,338,564	£31,743,659

NORTHAMPTON ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 234091

Accounts

financial statements

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Registered charity number: 234091

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

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The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Trust information

Registered charity number	234091
Governing instrument	Trust Deed 11 July 1949 as amended 11 October 2006
The board of trustees	<p>The trustees who served during the period and since the year end were as follows:</p> <p>Rt Rev Bishop David J Oakley (President) Mr T F O Larkin (resigned 2nd August 2023) Mrs K Goodwin (resigned 11th May 2023) Mrs M M Cripps (resigned 17th May 2024) Mr C J C Peachey (resigned 4th April 2022) Rev A W Brennan (resigned 23rd January 2024) Rev C Walking-Lea (resigned 23rd January 2024) Rev Dr B Killeen Rev Christopher Perry Mr A Clutterbuck Mr P E Commons (resigned 15th November 2024) Rev Canon Michael Harrison Mrs S H Campbell (appointed 19th May 2022) Mrs D V Purfield (appointed 31st May 2023) Mr C E J Gallagher (appointed 2nd August 2023) Mrs K A Brooks (appointed 19th June 2023)</p>
Secretary	<p>Mr AJ McNiff (resigned 2nd August 2023) Mr T F O Larkin (appointed 2nd August 2023)</p>
Registered Office	<p>Bishop's House Marriott Street Northampton NN2 6AW</p>
Auditors	<p>Haysmac LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG</p>
Bankers	<p>National Westminster Bank plc 25 Corporation Street Corby Northants NN17 1NR</p>
Investment advisers	<p>Rathbones 8 Finsbury Circus London EC2M 7AZ</p> <p>CCLA Investment Management Limited One Angel Lane London EC4R 3AB</p>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2023

Report of the trustees

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the financial statements, for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is governed by a trust deed, dated 30 April 1949 as amended on 11 October 2006, registered charity number 234091. It specifically covers the Counties of Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and that part of Berkshire north of the River Thames.

Trustees

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet as the Finance Board on a regular basis to review developments and activities and to make decisions on key issues. In setting objectives and planning activities, the trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 section 17 to have due regard to the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee is a registered company number 442173 incorporated under the Companies Act 1929 on 13 September 1947. The members of the company who served on the Main Finance Board during the year to 31st March 2023 are set out in the Trust Information on page 1.

Members of the Finance Board are appointed and can be removed by the Bishop who is ex officio President of the Corporation and ex officio a member of the Main Finance Board. The Corporation has an Honorary Secretary appointed in writing by the President. The Honorary Secretary can be removed from office by the Bishop in writing. New members of the Finance Board are provided with copies of the Trust document, the most recent published accounts and a process of induction. Recent minutes of the Finance Board are also made available to them. Appropriate training is made available to new members, dependant on their experience of charitable, legal and financial matters. In addition, all members of the Finance Board are kept up to date on new legislation and recommended practices.

Membership of the Main Finance Board is reviewed on a regular basis.

All trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration was paid to them in the year in relation to their role as trustee. No trustee was in receipt of expenses in the year (2022: None).

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the report of the trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 2011 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2023

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 charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information

Organisational structure and decision-making process

The day-to-day management of the charity's activities and implementation of its policies are delegated to a number of subcommittees and consultative bodies and to appropriate staff. There are a number of curial departments such as Finance, Property, Safeguarding, Education and Youth Ministry, each of which employ appropriately trained and qualified staff to manage and carry out those activities. Similarly, parishes have a number of paid employees and volunteers to assist in the running of activities at local level.

A major focus of the trustees is the care and maintenance of Diocesan property and decisions on projects proposed in the Diocese, dependant on type and size, are made at the appropriate level, with advice being obtained as necessary from professional advisers appointed by the Diocese. A Property and Health and Safety Subcommittee of the Finance Board has been formed and this considers project proposals and recommends appropriate action to the trustees. This subcommittee is made up of trustees, a professional lay advisor and Diocesan officials.

The Art and Architecture section of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission considers applications for church improvements and reports regularly to the Bishop and to the Finance Board. The Diocesan Historic Churches Committee, a statutory body, has remit over the listed places of worship of the Diocese, processing applications for works to those buildings and monitoring progress.

Day to day management of the Finance and Property functions is the responsibility of the Diocesan Chief Operating Officer together with three property professionals.

Key management personnel

The Board considers that the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team whose total remuneration is set out in note 13 of the accounts comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis. In the year to March 2023 these included the Chief Operating Officer and the senior lay personnel in the major curial departments. The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually. All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses are disclosed in note 14 of the accounts. When new roles are created, or significant roles change hands, benchmarking against market rates for similar positions is employed to attract the best candidates for those roles.

Risk management

A review of the major financial and reputational risks to which the charity is exposed has been carried out and systems put in place to mitigate those risks. Any risks identified and their resultant impact on reserves and/or reputation of the Diocese are considered by the Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee and the Finance Board of trustees. Risks are monitored and any new risks identified and recorded.

In particular, the Diocese has procedures, and a subcommittee focussed on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The health and safety of those using our churches and other facilities is also a high priority and the Diocese has policies in place to assess and manage the associated risks, overseen by a Property, Health & Safety Subcommittee. The Diocese receives professional Health and Safety advice from RBS & NatWest Mentor.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2023

The increasing age and declining number of diocesan priests is considered by the trustees to be a significant risk for the Diocese. To plan for and mitigate the consequences of this risk factor, parishes have been asked to consider how pastoral areas and individual parishes will provide facilities for the practicing of the Faith with significantly fewer priests.

Total income during 2022/23 improved slightly versus the previous year (plus 0.03%). Total expenditure was however £8.4m - 36% higher than the prior year. 66% of the expenditure came from expenditures in support of Parish life.

Related parties

The attached accounts include the assets and activities of four trusts which are incorporated as separate charities: -

Northampton Diocese Education Fund	Charity Number 267132
Lord Braye's Foundation	Charity Number 242281
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	Charity Number 252034
Northampton Slough Diocese Educational Trust	Charity Number 1165631

The objects of these charities are consistent with the objects of the Diocese. The trustees of the Diocese are also the trustees of these charities and as such they are consolidated into these financial statements.

The Diocese also encompasses several Catholic schools. Those schools which are voluntary aided are exempt Charities under the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1988 and their activities are not reflected in the financial statements attached to this report. The Bishop of Northampton appoints Foundation Governors to the Governing Bodies of these schools, and they form most of those Governing Bodies. Several schools have converted to academy status and are formed within multi-academy trusts. The Bishop has similar powers of appointment of the trustees of those Trusts and again their activities are not reflected in the financial statements attached to this report. At the date of this report there are 42 schools of which 28 are academies, 14 Voluntary aided schools and 2 independent college. The addresses of all our schools can be found in the Diocesan Directory.

Investment policy

There are no specific investment powers, other than those provided under the Trustees Act 2000. Investments are made at the absolute discretion of the trustees acting on advice of its professional advisers and an Investment Committee which reports to the Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee. Meetings of the Investment Committee take place every 6 months and are attended by our investment advisers and senior personnel. An ethical investment policy has been agreed by trustees to help avoid investing in securities which might conflict with Catholic Social Teaching, or which are environmentally unsound.

At 31 March 2023, the portfolio of investments had a market value of £9,594,673. There were realised losses of £20,732 and unrealised losses of £763,689. Total investment income in the year was £246,187.

The investment policy is to maximise total return through a diversified portfolio. The trustees are aware of the effect of movements in the value of this investment portfolio on reserve levels. This is particularly relevant given the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic and geopolitical events such as the war in Ukraine, on the stock market. Over the last three years there has been significant volatility in our investments as they have dipped and then subsequently recovered. However, the Diocese considers itself a long-term investor and together with its advisers takes steps to mitigate the risk of significant volatility.

Public benefit

The Charities Act 2006 requires charities to describe the benefit that is provided to the public. The Charity Commission has commented that "religion helps to provide a moral and ethical framework for people to live by and can play an important part in building social capital and community cohesion". The adherence to, and advancing of, the Catholic faith to the public within the Northampton Diocese has many public benefits. It provides an ethical and moral code for society; it provides sacred places, churches, services of worship, public ritual and ceremonies, including baptisms, weddings and funerals;

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2023

it contributes to the spiritual well-being of the public; it contributes to the spiritual and moral education of children; it promotes social understanding and cohesion, and contributes to practical ways of addressing social needs such as visiting the sick and housebound, and furthering other charitable purposes.

The above is demonstrated by 20,025 people attending mass each Sunday together with masses also being said each day in our parishes. 20,000 children, both Catholic and non-Catholic, attended our schools. Donations of £703,425 (2022: £484,009) were made by our parishioners to causes both internal and external to our Diocese. Many programs were made available in our parishes in areas such as spiritual development, Marriage and Family Life and Justice and Peace.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the charity include not only parishioners and those young people attending our schools but also the recipients of aid from the many causes supported by the Diocese through contributions to among others CAFOD, Apostleship of the Sea, The Association for the Propagation of the Faith as well as a number of projects supported by individual parishes. Churches and schools around the Diocese are welcoming and helping to integrate into the community large numbers of new parishioners and students both from the UK and overseas.

Objectives, activities and achievements

Principal objects

The principal objects of the Charity are as declared in the Trust Deed dated 11 July 1949 "in or towards advancing the Roman Catholic religion in the Diocese by such means as the Bishop may think fit and proper and for the service and support whether in the Diocese or outside the Diocese by such means as aforesaid of charitable works and objects promoted by the Church" (**Clause 2 of the Trust Deed**).

The long-term strategies set to achieve these objects are to ensure that the life of the Catholic Community is well supported and responsive to changing requirements and to generate and maintain sufficient reserves to ensure the long-term future of the charity. It carries out these strategies through a number of key activities as set out below: -

Significant activities

The objects of the charity are fulfilled by the many activities carried out in its parishes, its schools and through a number of organisations run by the Diocesan Curia.

Parish life

Parish life is supported through the provision of clergy and buildings as a result of which many parishioners provide support to the local and national community in improving social cohesion and in many other ways. While the celebration of Mass is mainly in churches owned and maintained by the Diocese through its parishes and supported by the curial departments, parishes also reach out to the local community through their activities and support their parishioners through home visits, hospital chaplaincy and a range of courses and other programs.

For over two years, parish life was disrupted due to COVID 19 implications, particularly the fear of infection and new variants as the vaccine rollout gathered pace. These understandable concerns were addressed by maintaining appropriate mitigations (face masks, social distancing, and sanitising) and for many parishes life carried on as usual with churches being places of worship, sources of nourishment for the faith of the people and outreach to the community. Those who did not feel comfortable returning to church in person, kept in touch with parishes through the live streaming of services. The Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation were celebrated all around the Diocese and many groups met in prayer and reflection on the word of God in scripture. At the last census up to Dec 2023, 22,025 people attended mass on a weekly basis and there were 1,548 baptisms, 1,129 people confirmed and 208 marriages during the year.

The facilitation and nourishment of spiritual life and the concern for neighbours in the Diocese are the principal aims of the charity and while weekly attendance figures and the number of baptisms,

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2023

confirmations, marriages, etc are indications of the success of the work, performance can also be measured by the continuing strength of our parish and school communities and the individual journeys of faith of our parishioners. Sick and elderly parishioners received the Eucharist and Sacrament of the Sick, the dying and their relatives received comfort and support, and the deceased received dignified burial and cremation services, which aided the grieving process for their relatives. As stated earlier, two parishes have joined together to welcome and support a Syrian refugee family, in partnership with the Local Authority.

The trustees recognise the effect of types of one-off income including the inherent uncertainty of legacy income. An anticipated increase in capital works on Church property, the general inflationary increase of many costs, the financial impact of COVID 19 and the cost-of-living crisis in the UK have led to a reflection across the pastoral areas of the Diocese on how to find ways of raising income whilst managing costs.

Parishes carry out their own fundraising activities in support of parish projects both internal to the parish and external. The total income raised was £445,016 compared with £319,334 in 2022.

Churches, presbyteries and halls

Repairs and maintenance requirements resulting from the quinquennial reports on buildings owned by the trust and the system of close contact between parishes, the trust and the professionals appointed by the Diocese, resulted in £661,974 (2022: £479,398) being spent during the year at parish and Diocesan level.

The work was supervised by the Diocesan Property Department, reporting to the Trustees who together with professional advisers appointed by the Diocese, ensure that the work is carried out to the highest possible standard.

Parish clubs

There are now four parish member social clubs, all but one of which occupy under license buildings owned by the Diocese Trustee. The Diocesan Finance and Property departments have continued to monitor their management and viability, along with professionals appointed by the clubs. These social clubs are in the process of converting to community interest companies where the relationship with the Diocese as landlord will be better clarified.

Volunteers

The charity is heavily reliant on the work of many volunteers, especially in its parishes but also on a number of committees and subcommittees. These volunteers include Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Readers, Catechists, altar servers, parish workers, choirs and musicians, health and safety representatives, child and vulnerable adult safeguarding representatives, members of the St Vincent de Paul Society who help the poor and needy, and many other roles. The trustees are very grateful to all of these people for their contribution to the work of the Diocese.

Schools

As has been the case for many years the Diocese has looked to fulfil its objects partly by the facilitation of education within a Catholic environment. Most of these schools are voluntary aided state schools or academies at both primary and secondary level and are supported by the Diocesan Schools Commission. Together with our one independent school they operate with a Catholic ethos and while following legislation and curriculum set by the State, also have specific policies and procedures set by or in consultation with the Catholic Education Service.

During the year, a sum of £1.51m (2022: £1.84m) gross of Government grant was spent on voluntary aided school buildings owned by the trustee. For a significant proportion of this expenditure, 10% of the cost had to be found by the schools from the parental voluntary contribution scheme, the schools reserves or other sources. The Diocesan Schools Commission supports our schools and their Governors in the work that they do.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2023

Many different projects were carried out around the Diocese as part of the ongoing maintenance and development of our school buildings.

Curial activities

Curial activities include the training of new priests, permanent deacons, catechists, and lay ministers, the support of existing and retired priests, youth ministry, adult education, ecumenism and multi-faith dialogue, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, justice and peace commission, and a number of commissions covering liturgy, historic churches, pastoral strategy, marriage and family life and the Diocesan Tribunal, amongst others.

In common with many other Dioceses there is a declining number of priests available to serve parishes which, together with the advancing age of those still in service provides an ongoing challenge to the Charity. We currently have three men in seminary training for the priesthood and four for the permanent diaconate. Vocations to the diaconate and new forms of lay ministry are also developing and being supported by the Diocese.

This Diocese looks forward positively to the creation of new housing developments in its larger towns and discussions are in progress as to the measures required to welcome and provide for the spiritual life of both current and new residents. Each pastoral area is being challenged to develop plans to shape the Church in their area.

Fundraising approach and performance

The charity undertakes fundraising activity via appeals, events, emails and correspondence in line with the Fundraising Code of Practice set by the Fundraising Regulator. Our fundraising promise is

'When you support you can be sure of the following:

- *We will never sell your contact details to anyone*
- *We will only contact you if you have expressed an interest in our work*
- *If we phone you, we will always check you are happy to take the call*
- *If you ask us to change how we communicate with you, or stop, we will respect that*
- *We do not engage in cold-calling, door to door or street fundraising*
- *We try hard to ensure no one ever feels pressurised to support our work*
- *We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adhere to the Fundraising Code of Practice.*
- *All our activities are open, fair, honest and legal.*

No professional fundraisers were used during the year under review.

The Diocese has robust procedures in place regarding vulnerable people and treating donors in a fair manner.

The charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the standards of the Fundraising Code of Practice. Trustees are not aware of any complaints made regarding fundraising activities carried out during the year.

Details of fundraising performance is detailed elsewhere in this report.

Designated funds

Designated funds are held for a number of purposes including the education of priests, the maintenance of the Diocesan Curia, the advancement of education, mass stipends, the support of sick and needy priests and funds available for expenditure at the discretion of the Bishop in the course of his work, together with funds to support the retirement provision for priests. A fund has also been created from a share of disposal proceeds where Diocesan and Parish property has been sold. This will enable assistance to be given to parishes where funds are not immediately available for refurbishment works. Expenditure is made from these funds on a regular basis. The continued need for these funds will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Financial management

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2023

While each parish under Canon Law is a separate juridical person with the right to acquire, retain, administer and alienate temporal goods in their own right, they operate under financial guidelines issued by the Diocese. These give approval and cheque signing limits and require parishes to file returns with the Diocese on a quarterly basis. There are also approval and cheque signatory policies operating centrally, and a cycle of internal checks on the operation of financial procedures at parish level, in addition to those carried out by the external auditor.

Funding sources

The principal funding source of the Diocese is the parish offertory collection. Significant levels of income are also received from investments, fundraising activities and rents received from investment properties. Legacies also form a material portion of Diocesan income. The trustees recognise the uncertain nature of legacies and the material effect that the receipt or otherwise of major gifts can have on the results for any year. The anticipation of significant legacies is therefore discounted from the budgetary process unless the quantum of the receipt can be ascertained with reasonable certainty.

Expenditure

A major part of expenditure in the year is on the support of parish life and in particular, the establishment costs (Gas, Electricity, water, Insurance, council tax and other miscellaneous expenditures) went up by 58% from £867k in 2022 to £1,368k in 2023. This was as a result of the Government's budget and the impact of the war in Ukraine. The funding and support of building works in schools also resulted in a cost to the Diocese of £169,551 in the year (2022: £257,219). Following liquidation of the St Francis Children's Society, the guarantee granted from the Diocese to the Bedfordshire Pension Fund has been valued at £513,000. This has been accrued within the accounts. The potential to recover part or the full amount from the sale of the lease of the society's building continues to be pursued by the Diocese.

Results for the year

A summary of the results for the year is shown on page 14 of these financial statements. The trustees report an overall deficit for the year of (£405,095) (2022: surplus £1,975,846). The deficit for the year is categorised as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
General income and expenditure account	(140,813)	1,975,095
Restricted funds	(235,930)	(128,981)
Designated funds	(28,352)	129,732
	(405,095)	1,975,846

There was net loss of (£665,674) (2022: surplus £1,525,790) before revaluations and investment asset disposals. The net surplus on investment assets, including investment properties, was £260,579 (2022: £450,056) of which £281,311 was unrealised surplus (2022: £677,179). The effect of the net surplus on investment assets is to reduce a deficit of (£665,674) (2022: £1,525,790) to an overall deficit for the year of (£405,095) (2022: £1,975,846).

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2023

Financial position

At 31 March 2023, the reserves were: -

	2023 £	2022 £
Restricted	4,166,757	4,413,436
Restricted – fixed assets	132,807	135,969
Designated	4,441,459	4,465,968
Designated – fixed assets	161,392	165,235
General – fixed assets	15,004,877	15,135,229
General – unrestricted	7,431,272	7,427,822
	<u>£31,338,564</u>	<u>£31,743,659</u>

Restricted funds represent special collections and Easter and Christmas offerings to priests, not yet paid out by the year end. They also include legacies and other funds received for specific purposes.

Designated funds represent funds set aside for specific purposes, as listed in note 6 to these financial statements.

The general fund for fixed assets represents the value invested in fixed assets, principally churches and presbyteries.

Funds available to support the work of the Diocese in the future are those shown above as general unrestricted funds of £7,431,272 (2022: £7,427,822).

Following the COVID 19 pandemic and the associated restrictions, Churches across England and Wales gradually began to move towards an expectation of physical mass attendance around Easter 2022. As a result, total income remained weak during 2022/23 but with a slight improvement (1% higher than the previous year). Our traded investment portfolio continued to experience turbulent conditions from the effects of the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Hence overall unrealised loss on traded investments were £763,689 (2022: £677,179 unrealised profit). During the year, revaluation was carried out on the Investment properties. This resulted to an unrealised gain of £1,045,000 (2022: Nil)

Reserves policy

The Main Finance Board meets regularly to plan, monitor and review levels of expenditure on key or significant projects, and hence the impact on reserve levels. General income levels are also monitored regularly. The trustees consider that a prudent level of free reserves (those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or designated for specific purposes) is the equivalent of a maximum of 12 months' expenditure. This will allow the Diocese to deal effectively with a significant drop in income and also react to requests for funding arising from unexpected events. At 31 March 2023, the free reserves of £7,431,272 represented approximately 12.07 months (2022: 17.2) of unrestricted expenditure. Trustees aim to maintain the level of free reserves held at greater than 12 months on a consistent basis.

Plans for the future

The Diocese will continue to monitor reserve levels to ensure that its long-term aims can be met. The continued support of parish life and the Catholic community remains a priority and how this is to be achieved is a major focus for the Charity.

The principal focus will be on a number of main issues: -

- Exploring new ways of evangelisation so as to increase the numbers attending Sunday Mass.
- Using, in a more efficient way, the abilities and skills of the clergy, and being sensitive to the increasing demands made upon them.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2023

- Mobilising the skills and abilities of lay professionals within our congregations to help address the financial and other challenges the Diocese will face over the coming years
- Ensuring that the Churches and ancillary buildings required are appropriately maintained to support the mission of the Diocese.
- Making available Diocesan Funds in the event of national or international crises, subject to meeting the objects of the Charity.
- Enabling the resources of the Diocese to fund the core activities at the centre of the Charity's objectives.

Offertory appeals will be held around the Diocese to provide additional resources for parishes, and through the levy/second collections, the Curia. While specific increases have not been set, uplifts significantly in excess of inflation will be necessary to offset rising costs.

Funds held on behalf of others

Assets held as custodian trustees

Included within the Diocesan Investment Trust portfolio of shares are units held on behalf of a separately registered charity: The Northampton Diocesan Priests' Fund, whose objects are to aid the secular priests of the Diocese who are permanently or temporarily incapacitated by old age, infirmity, illness or accident. The assets within the overall portfolio are disclosed in note 2 and are separately distinguishable from assets of the Diocese. Quarterly reports are sent to the charity on the investment performance.

Signed by order of the trustees on 26th November 2024

Signed Copy Retained in Bishop's House

Rt Rev Bishop D J Oakley

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report To The Trustees' Year ended 31 March 2023

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Group Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and Parent Charity Balance Sheet, the Group Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of the group's and of the parent charity's net movement in funds for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, 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 group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from 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 Report of the Trustees. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report To The Trustees' Year ended 31 March 2023

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the group and parent charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the group and parent charity financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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 group's and the parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charity or to cease operations, or have 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 (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the group and of the parent charity and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to Canon Law, employment law, safeguarding regulations and Charity Law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as Charities Act 2011 and Charities SORP.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Review of minutes of trustees' meetings;
- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals; and

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report To The Trustees' Year ended 31 March 2023

- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates. These related to depreciation, investment property valuations and accrued legacies.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 responsibility to anyone other than the charity's trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

HaysMac LLP

Haysmac LLP
Statutory Auditors

10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

Date: **28 November 2024**
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Haysmac LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet Year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		Group £	Charity £	Group £	Charity restated £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	1	15,299,076	15,299,076	15,436,433	15,436,433
Investments	2	9,594,673	8,760,347	10,519,750	9,605,837
Investment properties	2	5,215,000	5,215,000	4,695,000	4,695,000
		<u>30,108,749</u>	<u>29,274,423</u>	<u>30,651,183</u>	<u>29,737,270</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	3	975,363	975,363	1,847,432	1,847,432
Cash at bank and in hand		7,242,000	6,921,265	5,767,101	5,472,026
		<u>8,217,363</u>	<u>7,896,628</u>	<u>7,614,533</u>	<u>7,319,458</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	3,747,340	3,747,340	3,681,609	3,681,609
Net current assets		<u>4,470,023</u>	<u>4,149,288</u>	<u>3,932,924</u>	<u>3,637,849</u>
Total assets plus current assets		<u>34,578,772</u>	<u>33,423,711</u>	<u>34,584,107</u>	<u>33,375,119</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	5	<u>(3,240,208)</u>	<u>(3,240,208)</u>	<u>(2,840,448)</u>	<u>(2,840,448)</u>
Net assets		<u>£31,338,564</u>	<u>£30,183,503</u>	<u>£31,743,659</u>	<u>£30,534,671</u>
Funds					
General – unrestricted	6	7,431,272	7,431,272	7,427,822	7,427,822
General – fixed assets	6	15,004,877	15,004,877	15,135,229	15,135,229
		<u>22,436,149</u>	<u>22,436,149</u>	<u>22,563,051</u>	<u>22,563,051</u>
Designated	6	4,441,459	4,441,459	4,465,968	4,465,968
Designated – fixed assets	6	161,392	161,392	165,235	165,235
Restricted	6	4,166,757	3,011,696	4,413,436	3,204,448
Restricted – fixed assets	6	132,807	132,807	135,969	135,969
Net assets		<u>£31,338,564</u>	<u>£30,183,503</u>	<u>£31,743,659</u>	<u>£30,534,671</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 26th November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed copy retained in Bishop's House

Rt Rev Bishop D J Oakley
Trustee

Signed copy retained in Bishop's House

Rev Dr B Killeen
Trustee

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Parochial		Curial		Diocesan	
	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Income from:						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
Collections & donations	206,177	4,839,666	21,121	472,816	5,539,780	4,975,456
Second collections 11	355,255	-	-	-	355,255	270,861
Legacies	7,165	38,333	-	141,165	186,663	378,783
Grants received	-	28,383	190,610	72834	291,827	519,787
Fundraising	111,089	311,219	(16,933)	39,641	445,016	375,746
<i>Investment income</i>						
Dividend income	-	62,240	44,755	139,192	246,187	184,505
Bank interest	-	-	-	44	44	1
Rental income	-	687,797	-	10,801	698,598	550,952
<i>Other incoming resources</i>						
Sales of assets	-	-	-	-	-	481,419
Total income	679,686	5,967,638	239,553	876,493	7,763,370	7,737,510
Expenditure on:						
<i>Raising funds:</i>	9					
Costs of generating voluntary income	19,966	77,301	-	34,774	132,041	93,879
Investment & property management costs	-	-	2,411	54,074	56,485	51,420
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
2 nd collections & grants 11	419,874	14,408	-	626	434,908	327,574
Support of parish life 7	102,570	4,806,491	73,133	619,470	5,601,664	4,681,142
Curial activities 7	-	-	420,419	1,100,976	1,521,395	1,501,134
SFCS Pension 7	-	-	-	513,000	513,000	-
Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sch buildings provision	-	-	-	169,551	169,551	(443,429)
Total expenditure	542,410	4,898,200	495,963	2,492,471	8,429,044	6,211,720
	137,276	1,069,438	(256,410)	(1,615,976)	(665,674)	1,525,790
Other recognised gains/ (losses) on investment assets:						
Realised on disposal properties	-	57,668	-	26,106	83,774	-
Realised on disposal share	-	-	(3,183)	(101,323)	(104,506)	(227,123)
Unrealised- Investments	-	-	(113,613)	(650,076)	(763,689)	677,179
Unrealised- Investment Properties	-	-	-	1,045,000	1,045,000	-
Net income/(expenditure)	137,276	1,127,106	(373,206)	(1,296,269)	(405,095)	1,975,846
Transfers between funds		(1,549,540)	(13,911)	1,563,451	-	-
Net movement in funds	137,276	(422,434)	(387,117)	267,182	(405,095)	1,975,846
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	1,030,189	14,763,895	3,519,216	12,430,359	31,743,659	29,767,813
Total funds carried forward at 31 Mar 2023	1,167,465	14,341,461	3,132,099	12,697,541	31,338,564	£31,743,659

All the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

Detailed comparatives are shown in Note 18 to these financial statements.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities				
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities (see below)		553,705		1,151,661
Cash flows from investing activities				
Interest received	44		1	
Dividends received	246,187		184,505	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(298,188)		(218,234)	
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	-		489,531	
Purchase of investments	(5,088,752)		(3,177,889)	
Sale of investments	5,250,140		3,233,361	
Sale of investment properties	617,000			
Net provided by (used in) investing activities		726,431		511,275
Cash flows from financing activities				
Loans repaid/received	311,148		2,000,000	
Interest charged on loans	(116,385)		(44,489)	
Net provided by (used in) financing activities		194,763		1,955,511
Change in cash and cash equivalents		1,474,899		3,618,447
Cash and cash equivalents at start of reporting period		5,767,101		2,148,654
Cash and cash equivalents at end of reporting period		£7,242,000		£5,767,101

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2023

(i) Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net (outgoings)/income per SOFA	(405,095)	1,975,846
Returns on investment	763,689	(450,056)
Gain on revaluation of investment property	(1,045,000)	-
Investment income	(246,231)	(184,506)
Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(92,000)	(481,419)
Depreciation	435,545	426,622
Interest on loans	116,385	61,879
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	872,069	1,035,922
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	154,343	(1,232,627)
	<u>£553,705</u>	<u>£1,151,661</u>

(ii) Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

Net funds at 1 April 2022	5,767,101	2,148,654
Increase in cash in the period	1,474,899	3,618,447
Net funds at 31 March 2023	<u>£7,242,000</u>	<u>£5,767,101</u>

(iii) Analysis of changes in Net Funds/(Debt)

	1 April 2022 £	Cash Flow £	31 March 2023 £
Cash in hand and at bank	5,767,101	1,474,899	7,242,000
Debt due within 1 year	(311,148)	197,908	(113,240)
Debt due after 1 year	(2,833,490)	113,240	(2,720,250)
	<u>£2,622,463</u>	<u>1,786,047</u>	<u>£4,408,510</u>
	1 April 2021 £	Cash Flow £	31 March 2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	2,148,654	3,618,447	5,767,101
Debt due within 1 year	-	(311,148)	(311,148)
Debt due after 1 year	-	(2,833,490)	(2,833,490)
	<u>£2,148,654</u>	<u>£473,809</u>	<u>£2,622,463</u>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2023

The principal accounting policies which are adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of non-marketable assets held for charitable purposes, investment properties and listed investments at market value. The format of the financial statements has been presented to comply with the Charities Act 2011, FRS102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland* and the Statement of Recommended Practice *Accounting and Reporting by Charities* ("SORP 2019"). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102. Figures are presented in sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

Consolidation

The accounts consolidate the results of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton and the 4 trusts registered as separate charities referred to in note 6. This is the first year consolidated financial statements have been prepared and as a result the comparative amounts are also now prepared on a consolidated basis.

The charity has two subsidiary companies, RCDN Property Services Ltd and St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd. In the opinion of the Trustees, the activities of RCDN Property Services Ltd and St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd are immaterial to the group as a whole and therefore these companies have not been consolidated into these financial statements.

General information

The Charity is a charity registered in England and Wales (charity number: 234091). The Charity's registered office address is Bishop's House, Marriott Street, Northampton, NN2 6AW.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties which would cast doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Trust has significant Fixed Assets including financial investments valued at 30th September 2024 at £10.5m. It also has a cash balance as at 30th September 2024 (not including funds held on behalf of schools, priests fund or clubs) of £6m. This balance includes £2.6m of bank loan finance. Forecast projections for 12 months from the date these accounts are signed indicate that the charity continues to be going concern in the foreseeable future.

Income and expenditure

Income is recognised in the period in which its receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income from parochial activities and other voluntary donations is recognised on a receipt's basis. Income from investments, grant agencies, rental properties and other sources of a non-ex-gratia nature are recognised on an accrual's basis. Legacies are recognised once the charity is advised that payment is due, and the amount involved can be quantified.

Costs of raising funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the management of the Charity's investments.

Costs of charitable activities consist of all expenditure directly relating to the objects of the Charity. Support costs which cannot be directly allocated are apportioned between charitable activities and governance costs on the basis of the Trustee's estimate of the time spent on the relevant functions.

Employment benefits, including holiday pay, are recognised in the period in which they are earned. Termination benefits are recognised in the period in which the decision is made and communicated to the relevant employee(s).

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2023

Governance costs include expenditure on management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements together with an allocation of support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is included with the category of expenses to which it relates.

Tangible assets

a. Freehold land and buildings

Functional land and buildings

1. Churches, Presbyteries, Halls and Offices etc.

Freehold land

Functional land (i.e. land used for the prime purpose of the Charity), is included in the financial statements at original cost or, where this is not available, at an estimate of its historic cost (or in the case of donated land, at its fair value at the date of receipt). Freehold land is not depreciated because it has an indefinitely long useful life.

Freehold buildings

Functional buildings (i.e. buildings used for the prime purpose of the Charity), which are still in use by the Charity are included in the financial statements at original cost, or where this is not available, at an estimate of their historic cost (or in the case of donated buildings, at an estimate of their fair value at the date of receipt). All new functional buildings, improvements and major renovations are capitalised at the cost of construction. Buildings which were in use at 31 March 1996 are depreciated at rates calculated to write off their estimated historic cost (less the estimated residual value) evenly over the remainder of their useful life.

The estimate of the useful life of a building varies depending on the condition and its future use, however, in general it is expected that a building in a reasonable state of repair will continue in use without major renovations or improvements for the following period:

Unlisted Churches	25 to 100 years
Cathedral and Listed Churches	100 to 200 years
Presbyteries	25 to 50 years
Other buildings	25 to 75 years

Depreciation rates are calculated using the age of the building and its expected useful life.

Addresses of Diocesan Churches and other buildings can be found in the Diocesan yearbook.

2. Voluntary Aided Schools

Land

The charity owns the land on which its Voluntary Aided Schools are built. The nature of the occupation of the land by these exempt and excepted charities means that the Diocesan Trustees do not have the power to dispose of the land, until the school ceases its occupation, which in turn would require the approval of the governors and the Secretary of State. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the land is treated as inalienable and is not capitalised. The cost of any land acquired for the purposes of a Voluntary Aided School is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of acquisition.

Buildings

The school buildings are occupied, improved, extended and repaired by the school governors. The nature of the occupation of these buildings by these exempt and excepted charities means that the Diocesan Trustees do not have control over the buildings, until the school ceases its occupation, which in turn would require the approval of the governors and the Secretary of State. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the buildings are treated as inalienable. The school

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2023

governors account for the building, improvement and repair costs of the schools and account for any grants received in respect of these costs. Grants made by the Diocese or parishes to the governors in order to assist them with their liability for school building costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of payment.

Details of the Diocesan Voluntary Aided Schools are given in the Diocesan Yearbook.

a. **Freehold land and buildings (continued)**

3. Academies

Land

The charity owns the land on which its Academies are built. The nature of the occupation of the land by these multi-academy trusts by long term lease or other agreement means that the Diocesan Trustees do not have the power to dispose of the land, until the school ceases its occupation, under the terms of occupancy. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the land is treated as inalienable and is not capitalised. The cost of any land acquired for the purposes of an Academy is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of acquisition.

Buildings

The school buildings are occupied, improved, extended and repaired by the Academy Trustees. The nature of the occupation of these buildings by these multi-academy trusts means that the Diocesan Trustees do not have control over the buildings, until the school ceases its occupation under the terms of the lease or occupation terms. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the buildings are treated as inalienable. The academy trustees account for the building, improvement and repair costs of the schools and account for any grants received in respect of these costs. Grants made by the Diocese or parishes to the academy trust in order to assist them with its liability for school building costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of payment.

Details of the Academies are given in the Diocesan Yearbook.

b. **Fixtures, fittings and equipment**

Fixtures, fittings and equipment which were in use at 31 March 1996 and which had a current replacement cost exceeding £2,000 have been capitalised and included in the financial statements at an estimate of their historical costs (or in the case of donated assets, at an estimate of value at the date of acquisition). Subsequent acquisitions with a cost, (or in the case of donated assets, estimated value) of over £2,000 are capitalised on the same basis. They are depreciated at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less the estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Church furniture/plate	Over 50 years
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	Over 10 years
Computers	Over 3 years

Financial Instruments

The charity only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable and investments in stocks and shares. The measurement basis used for these financial instruments is detailed below.

Investments

Investments are disclosed at market value at the balance sheet date. All changes in value in the year, whether or not realised, are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Details of the date and basis of valuation and valuer in respect of investment properties are given in note 2 to these financial statements. As these assets are recorded at current market value, no charge for depreciation is made in the financial statements.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2023

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivables are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Pension schemes

Contributions towards employees' personal pension schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they become payable. The Diocese is neither liable to finance any funding shortfall, nor entitled to benefit from any over-funding.

The Diocese makes contributions to the personal pension money purchase schemes of a number of its priests. Such contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they fall due. The Diocese also makes provision to pay an income in retirement to priests who do not participate in the money purchase scheme. This provision is held as a designated fund and is funded principally by an annual transfer from general unrestricted funds.

Funds

Restricted funds are funds where the income is restricted by the conditions imposed by the donors. They represent special collections and Easter and Christmas offerings to priests, not yet paid out by the year end. They also include legacies and other funds received for specific purposes.

Designated funds represent funds set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes, as listed in note 6 to these financial statements.

The general fund for fixed assets represents the value invested in fixed assets, principally churches and presbyteries. The balance of unrestricted funds represents funds available to support the work of the Diocese in the future.

Significant judgements

In preparing these financial statements the trustees have had to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in these financial statements. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Key areas subject to judgement and estimation relate to depreciation, investment property valuations and accrued legacies.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

1. FIXED ASSETS	Church Property £	Furniture and Fittings £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2022	25,599,514	2,645,039	28,244,553
Additions	244,410	53,778	298,188
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	25,843,924	2,698,817	28,542,741
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	10,679,796	2,128,324	12,808,120
Charge for year	376,952	58,593	435,545
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	11,056,748	2,186,917	13,243,665
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	£14,787,176	£511,900	£15,299,076
At 31 March 2022	£14,919,718	£516,715	£15,436,433

All assets are used for direct charitable purposes.

The properties, comprising churches, church halls and presbyteries, and contents are stated at actual or estimated historical cost. The market value of fixed assets has not been determined as the benefit to the readers of the financial statements does not, in the opinion of the trustees, justify the cost which would be incurred

Capital commitments

There are capital commitments of nil (2022 - nil) as at 31 March 2023

2. ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS	2023		2022	
	Market value £	Historical cost £	Market value £	Historical cost £
Hunting fund				
UK listed securities	465,432	394,410	712,190	541,460
Non-UK listed securities	658,663	560,282	533,640	378,628
Cash balance	40,778	40,778	31,556	31,556
	<u>1,164,873</u>	<u>995,470</u>	<u>1,277,386</u>	<u>951,644</u>
Lord Bray Trust				
UK listed securities	9,627	8,236	9,254	8,236
Cash balance	104	104	104	104
	<u>9,731</u>	<u>8,340</u>	<u>9,358</u>	<u>8,340</u>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

2. ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS (cont)	2023		2022	
	Market value £	Historical cost £	Market value £	Historical cost £
Special reserve fund				
UK listed securities	829,189	741,451	1,052,348	849,694
Non-UK listed securities	903,791	775,490	819,280	600,657
Cash balance	29,341	29,341	63,170	63,170
	<u>1,762,321</u>	<u>1,546,282</u>	<u>1,934,798</u>	<u>1,513,521</u>
Diocesan Investment Trust				
UK listed securities	2,033,939	1,757,905	2,609,598	1,969,360
Non-UK listed securities	1,981,097	1,732,450	1,791,521	1,222,766
Cash balance	96,298	96,298	101,371	101,371
	<u>4,111,334</u>	<u>3,586,653</u>	<u>4,502,490</u>	<u>3,293,497</u>
Together in Faith				
UK listed securities	283,880	261,132	310,200	261,132
Non-UK listed securities			-	-
Cash balance	1,258	1,258	1,258	1,258
	<u>285,138</u>	<u>262,390</u>	<u>311,458</u>	<u>262,390</u>
Legacy				
UK listed securities	478,446	479,374	746,768	755,516
Non-UK listed securities	362,793	374,110	144,513	142,279
Cash balance	51,404	51,405	72,752	72,752
	<u>892,643</u>	<u>904,889</u>	<u>964,033</u>	<u>970,547</u>
Parish Legacy				
UK listed securities	724,002	726,670	973,677	891,175
Non-UK listed securities	629,134	587,940	542,217	442,990
Cash balance	62,872	62,872	55,952	55,952
	<u>1,416,008</u>	<u>1,377,482</u>	<u>1,571,846</u>	<u>1,390,117</u>
Catholic Investment Fund				
UK listed securities	1,012	1,000	1,063	1,000
Wholly Owned Trading Subsidiary				
RCDN Property Services Ltd	-	-	100	100
St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd	-	-	100	100
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Market Value	
	2023 £	2022 £
Total investments controlled by the Diocese	9,643,060	10,572,632
Diocesan Investment Trust units held by The Northampton Diocesan Priests Fund	(48,387)	(52,882)
Total investments held by the Group	£9,594,673	£10,519,750
Investments held by separate charitable trusts:		
Northampton Diocesan Education Fund	(447,452)	(490,135)
Northampton Slough Diocese Educational Trust	(386,874)	(423,778)
Total investments held by the Charity	£8,760,347	£9,605,837

The investments are held for both maximising total investment return and to provide income for charitable activities.

The value of investments was significantly impacted by the volatility in the markets resulting from the Government's budget and the impact of the war in Ukraine. This has recovered back to the value of £10.5m as at 30th September 2024. In June 2023, a donation (in shares) worth £150k was received from the Priests fund and invested with RBC Brewin Dolphin. This has a current value of £173k.

	2023 £	2022 £
Market value		
At 1 April 2022	10,519,750	10,125,166
Additions	5,088,753	3,347,788
Disposals	(5,101,527)	(3,233,361)
Unrealised (losses)/gains on investments	(763,689)	677,179
Realised (losses)/gains on investments	(104,507)	(227,123)
Movement on bank accounts	(44,107)	(169,899)
At 31 March 2023	£9,594,673	£10,519,750

	2023 £	2022 £
Investment property		
At valuation		
At 1 April 2022	4,695,000	4,695,000
Disposal	(525,000)	-
Unrealised gain on revaluation	1,045,000	-
At 31 March 2023	£5,215,000	£4,695,000

The investment properties were valued by Ben Coleman Associates.

The investments are held for both maximising total investment return and to provide income for charitable activities.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

3. DEBTORS	2023	2022
	£	£
School expenditure recoverable	151,669	544,139
Prepayments and accrued income	823,694	1,303,293
	<u>£975,363</u>	<u>£1,847,432</u>

Included in accrued income above are legacies of £373,800 (2022: £646,772) which have been received after the year end but were notified prior to this date.

4. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2023	2022
	£	£
Other creditors	383,745	483,938
School devolved formula capital monies	719,887	571,684
Other school monies	2,226,421	2,104,061
PAYE and social security	46,047	41,606
Accruals and deferred income	258,000	169,172
Bank loan	113,240	311,148
	<u>£3,747,340</u>	<u>£3,681,609</u>

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	2023	2022
	£	£
Loans due within one to two years	118,902	113,240
Loans due within two to five years	2,601,348	2,720,250
Other Creditors due with two to five years	6,958	6,958
SFCS Pension Expense due two to five years	513,000	-
	<u>£3,240,208</u>	<u>£2,840,448</u>

The Diocese had two loans due within five years as at 31st March 2023

1. £2,000,000 provided by Barclays Bank PLC. The loan is secured on the Cathedral Centre in Northampton and attracts interest at a fixed rate of 2.98% for the duration of the loan. The loan is due to be repaid on 12th April 2026 and had a balance outstanding of £1,868,599 as at 31st March 2023
2. £1,000,000 provided by Barclays Bank PLC. The loan is secured on the Cathedral Centre in Northampton and attracts interest at a fixed rate of 3.69% for the duration of the loan. The loan is due to be repaid on 8th February 2027 and had a balance outstanding of £964,891 as at 31st March 2023

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

6. FUNDS

	2022 £	Movement in year £	Transfer Between Funds £	2023 £
Restricted:				
Restricted: Parishes and other	1,975,071	(119,834)	(13,911)	1,841,326
Restricted: Together in Faith	1,229,377	(59,007)	0	1,170,370
Fixed Assets	135,969	(3,162)	-	132,807
	<u>3,340,417</u>	<u>(182,003)</u>	<u>(13,911)</u>	<u>3,144,503</u>
General: fixed assets	15,135,229	(130,352)		15,004,877
General: diocesan fund	7,427,822	(10,461)	13,911	7,431,272
Designated funds:				
Diocesan maintenance	191,927	3,793	-	195,720
Ecclesiastical Education	237,115	(27,430)	-	209,685
Mass funds	238,084	(9,424)	-	228,660
Fox Den Trust	192,670	-	-	192,670
Fox Den Trust fixed assets	165,235	(3,843)	-	161,392
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	43,868	(937)	-	42,931
Chapter fund	644	(962)	-	(318)
Sick clergy insurance	107,517	(14,917)	-	92,600
Theological Education	9,875	-	-	9,875
Jubilee Fund	928,549	(73,800)	-	854,749
Property Fund	1,773,923	150,472	-	1,924,395
Trust funds	740,649	(51,304)	-	689,345
Ezekiel	1,147	-	-	1,147
	<u>4,631,203</u>	<u>(28,352)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,602,851</u>
Charity total funds	£30,534,671	£(351,168)	£-	£30,183,503
Separate charitable trusts held in group restricted funds:				
Educational Trust	740,481	(31,276)	-	709,205
Northampton Slough Diocesan Education Trust	462,312	(26,941)	-	435,371
Lord Braye's Foundation	3,347	1,386	-	4,733
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	2,848	2,904	-	5,752
Group total funds	£31,743,659	£(405,095)	£-	£31,338,564

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

6. FUNDS (continued)

	2021 £	Movement in year £	Transfer Between Funds £	2022 £
Restricted:				
Restricted: Parishes and other	2,036,019	(56,870)	(4,078)	1,975,071
Restricted: Together in Faith	1,359,331	(129,954)	-	1,229,377
Restricted: Together in Faith	139,131	(3,162)	-	135,969
Fixed Assets				
	<u>3,534,481</u>	<u>(189,986)</u>	<u>(4,078)</u>	<u>3,340,417</u>
General: fixed assets	15,336,612	(201,383)	-	15,135,229
General: diocesan fund	5,421,432	2,176,478	(170,088)	7,427,822
Designated funds:				
Diocesan maintenance	172,695	19,232	-	191,927
Ecclesiastical Education	149,433	87,682	-	237,115
Mass funds	236,490	1,594	-	238,084
Fox Den Trust	192,670	-	-	192,670
Fox Den Trust fixed assets	169,078	(3,843)	-	165,235
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	39,894	3,974	-	43,868
Chapter fund	6,654	(6,010)	-	644
Sick clergy insurance	85,800	21,717	-	107,517
Theological Education	9,875	-	-	9,875
Jubilee Fund	1,019,570	(265,187)	174,166	928,549
Property Fund	1,529,508	244,415	-	1,773,923
Trust funds	714,491	26,158	-	740,649
Ezekiel	1,147	-	-	1,147
	<u>4,327,305</u>	<u>129,732</u>	<u>174,166</u>	<u>4,631,203</u>
Charity total funds	£28,619,830	£1,914,841	£-	£30,534,671
Separate charitable trusts held in group restricted funds:				
Educational Trust	710,007	30,474	-	740,481
Northampton Slough Diocesan Education Trust	435,964	26,348	-	462,312
Lord Braye's Foundation	2,012	1,335	-	3,347
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	-	2,848	-	2,848
Group total funds	£29,767,813	£1,975,846	£-	£31,743,659

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

Restricted funds (Parish and others) represent monies raised for specific purposes and Easter and Christmas offerings to priests, not yet paid out by the year end. They also include legacies received and fundraising for specific purposes, provisions made for the retirement of priests and voluntary parental contributions to building costs of our voluntary aided schools.

Restricted Together in Faith represents donations made to meet costs to support retired clergy and the training of new priests, as well as the funding of catechists and lay training and also particular parish projects.

An amount transferred from parochial unrestricted to curial unrestricted of £1,367,708 (2022: £751,336) relates to levies charged to parishes. The Diocesan Board and Council of Priests agreed to increase the levies from 23% to 37% to cover the cost of central services and retired Priests, which was historically under-funded.

An amount transferred from parochial unrestricted to curial unrestricted of £150,472 relates to the parish element of the sale of St Aidan's Manor Road recognised as being available for the support of Diocesan general expenditure.

Designated funds are amounts set aside at the discretion of the trustees and are for longer term purposes. They include funds set aside for the support of the Bishop, the education of new priests and the laity, the provision of some accommodation for retired priests and the support of schools. Expenditure is made from the majority of these funds on an annual basis, but where this is not the case, the Trustees are continually reviewing their purpose to ensure their designation remains appropriate.

An amount of £181,832 (2022: £174,166) was transferred from general funds to the Jubilee Pension Fund representing contributions made in the year by parishes to the retirement fund for priests.

Group restricted funds. The funds above incorporate all funds under the control of the Diocese and these include 4 trusts registered as separate charities: -

Northampton Diocesan Education Fund	Charity Number 267132
Lord Braye's Foundation	Charity Number 242281
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	Charity Number 252034
Northampton Slough Diocese Educational Trust	Charity Number 1165631

In previous years, the Diocese included these funds as part of the main charity balance sheet. As these are separately registered charities with no linking scheme in place, a consolidated balance sheet has been included in this year's accounts and these funds are now shown as consolidated as part of the group. This has resulted in the restatement of the charity balance sheet for the year ended 31 March 2023. This process of review has also highlighted that these 4 funds were incorrectly treated as designated funds and should have been treated as restricted funds. Comparative balances have therefore been updated to reflect this.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Total £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2022 Total £
Support of parish life						
Liturgical and pastoral	90,884	519,013	609,897	24,658	427,765	452,423
Domestic	-	264,197	264,197	-	270,145	270,145
Establishment	-	1,413,822	1,413,822	-	1,088,276	1,088,276
Office	-	432,142	432,142	-	374,962	374,962
Travel	-	85,832	85,832	-	77,675	77,675
Personnel	69,971	907,519	977,490	65,636	787,053	852,689
Parish workers	-	634,174	634,174	-	616,631	616,631
Repository	-	86,591	86,591	-	42,321	42,321
Parish church and presbytery repairs	11,685	276,257	287,942	17,176	228,601	245,777
Church and presbytery repairs	-	374,032	374,032	-	233,621	233,621
Depreciation	3,162	432,383	435,545	3,162	423,460	426,622
Subtotal	175,702	5,425,962	5,601,664	110,632	4,570,510	4,681,142
Activities carried out centrally						
Religious advisers expenses	-	314,258	314,258	-	313,369	313,369
Expenses of diocesan commission	-	320,827	320,827	27,000	229,154	256,154
Mass funds	-	-	-	-	6,939	6,939
Marriage tribunal	-	27,899	27,899	-	23,497	23,497
Youth service	-	126,439	126,439	-	93,419	93,419
Diocesan maintenance	-	202,283	202,283	-	207,521	207,521
Ecclesiastical education	72,792	8,451	81,243	79,476	-	79,476
Personnel	347,628	20,912	368,540	460,691	7,483	468,174
Diocesan communications	-	74,548	74,548	-	50,361	50,361
Vocations	-	5,358	5,358	-	2,224	2,224
Subtotal	420,420	1,100,975	1,521,395	567,167	933,967	1,501,134
SFCS Pension Expense	0	513,000	513,000	-	-	-
Subtotal	0	513,000	513,000	-	-	-

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

7. Charitable Activities in Furtherance of Charity's objects cont.

Provision of Catholic school building and Maintenance

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Total £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2022 Total £
Parish Donation	0	0	0	-	1,913	1,913
School repairs	0	169,551	169,551	26,756	230,463	257,219
School Debt Provision					(702,561)	(702,561)
Subtotal	<u>0</u>	<u>169,551</u>	<u>169,551</u>	<u>26,756</u>	<u>(470,185)</u>	<u>(443,429)</u>
Totals	<u>596,122</u>	<u>7,209,488</u>	<u>7,805,610</u>	<u>704,555</u>	<u>5,034,292</u>	<u>5,738,847</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

Finance office costs, principally comprising salaries, bank charges, bank interest and office running costs, totalled £696,439 (2022: £550,026). These costs are apportioned to activities either on a direct cost basis, on a staff time basis or on an estimated usage basis of 75% parish life, 20% curia activities, 5% provision of school buildings.

9. RAISING FUNDS

	2023 £	2022 £
Fundraising	133,915	92,784
Planned giving expenses	(1,874)	1,095
Investment management costs	56,485	51,420
	<u>£188,526</u>	<u>£145,299</u>

10. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2023 £	2022 £
External auditors fees gross of VAT	39,600	31,200
Internal auditors fees	5,431	4,125
	<u>£45,031</u>	<u>£35,325</u>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

11. SECOND COLLECTIONS PAYABLE IN FURTHERANCE OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS

These are special collections held at each parish in support of certain organisations related to the church or supported by individual parishes and the work that they carry out. These incoming donations are held as restricted funds and are then paid out to the relevant organisation.

	2023 £	2022 £
Incoming second collections	355,255	270,861
Amounts paid out	434,909	327,574
	<u>355,255</u>	<u>270,861</u>

Not included in these figures are second collections taken and paid out in full in relation to a number of organisations where it is either mandatory or customary to support those charities. The monies raised and paid out are treated as conduit funding and so are excluded from the Diocesan accounts. The total of such monies received and paid out in full was £348,170 (2022: £213,148). The organisations supported include Holy Shrines, Mass Media, Peter's Pence, Apostleship of the Sea, Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, Third World Aid, Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD), St Vincent de Paul Society, Survive-MIVA (Missionary Vehicle Association).

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Tangible		Net	
	fixed assets £	Investments £	assets £	Total £
2023				
Restricted funds	132,807	873,876	2,137,820	3,144,503
General	15,004,877	11,351,575	(3,920,303)	22,436,149
Designated	161,392	2,584,223	3,012,299	5,757,912
Total funds	<u>15,299,076</u>	<u>14,809,674</u>	<u>1,229,814</u>	<u>31,338,564</u>
2022				
Restricted funds	135,969	913,496	2,290,952	3,340,417
General	15,135,229	11,470,521	(4,042,699)	22,563,051
Designated	165,235	2,830,733	2,844,223	5,840,191
Total funds	<u>15,436,433</u>	<u>15,214,750</u>	<u>1,092,476</u>	<u>31,743,659</u>

13. STAFF COSTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Gross salaries	1,741,467	1,552,475
Employer's national insurance	136,242	114,158
Employer's pension contributions	56,290	51,362
	<u>1,933,999</u>	<u>1,717,995</u>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

The average number of employees analysed, by function, was:

	Number	Number
Fundraising and publicity	1	1
Direct charitable	105	99
Management and administration of the charity	4	4
	<u>110</u>	<u>104</u>

One employee (2022: one employee) earned between £70,001 and £80,000 and one employee (2022: one employee) earned between £80,001 and £90,000. Employer contributions of £6,513 (2022: £6,513) were made to personal pension schemes on behalf of these employees.

Key management personnel received salary, employer's national insurance and pension contributions of £303,267 (2022: £295,396).

Redundancy and termination payments of £21,045 were paid during the year (2022: £7,108).

14. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

No trustee received remuneration (2022: None) and no trustee was reimbursed (2022: None) for expenses in their role as trustee during the year. Insurance premiums paid include trustees' indemnity insurance. A total of £18,611 (2022: £19,000) donations were received from Trustees during the year.

15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year (2022: £Nil).

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

17. SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

These accounts consolidate the results of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton and the 4 trusts registered as separate charities referred to in note 6. A summary of the financial statements of all 4 trusts is provided below: -

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income	25,660	20,023
(Losses)/gains on investments	(79,587)	40,982
Surplus	61,005	61,005
Reserves	1,155,061	1,208,988
Investments	834,326	913,913
Current assets	320,735	295,075
Net assets	1,155,061	1,208,988

The charity has two wholly owned subsidiary companies which are considered immaterial to the group as a whole and therefore these companies have not been consolidated into these financial statements. RCDN Property Services Ltd provides property project management services to schools within the Diocese. St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd runs a restaurant provided to parishioners and the wider community. The charity owns 100% of the issued share capital of £100 in both companies. A summary of the financial statements for both companies for the year ending 31st March 2023 is provided below: -

	2023	2022
	£	£
Turnover and other income	168,527	174,802
Expenses	(62,011)	(41,566)
Operating profit	106,516	133,236
Gift aid paid to parent charity	(136,779)	(43,496)
Operating Profit	(30,263)	89,740
Reserves	86,655	116,918
Tangible Fixed Assets	18,093	20,243
Current assets	159,592	155,025
Creditors: - amounts falling due within one year	(91,030)	(58,350)
Net assets	86,655	116,918

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Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

18. SOFA Comparative 2022

	Parochial		Curial		Diocesan	
	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Income from:						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
Collections & donations	58,613	4,577,164	24,033	315,646	4,975,456	4,411,910
Second collections	11 270,861	-	-	-	270,861	113,363
Legacies	-	126,386	-	252,397	378,783	892,627
Grants received	-	93,586	365,465	60,736	519,787	612,331
Fundraising	85,030	234,304	1,041	55,371	375,746	286,455
<i>Investment income</i>						
Dividend income	-	47,511	36,042	100,952	184,505	184,757
Bank interest	-	-	-	1	1	4
Rental income	-	535,509	-	15,443	550,952	402,220
<i>Other incoming resources</i>						
Sales of assets	-	237,005	-	244,414	481,419	787,637
Total income	414,504	5,851,465	426,581	1,044,960	7,737,510	7,691,304
Expenditure on:						
<i>Raising funds:</i>						
Costs of generating voluntary income	9 7,988	65,001	864	20,026	93,879	133,280
Investment & property management costs	-	7,728	2,242	41,450	51,420	53,271
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
2 nd collections & grants	11 317,362	10,212	-	-	327,574	193,423
Support of parish life	7 41,834	3,781,128	68,798	789,382	4,681,142	4,307,008
Curial activities	7 -	-	567,167	933,967	1,501,134	1,418,553
School buildings provision	7 1,409	1,913	25,347	(472,098)	(443,429)	258,751
Total expenditure	368,593	3,865,982	664,418	1,312,727	6,211,720	6,364,286
	45,911	1,985,483	(237,837)	(267,767)	1,525,790	1,327,018
Other recognised gains/ (losses) on investment assets:						
Realised on disposal	-	(28,387)	(9,051)	(189,685)	(227,123)	47,670
Unrealised- Investments	-	101,243	71,996	503,940	677,179	1,778,720
Unrealised- Investment Properties	-	-	-	-	-	447,500
Net income/(expenditure)	45,911	2,058,339	(174,892)	46,488	1,975,846	3,600,908
Transfers between funds		(1,262,507)	(4,078)	1,266,585	-	-
Net movement in funds	45,911	795,832	(178,970)	1,313,073	1,975,846	3,600,908
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	984,278	13,968,063	3,698,186	11,117,286	29,767,813	26,166,905
Total funds carried forward at 31 Mar 2022	1,030,189	14,763,895	3,519,216	12,430,359	31,743,659	£29,767,813

NORTHAMPTON ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 234091

Accounts

financial statements

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Registered charity number: 234091

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

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The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Trust information

Registered charity number	234091
Governing instrument	Trust Deed 11 July 1949 as amended 11 October 2006
The board of trustees	<p>The trustees who served during the period and since the year end were as follows:</p> <p>Rt Rev Bishop David J Oakley (President) Rev Mgr Provost S Healy (resigned 31st August 2021) Rev Mgr K McGinnell (resigned 22nd December 2021) Rev Dr B Killeen Mr C J C Peachey (resigned 4th April 2022) Rev A W Brennan Rev C Walking-Lea Mrs K Goodwin Mr A Clutterbuck Mr P E Commons Mr T F O Larkin Mrs M M Cripps (appointed 5th May 2021) Rev Canon Michael Harrison (appointed 18th August 2021) Rev Christopher Perry (appointed 31st August 2021) Mrs S Campbell (appointed 19th May 2022)</p>
Secretary	Mr AJ McNiff
Registered Office	<p>Bishop's House Marriott Street Northampton NN2 6AW</p>
Auditors	<p>Haysmacintyre LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG</p>
Bankers	<p>National Westminster Bank plc 25 Corporation Street Corby Northants NN17 1NR</p>
Investment advisers	<p>Rathbones 8 Finsbury Circus London EC2M 7AZ</p> <p>CCLA Investment Management Limited One Angel Lane London EC4R 3AB</p>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2022

Report of the trustees

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the financial statements, for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is governed by a trust deed, dated 30 April 1949 as amended on 11 October 2006, registered charity number 234091. It specifically covers the Counties of Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and that part of Berkshire north of the River Thames.

Trustees

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet as the Finance Board on a regular basis to review developments and activities and to make decisions on key issues. In setting objectives and planning activities, the trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 section 17 to have due regard to the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee is a registered company number 442173 incorporated under the Companies Act 1929 on 13 September 1947. The members of the company who served on the Main Finance Board during the year to 31st March 2021 are set out in the Trust Information on page 1.

Members of the Finance Board are appointed and can be removed by the Bishop who is ex officio President of the Corporation and ex officio a member of the Main Finance Board. The Corporation has an Honorary Secretary appointed in writing by the President. The Honorary Secretary can be removed from office by the Bishop in writing. New members of the Finance Board are provided with copies of the Trust document, the most recent published accounts and a process of induction. Recent minutes of the Finance Board are also made available to them. Appropriate training is made available to new members, dependant on their experience of charitable, legal and financial matters. In addition, all members of the Finance Board are kept up to date on new legislation and recommended practices.

Membership of the Main Finance Board is reviewed on a regular basis.

All trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration was paid to them in the year in relation to their role as trustee. No trustee was in receipt of expenses in the year (2021: None).

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the report of the trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 2011 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2022

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 charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information

Organisational structure and decision-making process

The day-to-day management of the charity's activities and implementation of its policies are delegated to a number of subcommittees and consultative bodies and to appropriate staff. There are a number of curial departments such as Finance, Property, Safeguarding, Education and Youth Ministry, each of which employ appropriately trained and qualified staff to manage and carry out those activities. Similarly, parishes have a number of paid employees and volunteers to assist in the running of activities at local level.

A major focus of the trustees is the care and maintenance of Diocesan property and decisions on projects proposed in the Diocese, dependant on type and size, are made at the appropriate level, with advice being obtained as necessary from professional advisers appointed by the Diocese. A Property and Health and Safety Subcommittee of the Finance Board has been formed and this considers project proposals and recommends appropriate action to the trustees. This subcommittee is made up of trustees, a professional lay advisor and Diocesan officials.

The Art and Architecture section of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission considers applications for church improvements and reports regularly to the Bishop and to the Finance Board. The Diocesan Historic Churches Committee, a statutory body, has remit over the listed places of worship of the Diocese, processing applications for works to those buildings and monitoring progress.

Day to day management of the Finance and Property functions is the responsibility of the Diocesan Chief Operating Officer together with three property professionals.

Key management personnel

The Board considers that the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team whose total remuneration is set out in note 13 of the accounts comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day to day basis. In the year to March 2022 these included the Chief Operating Officer and the senior lay personnel in the major curial departments. The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually. All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses are disclosed in note 15 of the accounts. When new roles are created, or significant roles change hands, benchmarking against market rates for similar positions is employed to attract the best candidates for those roles.

Risk management

A review of the major financial and reputational risks to which the charity is exposed has been carried out and systems put in place to mitigate those risks. Any risks identified and their resultant impact on reserves and/or reputation of the Diocese are considered by the Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee and the Finance Board of trustees. Risks are monitored and any new risks identified and recorded. In particular, the Diocese has procedures and a subcommittee focussed on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The health and safety of those using our churches and other facilities is also a high priority and the Diocese has policies in place to assess and manage the associated risks, overseen by a Property, Health & Safety Subcommittee. The Diocese receives professional Health and Safety advice from RBS & NatWest Mentor.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2022

The increasing age and declining number of diocesan priests is considered by the trustees to be a significant risk for the Diocese. In order to plan for and mitigate the consequences of this risk factor, parishes have been asked to consider how pastoral areas and individual parishes will provide facilities for the practicing of the Faith with significantly fewer priests.

Once again the results for the year have been impacted by COVID 19. Whilst legal restrictions ended in England in July 2021 and the vaccination programme certainly helped, the strain on the NHS and concerns about the new Omicron strain of the virus meant that parishioners continued to take a cautious approach about returning to churches. It was only at Easter 2022 that the Church across England and Wales moved towards an expectation of physical mass attendance. As a result total revenue remained weak during 2021/22 being only 0.6% higher than the previous year. Total expenditure was however 2.4% lower. Once again the position was helped significantly by the support from the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Churches are now open and most parishioners have returned to church, however the impact of COVID 19 on mass attendance will take time to recover and may not do so fully. The Board continues to emphasise the seriousness with which the Trust takes the safety of its parishioners and the measures in place to assure their safety.

Related parties

The attached accounts include the assets and activities of four trusts which are incorporated as separate charities: -

Northampton Diocese Education Fund	Charity Number 267132
Lord Braye's Foundation	Charity Number 242281
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	Charity Number 252034
Northampton Slough Diocese Educational Trust	Charity Number 1165631

The objects of these charities are consistent with the objects of the Diocese.

The Diocese also encompasses a number of Catholic schools. Those schools which are voluntary aided are exempt Charities under the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1988 and their activities are not reflected in the financial statements attached to this report. The Bishop of Northampton appoints Foundation Governors to the Governing Bodies of these schools and they form the majority of those Governing Bodies. A number of schools have converted to academy status and are formed within multi-academy trusts. The Bishop has similar powers of appointment of the trustees of those Trusts and again their activities are not reflected in the financial statements attached to this report. At the date of this report there are 42 schools of which 26 are academies within our 2 multi-academy trusts and 1 is an independent college. The addresses of all our schools can be found in the Diocesan Directory.

Investment policy

There are no specific investment powers, other than those provided under the Trustees Act 2000. Investments are made at the absolute discretion of the trustees acting on advice of its professional advisers and an Investment Committee which reports to the Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee. Meetings of the Investment Committee take place every 6 months and are attended by our investment advisers and senior personnel. An ethical investment policy has been agreed by trustees to help avoid investing in securities which might conflict with Catholic Social Teaching or which are environmentally unsound.

At 31 March 2022, the portfolio of investments had a market value of £10,519,750. There were realised losses of £227,123 and unrealised gains of £677,179. Total investment income in the year was £184,506.

The investment policy is to maximise total return through a diversified portfolio. The trustees are aware of the effect of movements in the value of this investment portfolio on reserve levels. This is particularly relevant given the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic and geopolitical events such as the war in Ukraine, on the stock market. Over the last two years there has been significant volatility in our investments as they have dipped and then subsequently recovered. However the Diocese considers itself a long term investor and together with its advisers takes steps to mitigate the risk of significant volatility.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2022

Public benefit

The Charities Act 2006 requires charities to describe the benefit that is provided to the public. The Charity Commission has commented that "religion helps to provide a moral and ethical framework for people to live by and can play an important part in building social capital and community cohesion".

The adherence to, and advancing of, the Catholic faith to the public within the Northampton Diocese has many public benefits. It provides an ethical and moral code for society; it provides sacred places, churches, services of worship, public ritual and ceremonies, including baptisms, weddings and funerals; it contributes to the spiritual well-being of the public; it contributes to the spiritual and moral education of children; it promotes social understanding and cohesion, and contributes to practical ways of addressing social needs such as visiting the sick and housebound, and furthering other charitable purposes.

The above is demonstrated by 19,887 people attending mass each Sunday together with masses also being said each day in our parishes. 20,904 children, both Catholic and non-Catholic, attended our schools. Donations of £484,009 (2021: £246,308) were made by our parishioners to causes both internal and external to our Diocese. Many programs were made available in our parishes in areas such as spiritual development, Marriage and Family Life and Justice and Peace. In addition, there has been a successful project welcoming and supporting a Syrian refugee family in partnership with the Local Authority in the area concerned.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the charity include not only parishioners and those young people attending our schools but also the recipients of aid from the many causes supported by the Diocese through contributions to among others CAFOD, Apostleship of the Sea, The Association for the Propagation of the Faith as well as a number of projects supported by individual parishes. Churches and schools around the Diocese are welcoming and helping to integrate into the community large numbers of new parishioners and students both from the UK and overseas.

Objectives, activities and achievements

Principal objects

The principal objects of the Charity are as declared in the Trust Deed dated 11 July 1949 "in or towards advancing the Roman Catholic religion in the Diocese by such means as the Bishop may think fit and proper and for the service and support whether in the Diocese or outside the Diocese by such means as aforesaid of charitable works and objects promoted by the Church" (**Clause 2 of the Trust Deed**).

The long-term strategies set to achieve these objects are to ensure that the life of the Catholic Community is well supported and responsive to changing requirements and to generate and maintain sufficient reserves to ensure the long-term future of the charity. It carries out these strategies through a number of key activities as set out below: -

Significant activities

The objects of the charity are fulfilled by the many activities carried out in its parishes, its schools and through a number of organisations run by the Diocesan Curia.

Parish life

Parish life is supported through the provision of clergy and buildings as a result of which many parishioners provide support to the local and national community in improving social cohesion and in many other ways. While the celebration of Mass is mainly in churches owned and maintained by the Diocese through its parishes and supported by the curial departments, parishes also reach out to the local community through their activities and support their parishioners through home visits, hospital chaplaincy and a range of courses and other programs.

For the majority of the year parish life was disrupted due to COVID 19 implications, particularly the fear of infection and new variants as the vaccine rollout gathered pace. These understandable concerns were addressed by maintaining appropriate mitigations (face masks, social distancing, and sanitising)

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2022

and for many parish life carried on as usual with churches being places of worship, sources of nourishment for the faith of the people and outreach to the community. Those who did not feel comfortable returning to church in person, kept in touch with parishes through the live streaming of services. The Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation were celebrated all around the Diocese and many groups met in prayer and reflection on the word of God in scripture. At the last census in 2022, 19,887 people attended mass on a weekly basis and there were 1,647 baptisms, 1,097 people confirmed and 193 marriages during the year.

The facilitation and nourishment of spiritual life and the concern for neighbours in the Diocese are the principal aims of the charity and while weekly attendance figures and the number of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, etc are indications of the success of the work, performance can also be measured by the continuing strength of our parish and school communities and the individual journeys of faith of our parishioners. Sick and elderly parishioners received the Eucharist and Sacrament of the Sick, the dying and their relatives received comfort and support, and the deceased received dignified burial and cremation services, which aided the grieving process for their relatives. As stated earlier, two parishes have joined together to welcome and support a Syrian refugee family, in partnership with the Local Authority.

The trustees recognise the effect of particular types of one-off income including the inherent uncertainty of legacy income. An anticipated increase in capital works on Church property, the general inflationary increase of many costs, the financial impact of COVID 19 and the cost of living crisis in the UK have led to a reflection across the pastoral areas of the Diocese on how to find ways of raising income whilst managing costs.

Parishes carry out their own fundraising activities in support of parish projects both internal to the parish and external. The total income raised was £319,334 compared with £214,002 in 2021.

Churches, presbyteries and halls

Repairs and maintenance requirements resulting from the quinquennial reports on buildings owned by the trust and the system of close contact between parishes, the trust and the professionals appointed by the Diocese, resulted in £479,398 (2021: £598,497) being spent during the year at parish and Diocesan level.

The work was supervised by the Diocesan Property Department, reporting to the Trustees who together with professional advisers appointed by the Diocese, ensure that the work is carried out to the highest possible standard.

Parish clubs

There are now four parish member social clubs, all but one of which occupy under license buildings owned by the Diocese Trustee. The Diocesan Finance and Property departments have continued to monitor their management and viability, along with professionals appointed by the clubs. These social clubs are in the process of converting to community interest companies where the relationship with the Diocese as landlord will be better clarified.

Volunteers

The charity is heavily reliant on the work of a large number of volunteers, especially in its parishes but also on a number of committees and subcommittees. These volunteers include Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Readers, Catechists, altar servers, parish workers, choirs and musicians, health and safety representatives, child and vulnerable adult safeguarding representatives, members of the St Vincent de Paul Society who help the poor and needy, and many other roles. The trustees are very grateful to all of these people for their contribution to the work of the Diocese.

Schools

As has been the case for many years the Diocese has looked to fulfil its objects partly by the facilitation of education within a Catholic environment. The majority of these schools are voluntary aided state schools or academies at both primary and secondary level and are supported by the Diocesan Schools Commission. Together with our one independent school they operate with a Catholic ethos and while

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2022

following legislation and curriculum set by the State, also have specific policies and procedures set by or in consultation with the Catholic Education Service.

During the year, a sum of £1.84m (2021: £1.61m) gross of Government grant was spent on voluntary aided school buildings owned by the trustee. For a significant proportion of this expenditure, 10% of the cost had to be found by the Diocese be it from the parishes, the parental voluntary contribution scheme, the schools or other sources. A review is continuing on how this 10% contribution is funded, especially since the level of expenditure greatly exceeds the amount that can be afforded by parishes alone and the fact that many children in Catholic schools come from families which do not attend mass regularly and hence do not help fund the schools through their offertory contributions. The Diocesan Schools Commission supports our schools and their Governors in the work that they do.

Many different projects were carried out around the Diocese as part of the ongoing maintenance and development of our school buildings.

Curial activities

Curial activities include the training of new priests, permanent deacons, catechists, and lay ministers, the support of existing and retired priests, youth ministry, adult education, ecumenism and multi-faith dialogue, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, justice and peace commission, and a number of commissions covering liturgy, historic churches, pastoral strategy, marriage and family life and the Diocesan Tribunal, amongst others.

In common with many other Dioceses there is a declining number of priests available to serve parishes which, together with the advancing age of those still in service provides an ongoing challenge to the Charity. We currently have three men in seminary training, 2 for the priesthood and 1 for the permanent diaconate. Vocations to the diaconate and new forms of lay ministry are also developing and being supported by the Diocese.

This Diocese looks forward positively to the creation of new housing developments in its larger towns and discussions are in progress as to the measures required to welcome and provide for the spiritual life of both current and new residents. Each pastoral area is being challenged to develop plans to shape the Church in their area.

Fundraising approach and performance

The charity undertakes fundraising activity via appeals, events, emails and correspondence in line with the Fundraising Code of Practice set by the Fundraising Regulator. Our fundraising promise is

'When you support you can be sure of the following:

- *We will never sell your contact details to anyone*
- *We will only contact you if you have expressed an interest in our work*
- *If we phone you, we will always check you are happy to take the call*
- *If you ask us to change how we communicate with you, or stop, we will respect that*
- *We do not engage in cold-calling, door to door or street fundraising*
- *We try hard to ensure no one ever feels pressurised to support our work*
- *We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adhere to the Fundraising Code of Practice.*
- *All our activities are open, fair, honest and legal.*

No professional fundraisers were used during the year under review.

The Diocese has robust procedures in place regarding vulnerable people and treating donors in a fair manner.

The charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the standards of the Fundraising Code of Practice. Trustees are not aware of any complaints made regarding fundraising activities carried out during the year.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2022

Details of particular fundraising performance is detailed elsewhere in this report.

Designated funds

Designated funds are held for a number of purposes including the education of priests, the maintenance of the Diocesan Curia, the advancement of education, mass stipends, the support of sick and needy priests and funds available for expenditure at the discretion of the Bishop in the course of his work, together with funds to support the retirement provision for priests. A fund has also been created from a share of disposal proceeds where Diocesan and Parish property has been sold. This will enable assistance to be given to parishes where funds are not immediately available for refurbishment works. Expenditure is made from these funds on a regular basis. The continued need for these funds will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Financial management

While each parish under Canon Law is a separate juridical person with the right to acquire, retain, administer and alienate temporal goods in their own right, they operate under financial guidelines issued by the Diocese. These give approval and cheque signing limits and require parishes to file returns with the Diocese on a quarterly basis. There are also approval and cheque signatory policies operating centrally, and a cycle of internal checks on the operation of financial procedures at parish level, in addition to those carried out by the external auditor.

Funding sources

The principal funding source of the Diocese is the parish offertory collection. Significant levels of income are also received from investments, fundraising activities and rents received from investment properties. Legacies also form a material portion of Diocesan income. The trustees recognise the uncertain nature of legacies and the material effect that the receipt or otherwise of major gifts can have on the results for any year. The anticipation of significant legacies is therefore discounted from the budgetary process unless the quantum of the receipt can be ascertained with reasonable certainty.

Expenditure

A major part of expenditure in the year is on the support of parish life and in particular the maintenance and repairs of their buildings. The funding and support of building works in schools also resulted in a cost to the Diocese of £257,219 in the year (2021: £258,751).

Results for the year

A summary of the results for the year is shown in the financial statements. The trustees report an overall surplus for the year of £1,975,846 (2021: £3,600,908). The surplus for the year is categorised as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
General income and expenditure account	1,975,095	3,486,577
Restricted funds	(189,986)	(232,383)
Designated funds	190,737	346,714
	£ 1,975,846	£ 3,600,908

There were net incoming resources of £1,525,790 (2021:£1,327,018) before revaluations and investment asset disposals. The net gain in investment assets was £450,056 (2021: £2,273,890) of which £677,179 was unrealised surplus (2021: £1,778,720), representing an increase in value between 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2022. The effect of the net gain on investment assets is to increase a surplus of £1,525,790 (2021: £1,327,018) to an overall surplus for the year of £1,975,846 (2021: £3,600,908).

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2022

Financial position

At 31 March 2022, the reserves were: -

	2022 £	2021 £
Restricted	3,204,448	3,395,350
Restricted – fixed assets	135,969	139,131
Designated	5,674,956	5,306,210
Designated – fixed assets	165,235	169,078
General – fixed assets	15,135,229	15,336,612
General – unrestricted	7,427,822	5,421,432
	<u>£31,743,659</u>	<u>£29,767,813</u>

Restricted funds represent special collections and Easter and Christmas offerings to priests, not yet paid out by the year end. They also include legacies and other funds received for specific purposes.

Designated funds represent funds set aside for specific purposes, as listed in note 6 to these financial statements.

The general fund for fixed assets represents the value invested in fixed assets, principally churches and presbyteries.

Funds available to support the work of the Diocese in the future are those shown above as general unrestricted funds of £7,427,822 (2021: £5,421,432).

Once again the results for the year have been impacted by COVID 19. Whilst legal restrictions ended in England in July 2021 and the vaccination programme certainly helped, the strain on the NHS and concerns about the new Omicron strain of the virus meant that parishioners continued to take a cautious approach about returning to churches. It was only at Easter 2022 that the Church across England and Wales moved towards an expectation of physical mass attendance. As a result total income remained weak during 2021/22 being only 0.6% higher than the previous year. However when legacy income was excluded the income increase was 8.2% on the previous year. This included £152,383 (2021: £545,743 grant from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and excluding this grant, total income was up 15.2% on the previous year. Our traded investment portfolio experienced turbulent conditions given the continuing effects of the pandemic and towards the end of the year, the Russian invasion of Ukraine. However overall unrealised profits on traded investments were £677,179 (2021: £1,778,720)

Reserves policy

The Main Finance Board meets regularly to plan, monitor and review levels of expenditure on key or significant projects, and hence the impact on reserve levels. General income levels are also monitored regularly. The trustees consider that a prudent level of free reserves (those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or designated for specific purposes) is the equivalent of a maximum of 12 months' expenditure. This will allow the Diocese to deal effectively with a significant drop in income and also react to requests for funding arising from unexpected events. At 31 March 2022, the free reserves of £7,427,822 represented approximately 17.2 months (2021: 12.1) of unrestricted expenditure. However expenditure in 2022 included a £702,561 bad debt provision release and excluding that 2022 expenditure free reserves at 31 March 2022 were 15.2 months. Trustees will continue to aim to maintain the level of free reserves in the longer term at 12 months expenditure recognising that asset sales may inflate the reserves above the target for a short to medium term period.

Plans for the future

The Diocese will continue to monitor reserve levels to ensure that its long term aims can be met. The continued support of parish life and the Catholic community remains a priority and how this is to be achieved is a major focus for the Charity.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2022

The principal focus will be on a number of main issues: -

- Exploring new ways of evangelisation so as to increase the numbers attending Sunday Mass.
- Using, in a more efficient way, the abilities and skills of the clergy, and being sensitive to the increasing demands made upon them.
- Mobilising the skills and abilities of lay professionals within our congregations to help address the financial and other challenges the Diocese will face over the coming years
- Ensuring that the Churches and ancillary buildings required are appropriately maintained to support the mission of the Diocese.
- Making available Diocesan Funds in the event of national or international crises, subject to meeting the objects of the Charity.
- Enabling the resources of the Diocese to fund the core activities at the centre of the Charity's objectives.

Offertory appeals will be held around the Diocese to provide additional resources for parishes, and through the levy/second collections, the Curia. While specific increases have not been set, uplifts significantly in excess of inflation will be necessary to offset rising costs.

Funds held on behalf of others

Assets held as custodian trustees

Included within the Diocesan Investment Trust portfolio of shares are units held on behalf of a separately registered charity: The Northampton Diocesan Priests' Fund, whose objects are to aid the secular priests of the Diocese who are permanently or temporarily incapacitated by old age, infirmity, illness or accident. The assets within the overall portfolio are disclosed in note 2 and are separately distinguishable from assets of the Diocese. Quarterly reports are sent to the charity on the investment performance.

Signed by order of the trustees on 29th September 2023



Rt Rev Bishop D J Oakley

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2022

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of the group's net movement in funds for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, 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 group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from 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 Report of the Trustees. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2022

is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the parent charity financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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 group's and the parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charity or to cease operations, or have 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 (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the group and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to Canon Law, employment law, safeguarding regulations and Charity Law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as Charities Act 2011 and Charities SORP.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Review of minutes of trustees' meetings;
- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals; and

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2022

- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates. These related to depreciation, investment property valuations and accrued legacies.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 responsibility to anyone other than the charity's trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Haysmacintyre LLP
Statutory Auditors

10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

Date:12 October 2023.....

Haysmacintyre LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Balance Sheet

Year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	£	2022	£	£	2021	£
Fixed assets							
Tangible fixed assets	1	15,436,433			15,644,821		
Investments	2	10,519,750			10,125,166		
Investment properties	2	4,695,000			4,695,000		
				30,651,183			30,464,987
Current assets							
Debtors	3	1,847,432			2,891,467		
Cash at bank and in hand		5,767,101			2,148,654		
				7,614,533			5,040,121
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	3,370,461			5,530,337		
Net current liabilities				4,244,072			(490,216)
Total assets less current liabilities				34,895,255			29,974,771
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	5			(3,151,596)			(206,958)
Net assets				£31,743,659			£29,767,813
Funds							
General – unrestricted	6			7,427,822			5,421,432
General – fixed assets	6			15,135,229			15,336,612
				22,563,051			20,758,044
Designated	6			5,674,956			5,306,210
Designated – fixed assets	6			165,235			169,078
Restricted	6			3,204,448			3,395,350
Restricted – fixed assets	6			135,969			139,131
Net assets				£31,743,659			£29,767,813

Approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 29th September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

+ David

Bea

.....
Rt Rev Bishop D J Oakley
Trustee

.....
Rev Dr B Killeen
Trustee

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2022

	Parochial		Curial		Diocesan	
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
Collections & donations	58,613	4,577,164	24,033	315,646	4,975,456	4,411,910
Second collections	11 270,861	-	-	-	270,861	113,363
Legacies	-	126,386	-	252,397	378,783	892,627
Grants received	-	93,586	365,465	60,736	519,787	612,331
Fundraising	85,030	234,304	1,041	55,371	375,746	286,455
<i>Investment income</i>						
Dividend income	-	47,511	16,019	120,975	184,505	184,757
Bank interest	-	-	-	1	1	4
Rental income	-	535,509	-	15,443	550,952	402,220
<i>Other incoming resources</i>						
Sales of assets	-	237,005	-	244,414	481,419	787,637
Total income	414,504	5,851,465	406,558	1,064,983	7,737,510	7,691,304
Expenditure on:						
<i>Raising funds:</i>						
Costs of generating voluntary income	9 7,988	65,001	864	20,026	93,879	133,280
Investment & property management costs	-	7,728	2,242	41,450	51,420	53,271
Charitable activities:						
2 nd collections & grants	11 317,362	10,212	-	-	327,574	193,423
Support of parish life	7 41,834	3,781,128	68,798	789,382	4,681,142	4,307,008
Curial activities	7 -	-	567,167	933,967	1,501,134	1,418,553
School buildings provision	7 1,409	1,913	25,347	(472,098)	(443,429)	258,751
Total expenditure	368,593	3,865,982	664,418	1,312,727	6,211,720	6,364,286
	45,911	1,985,483	(257,860)	(247,744)	1,525,790	1,327,018
Other recognised gains/ (losses) on investment assets:						
Realised on disposal	-	(28,387)	(9,051)	(189,685)	(227,123)	47,670
Unrealised- Investments	-	101,243	31,014	544,922	677,179	1,778,720
Unrealised- Investment Properties	-	-	-	-	-	447,500
Net income/(expenditure)	45,911	2,058,339	(235,897)	107,493	1,975,846	3,600,908
Transfers between funds		(1,262,507)	(4,078)	1,266,585	-	-
Net movement in funds	45,911	795,832	(239,975)	1,374,078	1,975,846	3,600,908
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	984,278	13,968,063	2,550,203	12,265,269	29,767,813	26,166,905
Total funds carried forward at 31 Mar 2022	1,030,189	14,763,895	2,310,228	13,639,347	31,743,659	£29,767,813

All the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

Detailed comparatives are shown in Note 18 to these financial statements.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities				
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities (see below)		1,151,661		1,134,017
Cash flows from investing activities				
Interest received	1		4	
Dividends received	184,505		184,757	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(218,234)		(1,188,233)	
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	489,531		799,682	
Purchase of investments	(3,177,889)		(1,818,736)	
Sale of investments	3,233,361		2,098,728	
Net provided by (used in) investing activities		511,275		76,202
Cash flows from financing activities				
Loans received	2,000,000		1,200,000	
Interest charged on loans	(44,489)		(3,319)	
Net provided by (used in) financing activities		1,955,511		1,196,681
Change in cash and cash equivalents		3,618,447		2,406,900
Cash and cash equivalents at start of reporting period		2,148,654		(258,246)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of reporting period		<u>£5,767,101</u>		<u>£2,148,654</u>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2022

(i) Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net (outgoings)/income per SOFA	1,975,846	3,600,908
Returns on investment	(450,056)	(2,273,890)
Investment income	(184,506)	(184,761)
Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(481,419)	(787,637)
Depreciation	426,622	357,908
Interest on loans	61,879	3,319
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	1,035,922	(337,154)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(1,232,627)	755,324
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	<u>£1,151,661</u>	<u>£1,134,017</u>

(ii) Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

Net funds at 1 April 2021	2,148,654	(258,246)
Increase in cash in the period	3,618,447	2,406,900
Net funds at 31 March 2022	<u>£5,767,101</u>	<u>£2,148,654</u>

(iii) Analysis of changes in Net Funds/(Debt)

	1 April 2021 £	Cash Flow £	31 March 2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	2,148,654	3,618,447	5,767,101
Debt due within 1 year	(1,000,000)	1,000,000	-
Debt due after 1 year	(200,000)	(2,944,638)	(3,144,638)
	<u>£948,654</u>	<u>£1,673,809</u>	<u>£2,622,463</u>
	1 April 2020 £	Cash Flow £	31 March 2021 £
Cash in hand and at bank	(258,246)	2,406,900	2,148,654
Debt due within 1 year	-	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)
Debt due after 1 year	-	(200,000)	(200,000)
	<u>£(258,246)</u>	<u>£1,206,900</u>	<u>£948,654</u>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2022

The principal accounting policies which are adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of non-marketable assets held for charitable purposes, investment properties and listed investments at market value. The format of the financial statements has been presented to comply with the Charities Act 2011, FRS102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland* and the Statement of Recommended Practice *Accounting and Reporting by Charities* ("SORP 2019"). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102. Figures are presented in sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

The charity has two subsidiary companies, RCDN Property Services Ltd and St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd. The latter commenced trading during the period. In the opinion of the Trustees, the activities of RCDN Property Services Ltd and St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd are immaterial to the group as a whole and therefore consolidated financial statements have not been prepared.

General information

The Charity is a charity registered in England and Wales (charity number: 234091). The Charity's registered office address is Bishop's House, Marriott Street, Northampton, NN2 6AW.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties which would cast doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Trust has significant Fixed Assets including financial investments valued at 30th March 2023 at £9.6m. It also has a cash balance as at 30th March 23 (not including funds held on behalf of schools or clubs) of £5.3m. This balance includes £2.8m of bank loan finance. Forecast projections for 12 months from the date these accounts are signed indicate that the charity continues to be going concern in the foreseeable future.

Income and expenditure

Income is recognised in the period in which its receipt is probable and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income from parochial activities and other voluntary donations is recognised on a receipts basis. Income from investments, grant agencies, rental properties and other sources of a non-ex-gratia nature are recognised on an accruals basis. Legacies are recognised once the charity is advised that payment is due and the amount involved can be quantified.

Costs of raising funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the management of the Charity's investments.

Costs of charitable activities consist of all expenditure directly relating to the objects of the Charity. Support costs which cannot be directly allocated are apportioned between charitable activities and governance costs on the basis of the Trustee's estimate of the time spent on the relevant functions.

Employment benefits, including holiday pay, are recognised in the period in which they are earned. Termination benefits are recognised in the period in which the decision is made and communicated to the relevant employee(s).

Governance costs include expenditure on management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements together with an allocation of support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is included with the category of expenses to which it relates.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2022

Tangible assets

a. Freehold land and buildings

Functional land and buildings

1. Churches, Presbyteries, Halls and Offices etc.

Freehold land

Functional land (i.e. land used for the prime purpose of the Charity), is included in the financial statements at original cost or, where this is not available, at an estimate of its historic cost (or in the case of donated land, at its fair value at the date of receipt). Freehold land is not depreciated because it has an indefinitely long useful life.

Freehold buildings

Functional buildings (i.e. buildings used for the prime purpose of the Charity), which are still in use by the Charity are included in the financial statements at original cost, or where this is not available, at an estimate of their historic cost (or in the case of donated buildings, at an estimate of their fair value at the date of receipt). All new functional buildings, improvements and major renovations are capitalised at the cost of construction. Buildings which were in use at 31 March 1996 are depreciated at rates calculated to write off their estimated historic cost (less the estimated residual value) evenly over the remainder of their useful life.

The estimate of the useful life of a building varies depending on the condition and its future use, however, in general it is expected that a building in a reasonable state of repair will continue in use without major renovations or improvements for the following period:

Unlisted Churches	25 to 100 years
Cathedral and Listed Churches	100 to 200 years
Presbyteries	25 to 50 years
Other buildings	25 to 75 years

Depreciation rates are calculated using the age of the building and its expected useful life.

Addresses of Diocesan Churches and other buildings can be found in the Diocesan yearbook.

2. Voluntary Aided Schools

Land

The charity owns the land on which its Voluntary Aided Schools are built. The nature of the occupation of the land by these exempt and excepted charities means that the Diocesan Trustees do not have the power to dispose of the land, until the school ceases its occupation, which in turn would require the approval of the governors and the Secretary of State. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the land is treated as inalienable and is not capitalised. The cost of any land acquired for the purposes of a Voluntary Aided School is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of acquisition.

Buildings

The school buildings are occupied, improved, extended and repaired by the school governors. The nature of the occupation of these buildings by these exempt and excepted charities means that the Diocesan Trustees do not have control over the buildings, until the school ceases its occupation, which in turn would require the approval of the governors and the Secretary of State. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the buildings are treated as inalienable. The school governors account for the building, improvement and repair costs of the schools and account for any grants received in respect of these costs. Grants made by the Diocese or parishes to the governors in order to assist them with their liability for school building costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of payment.

Details of the Diocesan Voluntary Aided Schools are given in the Diocesan Yearbook.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2022

a. **Freehold land and buildings (continued)**

3. Academies

Land

The charity owns the land on which its Academies are built. The nature of the occupation of the land by these multi-academy trusts by long term lease or other agreement means that the Diocesan Trustees do not have the power to dispose of the land, until the school ceases its occupation, under the terms of occupancy. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the land is treated as inalienable and is not capitalised. The cost of any land acquired for the purposes of an Academy is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of acquisition.

Buildings

The school buildings are occupied, improved, extended and repaired by the Academy Trustees. The nature of the occupation of these buildings by these multi-academy trusts means that the Diocesan Trustees do not have control over the buildings, until the school ceases its occupation under the terms of the lease or occupation terms. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the buildings are treated as inalienable. The academy trustees account for the building, improvement and repair costs of the schools and account for any grants received in respect of these costs. Grants made by the Diocese or parishes to the academy trust in order to assist them with its liability for school building costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of payment.

Details of the Academies are given in the Diocesan Yearbook.

b. **Fixtures, fittings and equipment**

Fixtures, fittings and equipment which were in use at 31 March 1996 and which had a current replacement cost exceeding £2,000 have been capitalised and included in the financial statements at an estimate of their historical costs (or in the case of donated assets, at an estimate of value at the date of acquisition). Subsequent acquisitions with a cost, (or in the case of donated assets, estimated value) of over £2,000 are capitalised on the same basis. They are depreciated at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less the estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Church furniture/plate	Over 50 years
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	Over 10 years
Computers	Over 3 years

Financial Instruments

The charity only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable and investments in stocks and shares. The measurement basis used for these financial instruments is detailed below.

Investments

Investments are disclosed at market value at the balance sheet date. All changes in value in the year, whether or not realised, are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Details of the date and basis of valuation and valuer in respect of investment properties are given in note 2 to these financial statements. As these assets are recorded at current market value, no charge for depreciation is made in the financial statements.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2022

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Pension schemes

Contributions towards employees' personal pension schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they become payable. The Diocese is neither liable to finance any funding shortfall, nor entitled to benefit from any over-funding.

The Diocese makes contributions to the personal pension money purchase schemes of a number of its priests. Such contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they fall due. The Diocese also makes provision to pay an income in retirement to priests who do not participate in the money purchase scheme. This provision is held as a designated fund and is funded principally by an annual transfer from general unrestricted funds.

Funds

Restricted funds are funds where the income is restricted by the conditions imposed by the donors. They represent special collections and Easter and Christmas offerings to priests, not yet paid out by the year end. They also include legacies and other funds received for specific purposes.

Designated funds represent funds set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes, as listed in note 6 to these financial statements.

The general fund for fixed assets represents the value invested in fixed assets, principally churches and presbyteries. The balance of unrestricted funds represents funds available to support the work of the Diocese in the future.

Significant judgements

In preparing these financial statements the trustees have had to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in these financial statements. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Key areas subject to judgement and estimation relate to depreciation, investment property valuations and accrued legacies.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

1. FIXED ASSETS	Church Property £	Furniture and Fittings £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2021	25,397,283	2,629,036	28,026,319
Additions	202,231	16,003	218,234
At 31 March 2022	<u>25,599,514</u>	<u>2,645,039</u>	<u>28,244,553</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	10,307,776	2,073,722	12,381,498
Charge for year	372,020	54,602	426,622
At 31 March 2022	<u>10,679,796</u>	<u>2,128,324</u>	<u>12,808,120</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	<u>£14,919,718</u>	<u>£516,715</u>	<u>£15,436,433</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>£15,089,507</u>	<u>£555,314</u>	<u>£15,644,821</u>

All assets are used for direct charitable purposes.

The properties, comprising churches, church halls and presbyteries, and contents are stated at actual or estimated historical cost. The market value of fixed assets has not been determined as the benefit to the readers of the financial statements does not, in the opinion of the trustees, justify the cost which would be incurred.

Capital commitments

There are capital commitments of nil (2021 - nil) as at 31 March 2022

2. ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS	2022		2021	
	Market value	Historical cost	Market value	Historical cost
	£	£	£	£
Hunting fund				
UK listed securities	712,190	541,460	765,497	548,111
Non UK listed securities	533,640	378,628	440,005	251,716
Cash balance	31,556	31,556	10,369	10,369
	<u>1,277,386</u>	<u>951,644</u>	<u>1,215,871</u>	<u>810,196</u>
Lord Braye Trust				
UK listed securities	9,254	8,236	8,688	8,236
Cash balance	104	104	104	104
	<u>9,358</u>	<u>8,340</u>	<u>8,792</u>	<u>8,340</u>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

2. ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS (continued)	2022		2021	
	Market value £	Historical cost £	Market value £	Historical cost £
Special reserve fund				
UK listed securities	1,052,348	849,694	1,208,917	950,071
Non UK listed securities	819,280	600,657	606,066	341,847
Cash balance	63,170	63,170	40,064	40,064
	<u>1,934,798</u>	<u>1,513,521</u>	<u>1,855,047</u>	<u>1,331,982</u>
Diocesan Investment Trust				
UK listed securities	2,609,598	1,969,360	3,046,979	2,198,379
Non UK listed securities	1,791,521	1,222,766	1,433,547	728,515
Cash balance	101,371	101,371	70,183	61,544
	<u>4,502,490</u>	<u>3,293,497</u>	<u>4,550,709</u>	<u>2,988,438</u>
Together in Faith				
UK listed securities	310,200	261,132	291,400	261,132
Non UK listed securities	-	-	-	-
Cash balance	1,258	1,258	1,258	1,258
	<u>311,458</u>	<u>262,390</u>	<u>292,658</u>	<u>262,390</u>
Legacy				
UK listed securities	746,768	755,516	407,794	409,285
Non UK listed securities	144,513	142,279	-	-
Cash balance	72,752	72,752	588,531	588,531
	<u>964,033</u>	<u>970,547</u>	<u>996,325</u>	<u>997,816</u>
Parish Legacy				
UK listed securities	973,677	891,175	977,459	886,857
Non UK listed securities	542,217	442,990	493,368	372,308
Cash balance	55,952	55,952	35,568	35,568
	<u>1,571,846</u>	<u>1,390,117</u>	<u>1,506,395</u>	<u>1,294,733</u>
Catholic Investment Fund				
UK listed securities	1,063	1,000	-	-
Wholly Owned Trading Subsidiary				
RCDN Property Services Ltd	100	100	100	100
St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd	100	100	-	-
	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

	Market Value	
	2022	2021
	£	£
Total investments controlled by the Diocese	10,572,632	10,425,897
Diocesan Investment Trust units held by The Northampton Diocesan Priests Fund	<u>(52,882)</u>	<u>(300,731)</u>
Total investments held by the Diocese	<u>£10,519,750</u>	<u>£10,125,166</u>

There are no material investments held representing more than 5% of the total. The investments are held for both maximising total investment return and to provide income for charitable activities.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Market value		
At 1 April 2021	10,125,166	8,578,768
Additions	3,347,788	1,696,411
Disposals	(3,233,361)	(2,098,728)
Unrealised (losses)/gains on investments	677,179	1,778,720
Realised (losses)/gains on investments	(227,123)	47,670
Movement on bank accounts	(169,899)	122,325
At 31 March 2022	<u>£10,519,750</u>	<u>£10,125,166</u>
	2022	2021
	£	£
Investment property		
At valuation		
At 1 April 2021	4,695,000	4,247,500
Unrealised gain on revaluation	-	447,500
At 31 March 2022	<u>£4,695,000</u>	<u>£4,695,000</u>

The investment properties were valued by Ben Coleman Associates in November 2021, on the basis of open market value. Trustees consider that the current values of the investment properties have not moved materially since the last valuation.

The investments are held for both maximising total investment return and to provide income for charitable activities.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

3. DEBTORS	2022	2021
	£	£
School expenditure recoverable	544,139	1,445,093
Prepayments and accrued income	1,303,293	1,446,374
	<u>£1,847,432</u>	<u>£2,891,467</u>

Included in accrued income above are legacies of £646,772 (2021: £846,846) which have been received after the year end but were notified prior to this date.

4. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	483,938	522,943
School devolved formula capital monies	571,684	561,527
Other school monies	2,104,061	3,272,313
PAYE and social security	41,606	33,541
Accruals and deferred income	169,172	140,013
Bank loan	-	1,000,000
	<u>£3,370,461</u>	<u>£5,530,337</u>

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors due within two to five years	6,958	6,958
Loans, due within two to five years	3,144,638	200,000
	<u>£3,151,596</u>	<u>£206,958</u>

The Diocese had three loans due within two to five years as at 31st March 2022

1. £200,000 provided by Rathbones Investment Management Ltd. The loan was secured on the investments held with them and attracted interest at a rate of 2.5% above base rate. The loan was due to be repaid on 30th April 2025 but was repaid in full in January 2023.
2. £2,000,000 provided by Barclays Bank PLC. The loan is secured on the Cathedral Centre in Northampton and attracts interest at a fixed rate of 2.98% for the duration of the loan. The loan is due to be repaid on 12th April 2026 and had a balance outstanding of £1,944,638 as at 31st March 2022
3. £1,000,000 provided by Barclays Bank PLC. The loan is secured on the Cathedral Centre in Northampton and attracts interest at a fixed rate of 3.69% for the duration of the loan. The loan is due to be repaid on 8th February 2027 and had a balance outstanding of £1,000,000 as at 31st March 2022

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

6. FUNDS

	2021 £	Movement in year £	Transfer Between Funds £	2022 £
Restricted:				
Restricted: Parishes and other	2,036,019	(56,870)	(4,078)	1,975,071
Restricted: Together in Faith	1,359,331	(129,954)	-	1,229,377
Fixed Assets	139,131	(3,162)	-	135,969
	<u>3,534,481</u>	<u>(189,986)</u>	<u>(4,078)</u>	<u>3,340,417</u>
General: fixed assets	15,336,612	(201,383)	-	15,135,229
General: diocesan fund	5,421,432	2,176,478	(170,088)	7,427,822
Designated funds:				
Diocesan maintenance	172,695	19,232	-	191,927
Ecclesiastical Education	149,433	87,682	-	237,115
Educational Trust	710,007	30,474	-	740,481
Northampton Slough Diocesan Education Trust	435,964	26,348	-	462,312
Mass funds	236,490	1,594	-	238,084
Fox Den Trust	192,670	-	-	192,670
Fox Den Trust fixed assets	169,078	(3,843)	-	165,235
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	39,894	3,974	-	43,868
Chapter fund	6,654	(6,010)	-	644
Sick clergy insurance	85,800	21,717	-	107,517
Theological Education	9,875	-	-	9,875
Jubilee Fund	1,019,570	(265,187)	174,166	928,549
Property Fund	1,529,508	244,415	-	1,773,923
Trust funds	716,503	30,341	-	746,844
Ezekiel	1,147	-	-	1,147
	<u>5,475,288</u>	<u>190,737</u>	<u>174,166</u>	<u>5,840,191</u>
Total funds	<u><u>£29,767,813</u></u>	<u><u>1,975,846</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>31,743,659</u></u>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

6. FUNDS (continued)	2020 £	Movement in year £	Transfer Between Funds £	2021 £
Restricted:				
Restricted: Parishes and other	2,055,869	138,884	(158,734)	2,036,019
Restricted: Together in Faith	1,727,436	(368,105)	-	1,359,331
Fixed Assets	142,293	(3,162)	-	139,131
	<u>3,925,598</u>	<u>(232,383)</u>	<u>(158,734)</u>	<u>3,534,481</u>
General: fixed assets	14,500,380	836,232	-	15,336,612
General: diocesan fund	2,785,806	2,650,345	(14,719)	5,421,432
Designated funds:				
Diocesan maintenance	135,713	36,982	-	172,695
Ecclesiastical Education	5,784	143,649	-	149,433
Educational Trust	602,447	107,560	-	710,007
Northampton Slough Diocesan Education Trust	345,149	90,815	-	435,964
Mass funds	196,790	39,700	-	236,490
Fox Den Trust	192,670	-	-	192,670
Fox Den Trust fixed assets	172,921	(3,843)	-	169,078
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	28,826	11,068	-	39,894
Chapter fund	9,457	(2,803)	-	6,654
Sick clergy insurance	43,594	42,206	-	85,800
Theological Education	9,875	-	-	9,875
Jubilee Fund	1,284,581	(438,464)	173,453	1,019,570
Property Fund	1,332,209	197,299	-	1,529,508
Trust funds	593,970	122,533	-	716,503
Ezekiel	1,135	12	-	1,147
	<u>4,955,121</u>	<u>346,714</u>	<u>173,453</u>	<u>5,475,288</u>
Total funds	<u>£26,166,905</u>	<u>£3,600,908</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£29,767,813</u>

Restricted funds (Parish and others) represent monies raised for specific purposes and Easter and Christmas offerings to priests, not yet paid out by the year end. They also include legacies received and fundraising for specific purposes, provisions made for the retirement of priests and voluntary parental contributions to building costs of our voluntary aided schools.

Restricted Together in Faith represents donations made to meet costs to support retired clergy and the training of new priests, as well as the funding of catechists and lay training and also particular parish projects.

Transfers totalling £16,091 (2021: £27,805) relate to amounts paid from general funds for which restricted income has been received. £12,013 was transferred from general funds to curial restricted to reflect the restrictions of a grant received in 2019/20

Transfers of £100,000 (2021: £100,000) were made from parochial unrestricted to curial unrestricted as parish support towards the costs of construction of the Cathedral Centre completed in 2020/21.

An amount transferred from parochial unrestricted to curial unrestricted of £751,336 (2021: £750,351) relates to levies charged to parishes.

6. FUNDS (continued)

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

An amount transferred from parochial unrestricted to curial unrestricted of £237,005 relates to the parish element of the sale of St Anselm recognised as being available for the support of Diocesan general expenditure.

Designated funds are amounts set aside at the discretion of the trustees and are for longer term purposes. They include funds set aside for the support of the Bishop, the education of new priests and the laity, the provision of some accommodation for retired priests and the support of schools. Expenditure is made from the majority of these funds on an annual basis, but where this is not the case, the Trustees are continually reviewing their purpose to ensure their designation remains appropriate.

An amount of £174,166 (2021: £173,453) was transferred from general funds to the Jubilee Pension Fund representing contributions made in the year by parishes to the retirement fund for priests.

The funds above incorporate all funds under the control of the Diocese and these include 4 trusts registered as separate charities:-

Northampton Diocesan Education Fund	Charity Number 267132
Lord Braye's Foundation	Charity Number 242281
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	Charity Number 252034
Northampton Slough Diocese Educational Trust	Charity Number 1165631

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2022 Total £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Total £
Support of parish life						
Liturgical and pastoral	24,658	427,765	452,423	24,577	319,154	343,731
Domestic	-	270,145	270,145	-	243,634	243,634
Establishment	-	1,088,276	1,088,276	-	987,387	987,387
Office	-	374,962	374,962	-	252,258	252,258
Travel	-	77,675	77,675	-	64,176	64,176
Personnel	65,636	787,053	852,689	45,224	694,728	739,952
Parish workers	-	616,631	616,631	-	698,134	698,134
Repository	-	42,321	42,321	-	21,331	21,331
Parish church and presbytery repairs	17,176	228,601	245,777	5,472	229,495	234,967
Church and presbytery repairs	-	233,621	233,621	8,244	355,286	363,530
Depreciation	3,162	423,460	426,622	3,162	354,746	357,908
Subtotal	110,632	4,570,510	4,681,142	86,679	4,220,329	4,307,008
Activities carried out centrally						
Religious advisers expenses	-	313,369	313,369	-	313,616	313,616
Expenses of diocesan commission	27,000	229,154	256,154	7,493	126,571	134,064
Mass funds	-	6,939	6,939	-	(1,908)	(1,908)
Marriage tribunal	-	23,497	23,497	-	23,781	23,781
Youth service	-	93,419	93,419	-	167,287	167,287
Diocesan maintenance	-	207,521	207,521	-	171,813	171,813
Ecclesiastical education	79,476	-	79,476	66,820	-	66,820
Personnel	460,691	7,483	468,174	497,418	39,396	536,814
Diocesan communications	-	50,361	50,361	-	6,266	6,266
Vocations	-	2,224	2,224	-	-	-
Subtotal	567,167	933,967	1,501,134	571,731	846,822	1,418,553
Provision of Catholic school buildings and maintenance						
Donations at parish level	-	1,913	1,913	-	-	-
School repairs	26,756	230,463	257,219	154,234	104,517	258,751
School debt provision	-	(702,561)	(702,561)	-	-	-
Subtotal	26,756	(470,185)	(443,429)	154,234	104,517	258,751
Totals	704,555	5,034,292	5,738,847	£812,644	£5,171,668	£5,984,312

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

8. SUPPORT COSTS

Finance office costs, principally comprising salaries, bank charges, bank interest and office running costs, totalled £550,026 (2021: £453,435). These costs are apportioned to activities either on a direct cost basis, on a staff time basis or on an estimated usage basis of 75% parish life, 20% curia activities, 5% provision of school buildings.

9. RAISING FUNDS	2022 £	2021 £
Fundraising	92,784	98,895
Planned giving expenses	1,095	34,385
Investment management costs	51,420	53,271
	<u>£145,299</u>	<u>£186,551</u>

10. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION	2022 £	2021 £
External auditors fees gross of VAT	31,200	36,600
Internal auditors fees	4,125	6,525
	<u>£35,325</u>	<u>£43,125</u>

11. SECOND COLLECTIONS PAYABLE IN FURTHERANCE OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS

These are special collections held at each parish in support of certain organisations related to the church or supported by individual parishes and the work that they carry out. These incoming donations are held as restricted funds and are then paid out to the relevant organisation.

	2022 £	2021 £
Incoming second collections	270,861	113,179
Amounts paid out	327,574	148,276
	<u>270,861</u>	<u>113,179</u>

Not included in these figures are second collections taken and paid out in full in relation to a number of organisations where it is either mandatory or customary to support those charities. The monies raised and paid out are treated as conduit funding and so are excluded from the Diocesan accounts. The total of such monies received and paid out in full was £213,148 (2021: £133,129). The organisations supported include Holy Shrines, Mass Media, Peter's Pence, Apostleship of the Sea, Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, Third World Aid, Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD), St Vincent de Paul Society, Survive-MIVA (Missionary Vehicle Association).

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS	Tangible		Net	Total
	fixed assets	Investments	assets	
	£	£	£	£
2022				
Restricted funds	135,969	913,496	2,290,952	3,340,417
General	15,135,229	11,470,521	(4,042,699)	22,563,051
Designated	165,235	2,830,733	2,844,223	5,840,191
Total funds	15,436,433	15,214,750	1,092,476	31,743,659
2021				
Restricted funds	139,131	893,774	2,501,576	3,534,481
General	15,336,612	11,222,596	(5,801,164)	20,758,044
Designated	169,078	2,703,796	2,602,414	5,475,288
Total funds	£15,644,821	£14,820,166	£(697,174)	£29,767,813
13. STAFF COSTS			2022	2021
			£	£
Gross salaries			1,552,475	1,519,176
Employer's national insurance			114,158	103,528
Employer's pension contributions			51,362	47,766
			£1,717,995	£1,670,470
The average number of employees analysed, by function, was:			Number	Number
Fundraising and publicity			1	1
Direct charitable			99	103
Management and administration of the charity			4	5
			104	109

One employee (2021: one employee) earned between £70,001 and £80,000 and one employee (2021: none) earned between £80,001 and £90,000. Employer contributions of £6,513 (2021: £2,913) were made to personal pension schemes on behalf of these employees.

Key management personnel received salary, employer's national insurance and pension contributions of £295,396 (2021: £291,396).

Redundancy and termination payments of £7,108 were paid during the year (2021: £3,130).

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

14. CONTINGENT LIABILITY – ST FRANCIS CHILDRENS SOCIETY

In May 1979 the Diocese was closely linked with the St Francis' Childrens' Society and provided a guarantee to the County Council of Bedfordshire when the Society's employees were admitted to the superannuation scheme maintained by the Council. In 2005 the connection between the Society and the Diocese ceased however the guarantee remained in place. In November 2022 the St Francis' Childrens' Society entered administration and a provisional estimate of the liability owed to the Bedfordshire Pension Fund is £767,000. This has not been recognised as a liability in these accounts as the validity of the guarantee has yet to be confirmed and the value of the liability is dependent upon the outcome of the administration.

15. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

No trustee received remuneration (2021: None) and no trustee was reimbursed (2021: None) for expenses in their role as trustee during the year. Insurance premiums paid include trustees' indemnity insurance. A total of £32,900 (2021: £30,520) donations were received from Trustees during the year.

16. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year (2021: £Nil).

17. SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

The charity currently has two wholly owned subsidiary companies.

RCDN Property Services Ltd provides property project management services to schools within the Diocese. The charity owns 100% of the issued share capital of £100 in this company.

A summary of the accounts of the company is provided below:-

	2022	2021
	£	£
Turnover	137,883	44,599
Administrative expenses	(1,104)	(1,103)
Operating Profit	136,779	43,496
Profit for the financial year	£136,779	£43,496
Current assets	141,599	64,054
Creditors:- amounts falling due within one year	(4,720)	(20,458)
Net assets	£136,879	£43,596

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd commenced trading on 1st September 2021 using the trading name Café 1850. Café 1850 is intended to be a community asset. Turnover relates to restaurant and event catering activities provided to parishioners and the wider community. The charity owns 100% of the issued share capital of £100 in this company. A summary of the financial statements for the 7 months to 31st March 2022 is provided below:-

	2022	2021
	£	£
Turnover	34,252	-
Cost of Sales	(9,549)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Gross Profit	24,703	-
Administrative expenses	(30,913)	(16,518)
Other operating income - grants	2,667	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Operating Loss	(3,543)	(16,518)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Loss for the period/year	£(3,543)	£(16,518)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Tangible Fixed Assets	20,243	21,497
Current assets	13,426	10,497
Creditors:- amounts falling due within one year	(53,630)	(48,412)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Net assets	£(19,961)	£(16,418)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

18. SOFA Comparative 2021

	Parochial		Curial		Diocesan	
	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Income from:						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
Collections & donations	34,855	3,848,158	331,569	197,328	4,411,910	5,326,026
Second collections	113,179	-	-	184	113,363	404,053
Legacies	500	335,475	-	556,652	892,627	374,858
Grants received	30,868	341,917	39,388	200,158	612,331	305,465
Fundraising	64,975	149,027	27,749	44,704	286,455	909,478
<i>Investment income</i>						
Dividend income	-	43,401	16,885	124,471	184,757	267,139
Bank interest	-	-	-	4	4	23
Rental income	-	378,818	-	23,402	402,220	673,707
<i>Other incoming resources</i>						
Sales of assets	-	-	-	787,637	787,637	905,676
Total income	244,377	5,096,796	415,591	1,934,540	7,691,304	9,166,425
Expenditure on:						
<i>Raising funds:</i>						
Costs of generating voluntary income	24,019	51,459	-	57,802	133,280	232,657
Investment & property management costs	-	7,735	2,287	43,249	53,271	56,304
Charitable activities:						
2 nd collections & grants	148,276	45,147	-	-	193,423	600,469
Support of parish life	38,293	3,506,280	48,386	714,049	4,307,008	6,452,986
Curial activities	-	7,906	571,731	838,916	1,418,553	1,841,287
School buildings provision	-	-	154,234	104,517	258,751	238,957
Total expenditure	210,588	3,618,527	776,638	1,758,533	6,364,286	9,422,660
	33,789	1,478,269	(361,047)	176,007	1,327,018	(256,235)
Other recognised gains/ (losses) on investment assets:						
Realised on disposal	-	8,818	3,162	35,690	47,670	(83,082)
Unrealised- Investments	-	293,336	91,713	1,393,671	1,778,720	(787,422)
Unrealised- Investment Properties	-	-	-	447,500	447,500	-
Net income/(expenditure)	33,789	1,780,423	(266,172)	2,052,868	3,600,908	(1,126,739)
Transfers between funds	-	(1,023,804)	(158,734)	1,182,538	-	-
Net movement in funds	33,789	756,619	(424,906)	3,235,406	3,600,908	(1,126,739)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	950,489	13,211,444	2,975,109	9,029,863	26,166,905	27,293,644
Total funds carried forward at 31 Mar 2021	£984,278	£13,968,063	£2,550,203	£12,265,269	£29,767,813	£26,166,905

NORTHAMPTON ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 234091

Accounts

financial statements

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Registered charity number: 234091



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

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The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Trust information

Registered charity number	234091
Governing instrument 2006	Trust Deed 11 July 1949 as amended 11 October
The board of trustees	The trustees who served during the period and since the year end were as follows: Rt Rev Bishop David J Oakley (President) (appointed 13 th April 2020) Rt Rev Bishop P J H Doyle (President) (resigned 13 th April 2020) Rev Mgr Provost S Healy (resigned 31 st August 2021) Rev Mgr K McGinnell Rev Dr B Killeen Mr J C Whitehead (resigned 13 th April 2020) Mr C J C Peachey Mrs M A Harwood (resigned 13 th April 2020) Rev A W Brennan Rev C Walking-Lea Mrs K Goodwin (appointed 13 th April 2020) Mrs B Vaughan (appointed 13 th April 2020) (resigned 29 th January 2021) Mr A Clutterbuck (appointed 20 th April 2020) Mr P E Commons (appointed 20 th April 2020) Mr T F O Larkin (appointed 22 nd March 2021) Mrs M M Cripps (appointed 5 th May 2021) Rev Canon Michael Harrison (appointed 18 th August 2021) Rev Christopher Perry (appointed 31 st August 2021)
Secretary	Mr AJ McNiff
Registered Office	Bishop's House Marriott Street Northampton NN2 6AW
Auditors	Haysmacintyre LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG
Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc 25 Corporation Street Corby Northants NN17 1NR
Investment advisers	Rathbones 8 Finsbury Circus London EC2M 7AZ

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Trust information

Ruffer LLP
80 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 5JL

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2021

Report of the trustees

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the financial statements, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is governed by a trust deed, dated 30 April 1949 as amended on 11 October 2006, registered charity number 234091. It specifically covers the Counties of Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and that part of Berkshire north of the River Thames.

Trustees

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet as the Finance Board on a regular basis to review developments and activities and to make decisions on key issues. In setting objectives and planning activities, the trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 section 17 to have due regard to the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee is a registered company number 442173 incorporated under the Companies Act 1929 on 13 September 1947. The members of the company who served on the Main Finance Board during the year to 31st March 2021 are set out in the Trust Information on page 1.

Members of the Finance Board are appointed and can be removed by the Bishop who is ex officio President of the Corporation and ex officio a member of the Main Finance Board. The Corporation has an Honorary Secretary appointed in writing by the President. The Honorary Secretary can be removed from office by the Bishop in writing. New members of the Finance Board are provided with copies of the Trust document, the most recent published accounts and a process of induction. Recent minutes of the Finance Board are also made available to them. Appropriate training is made available to new members, dependant on their experience of charitable, legal and financial matters. In addition, all members of the Finance Board are kept up to date on new legislation and recommended practices.

Membership of the Main Finance Board is reviewed on a regular basis.

All trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration was paid to them in the year in relation to their role as trustee. No trustee was in receipt of expenses in the year (2020: one £206).

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the report of the trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

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Year ended 31 March 2021

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 2011 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also

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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 charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information

Organisational structure and decision-making process

The day-to-day management of the charity's activities and implementation of its policies are delegated to a number of subcommittees and consultative bodies and to appropriate staff. There are a number of curial departments such as Finance, Property, Safeguarding, Education and Youth Ministry, each of which employ appropriately trained and qualified staff to manage and carry out those activities. Similarly, parishes have a number of paid employees and volunteers to assist in the running of activities at local level.

A major focus of the trustees is the care and maintenance of Diocesan property and decisions on projects proposed in the Diocese, dependant on type and size, are made at the appropriate level, with advice being obtained as necessary from professional advisers appointed by the Diocese. A Property and Health and Safety subcommittee of the Finance Board has been formed and this considers project proposals and recommends appropriate action to the trustees. This subcommittee is made up of trustees, a professional lay advisor and Diocesan officials.

The Art and Architecture section of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission considers applications for church improvements and reports regularly to the Bishop and to the Finance Board. The Diocesan Historic Churches Committee, a statutory body, has remit over the listed places of worship of the Diocese, processing applications for works to those buildings and monitoring progress.

Day to day management of the Finance and Property functions is the responsibility of the Diocesan Chief Operating Officer together with three property professionals.

Key management personnel

The Board considers that the Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team whose total remuneration is set out in note 13 of the accounts comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day to day basis. In the year to March 2021 these included the Chief Operating Officer, the Director of Finance and Development and the senior lay personnel in the major curial departments. The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually. All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses are disclosed in note 14 of the accounts. When new roles are created, or significant roles change hands, benchmarking against market rates for similar positions is employed to attract the best candidates for those roles.

Risk management

A review of the major financial and reputational risks to which the charity is exposed has been carried out and systems put in place to mitigate those risks. Any risks identified and

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Year ended 31 March 2021

their resultant impact on reserves and/or reputation of the Diocese are considered by the Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee and the Finance Board of trustees. Risks are monitored and any new risks identified and recorded.

In particular, the Diocese has procedures and a subcommittee focussed on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The health and safety of those using our churches and other facilities is also a high priority and the Diocese has policies in place to assess and manage the associated risks, overseen by a Health and Safety Subcommittee. The Diocese receives professional Health and Safety advice from RBS & NatWest Mentor.

The increasing age and declining number of priests is considered by the trustees to be a significant risk for the Diocese. In order to plan for and mitigate the consequences of this risk factor, parishes have been asked to consider how pastoral areas and individual parishes will provide facilities for the practicing of the Faith with significantly fewer priests.

The Diocese has followed closely the Government guidance related to its activities in respect to COVID 19. This has resulted in the temporary closure of some churches and a restriction on the capacity of others. Whilst total revenue was down by 16% in the year to 31 March 21, total expenditure was down by 32%. The position has been helped significantly by the support from the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Most churches are now open and many parishioners have returned to church, however attendance and therefore revenue remains vulnerable given ongoing COVID 19 restrictions and concerns about new variants. The Board continues to emphasise the seriousness with which the Trust takes the safety of its parishioners and the measures in place to assure their safety.

Related parties

The attached accounts include the assets and activities of three trusts which are incorporated as separate charities: -

Northampton Diocese Education Fund	Charity Number 267132
Lord Braye's Foundation	Charity Number 242281
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	Charity Number 252034
Northampton Slough Diocese Educational Trust	Charity Number 1165631

The objects of these charities are consistent with the objects of the Diocese.

The Diocese also encompasses a number of Catholic schools. Those schools which are voluntary aided are exempt Charities under the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1988 and their activities are not reflected in the financial statements attached to this report. The Bishop of Northampton appoints Foundation Governors to the Governing Bodies of these schools and they form the majority of those Governing Bodies. A number of schools have converted to academy status and are formed within multi-academy trusts. The Bishop has similar powers of appointment of the trustees of those Trusts and again their activities are not reflected in the financial statements attached to this report. At the date of this report there are 42 schools of which 19 are academies within our 2 multi-academy trusts. The addresses of all our schools can be found in the Diocesan Directory.

Investment policy

There are no specific investment powers, other than those provided under the Trustees Act 2000. Investments are made at the absolute discretion of the trustees acting on advice of its professional advisers and an Investment Committee which reports to the Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee. Quarterly meetings of the Investment Committee are attended by our investment advisers and senior personnel. An ethical investment policy has been agreed by trustees to help avoid investing in securities which might conflict with Catholic Social Teaching or which are environmentally unsound.

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At 31 March 2021, the portfolio of investments had a market value of £10,125,166. There were realised gains of £47,670 and unrealised gains of £1,778,720. Total investment income in the year was £184,757.

The investment policy is to maximise total return through a diversified portfolio. The trustees are aware of the effect of movements in the value of this investment portfolio on reserve levels. This is particularly relevant given the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on the stock market. The significant unrealised gain in the year followed realised losses of £65,061 and unrealised losses of £787,422 in the previous year. The gain largely resulted from the stock market recovery as markets adjusted to the impact of COVID 19 on the world economy. The Diocese considers itself a long term investor and together with its advisers takes steps to mitigate the risk of significant volatility.

Public benefit

The Charities Act 2006 requires charities to describe the benefit that is provided to the public. The Charity Commission has commented that “religion helps to provide a moral and ethical framework for people to live by and can play an important part in building social capital and community cohesion”.

The adherence to, and advancing of, the Catholic faith to the public within the Northampton Diocese has many public benefits. It provides an ethical and moral code for society; it provides sacred places, churches, services of worship, public ritual and ceremonies, including baptisms, weddings and funerals; it contributes to the spiritual well-being of the public; it contributes to the spiritual and moral education of children; it promotes social understanding and cohesion, and contributes to practical ways of addressing social needs such as visiting the sick and housebound, and furthering other charitable purposes.

The above is demonstrated by 26,099 people attending mass each Sunday together with masses also being said each day in our parishes. 20,873 children, both Catholic and non-Catholic, attended our schools. Donations of £246,308 (2020: £761,447) were made by our parishioners to causes both internal and external to our Diocese. Many programs were made available in our parishes in areas such as spiritual development, Marriage and Family Life and Justice and Peace. In addition, there has been a successful project welcoming and supporting a Syrian refugee family in partnership with the Local Authority in the area concerned.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the charity include not only parishioners and those young people attending our schools but also the recipients of aid from the many causes supported by the Diocese through contributions to among others CAFOD, Apostleship of the Sea, The Association for the Propagation of the Faith as well as a number of projects supported by individual parishes. Churches and schools around the Diocese are welcoming and helping to integrate into the community large numbers of new parishioners and students both from the UK and overseas.

Objectives, activities and achievements

Principal objects

The principal objects of the Charity are as declared in the Trust Deed dated 11 July 1949 “in or towards advancing the Roman Catholic religion in the Diocese by such means as the Bishop may think fit and proper and for the service and support whether in the Diocese or outside the Diocese by such means as aforesaid of charitable works and objects promoted by the Church” (**Clause 2 of the Trust Deed**).

The long-term strategies set to achieve these objects are to ensure that the life of the Catholic Community is well supported and responsive to changing requirements and to

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

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Year ended 31 March 2021

generate and maintain sufficient reserves to ensure the long-term future of the charity. It carries out these strategies through a number of key activities as set out below: -

Significant activities

The objects of the charity are fulfilled by the many activities carried out in its parishes, its schools and through a number of organisations run by the Diocesan Curia.

Parish life

Parish life is supported through the provision of clergy and buildings as a result of which many parishioners provide support to the local and national community in improving social cohesion and in many other ways. While the celebration of Mass is mainly in churches owned and maintained by the Diocese through its parishes and supported by the curial departments, parishes also reach out to the local community through their activities and support their parishioners through home visits, hospital chaplaincy and a range of courses and other programs.

For the majority of the year parish life was disrupted due to COVID 19 lockdowns and other restrictions. A number of parishes and mass centres that were not able to put in place appropriate mitigations were closed for the whole of the year. When possible and with appropriate mitigations in place (face masks, social distancing, and sanitising) parish life carried on as usual with churches being places of worship, sources of nourishment for the faith of the people and outreach to the community. Where churches could not open, many kept in touch with parishioners through the live streaming of services. The Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation were celebrated all around the Diocese and many groups met in prayer and reflection on the word of God in scripture. At the last census in 2019, 26,099 people attended mass on a weekly basis and there were 1,599 baptisms, 1,028 people confirmed and 259 marriages during the year.

The facilitation and nourishment of spiritual life and the concern for neighbours in the Diocese are the principal aims of the charity and while weekly attendance figures and the number of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, etc are indications of the success of the work, performance can also be measured by the continuing strength of our parish and school communities and the individual journeys of faith of our parishioners. Sick and elderly parishioners received the Eucharist and Sacrament of the Sick, the dying and their relatives received comfort and support, and the deceased received dignified burial and cremation services, which aided the grieving process for their relatives. As stated earlier, two parishes have joined together to welcome and support a Syrian refugee family, in partnership with the Local Authority.

The trustees recognise the effect of particular types of one-off income including the inherent uncertainty of legacy income. An anticipated increase in capital works on Church property, the general inflationary increase of many costs and the more recent financial impact of COVID 19 has led to a reflection across the pastoral areas of the Diocese on how to find ways of raising income whilst managing costs.

Parishes carry out their own fundraising activities in support of parish projects both internal to the parish and external. The total income raised was £214,002 compared with £628,654 in 2020.

Churches, presbyteries and halls

Repairs and maintenance requirements resulting from the quinquennial reports on buildings owned by the trust and the system of close contact between parishes, the trust and the professionals appointed by the Diocese, resulted in £598,497 (2020: £1.72m) being spent during the year at parish and Diocesan level.

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The work was supervised by the Diocesan Property Department, reporting to the Trustees who together with professional advisers appointed by the Diocese, ensure that the work is carried out to the highest possible standard.

Parish clubs

There are now four parish member social clubs, all but one of which occupy under license buildings owned by the Diocese Trustee. The Diocesan Finance and Property departments have continued to monitor their management and viability, along with professionals appointed by the clubs.

Volunteers

The charity is heavily reliant on the work of a large number of volunteers, especially in its parishes but also on a number of committees and subcommittees. These volunteers include Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Readers, Catechists, altar servers, parish workers, choirs and musicians, health and safety representatives, child and vulnerable adult safeguarding representatives, members of the St Vincent de Paul Society who help the poor and needy, and many other roles. The trustees are very grateful to all of these people for their contribution to the work of the Diocese.

Schools

As has been the case for many years the Diocese has looked to fulfil its objects partly by the facilitation of education within a Catholic environment. The majority of these schools are voluntary aided state schools or academies at both primary and secondary level and are supported by the Diocesan Schools Commission. Together with a small number of independent schools they operate with a Catholic ethos and while following legislation and curriculum set by the State, also have specific policies and procedures set by or in consultation with the Catholic Education Service.

During the year, a sum of £1.61m (2020: £1.31m) gross of Government grant was spent on school buildings owned by the trustee. For a significant proportion of this expenditure, 10% of the cost had to be found by the Diocese be it from the parishes, the parental voluntary contribution scheme, the schools or other sources. A review is continuing on how this 10% contribution is funded, especially since the level of expenditure greatly exceeds the amount that can be afforded by parishes alone and the fact that many children in Catholic schools come from families which do not attend mass regularly and hence do not help fund the schools through their offertory contributions. The Diocesan Schools Commission supports our schools and their Governors in the work that they do.

Many different projects were carried out around the Diocese as part of the ongoing maintenance and development of our school buildings.

Curial activities

Curial activities include the training of new priests, permanent deacons, catechists, and lay ministers, the support of existing and retired priests, youth ministry, adult education, ecumenism and multi-faith dialogue, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, justice and peace commission, and a number of commissions covering liturgy, historic churches, pastoral strategy, marriage and family life and the Diocesan Tribunal, amongst others.

In common with many other Dioceses there is a declining number of priests available to serve parishes which, together with the advancing age of those still in service provides an ongoing challenge to the Charity. We currently have six men in seminary training - 3 for the priesthood and 3 for the permanent diaconate. Vocations to the diaconate and new forms of lay ministry are also developing and being supported by the Diocese.

This Diocese looks forward positively to the creation of new housing developments in its larger towns and discussions are in progress as to the measures required to welcome and

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2021

provide for the spiritual life of both current and new residents. Each pastoral area is being challenged to develop plans to shape the Church in their area.

Over the last few years the Diocese has raised funds to build a new Centre to serve the Cathedral and the Diocese as a whole, as well as to be a facility for the local community. In Autumn 2020 the St Thomas Centre at Northampton Cathedral was opened. Unfortunately COVID 19 has considerably restricted the use of the Centre; however it was fitting that the first initiative was to provide a food bank to support the local community during the pandemic. Funds pledged from a variety of sources including from reallocated reserves, external trusts and funds and from parishioner donations amounted to £2.7m and the final build cost was £3.4m. External cash receipts amounted to £1.5m.

Fundraising approach and performance

The charity undertakes fundraising activity via appeals, events, emails and correspondence in line with the Fundraising Code of Practice set by the Fundraising Regulator. Our fundraising promise is

'When you support you can be sure of the following:

- We will never sell your contact details to anyone*
- We will only contact you if you have expressed an interest in our work*
- If we phone you, we will always check you are happy to take the call*
- If you ask us to change how we communicate with you, or stop, we will respect that*
- We do not engage in cold-calling, door to door or street fundraising*
- We try hard to ensure no one ever feels pressurised to support our work*
- We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adhere to the Fundraising Code of Practice.*
- All our activities are open, fair, honest and legal.*

No professional fundraisers were used during the year under review.

The Diocese has robust procedures in place regarding vulnerable people and treating donors in a fair manner.

The charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the standards of the Fundraising Code of Practice. Trustees are not aware of any complaints made regarding fundraising activities carried out during the year.

Details of particular fundraising performance is detailed elsewhere in this report.

Designated funds

Designated funds are held for a number of purposes including the education of priests, the maintenance of the Diocesan Curia, the advancement of education, mass stipends, the support of sick and needy priests and funds available for expenditure at the discretion of the Bishop in the course of his work, together with funds to support the retirement provision for priests. A fund has also been created from a share of disposal proceeds where Diocesan and Parish property has been sold. This will enable assistance to be given to parishes where funds are not immediately available for refurbishment works. Expenditure is made from these funds on a regular basis. The continued need for these funds will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Financial management

While each parish under Canon Law is a separate juridical person with the right to acquire, retain, administer and alienate temporal goods in their own right, they operate under financial guidelines issued by the Diocese. These give approval and cheque signing limits and require parishes to file returns with the Diocese on a quarterly basis. There are

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Year ended 31 March 2021

also approval and cheque signatory policies operating centrally, and a cycle of internal checks on the operation of financial procedures at parish level, in addition to those carried out by the external auditor.

Funding sources

The principal funding source of the Diocese is the parish offertory collection. Significant levels of income are also received from investments, fundraising activities, interest on cash on deposit and rents received from investment properties. Legacies also form a material portion of Diocesan income. The trustees recognise the uncertain nature of legacies and the material effect that the receipt or otherwise of major gifts can have on the results for any year. The anticipation of significant legacies is therefore discounted from the budgetary process unless the quantum of the receipt can be ascertained with reasonable certainty.

Expenditure

A major part of expenditure in the year is on the support of parish life and in particular the maintenance and repairs of their buildings. The funding and support of building works in schools also resulted in a cost to the Diocese of £258,751 in the year (2020: £238,957).

Results for the year

A summary of the results for the year is shown on page 14 of these financial statements. The trustees report an overall surplus for the year of £3,600,908 (2020: deficit £1,126,739). The deficit for the year is categorised as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
General income and expenditure account	3,486,577	555,059
Restricted funds	(232,383)	250,048
Designated funds	346,714	(1,931,846)
	£ 3,600,908	£1,126,739
	=====	=====
	=	=

There were net incoming resources of £1,327,018 (2020: outgoing £256,235) before revaluations and investment asset disposals. The net surplus on investment assets was £2,273,890 (2020: deficit £870,504) of which £2,226,220 was unrealised surplus (2020: deficit £787,422), representing an increase in value between 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021 as markets recovered from the impact of COVID 19 in March 2020. This unrealised surplus included £447,500 of gain on Investment Properties following a professional revaluation in November 21. The effect of the net surplus on investment assets is to increase a surplus of £1,327,018 (2020: deficit of £256,235) to an overall surplus for the year of £3,600,908 (2020: deficit of £1,126,739).

Financial position

At 31 March 2021, the reserves were: -

	2021	2020
	£	£
Restricted	3,395,350	3,783,305
Restricted - fixed assets	139,131	142,293
Designated	5,306,210	4,782,200
Designated - fixed assets	169,078	172,921
General - fixed assets	15,336,612	14,500,380
General - unrestricted	5,421,432	2,785,806

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Year ended 31 March 2021

<u>£29,767,813</u>	<u>£26,166,905</u>
=====	=====
===	===

Restricted funds represent special collections and Easter and Christmas offerings to priests, not yet paid out by the year end. They also include legacies and other funds received for specific purposes.

Designated funds represent funds set aside for specific purposes, as listed in note 6 to these financial statements.

The general fund for fixed assets represents the value invested in fixed assets, principally churches and presbyteries.

Funds available to support the work of the Diocese in the future are those shown above as general unrestricted funds of £5,421,432 (2020: £2,785,806).

COVID 19 has materially impacted the Net Income reported in these financial statements given that many of our churches closed after the first UK lockdown was announced on 23 March 2020. Total Income for the year was down 16% on the previous year. When legacy income was excluded the income reduction was 24% on the previous year. This included £545,743 grant from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and excluding this grant, total income was down 32% on the previous year. Our traded investment portfolio suffered an unrealised loss at the end of 2020 following the announcement of the first UK lockdown. Markets recovered and then stabilised between April and September 2020 and at the end of the year unrealised profits on traded investments were £1,778,720 (2020: loss of £787,422)

Reserves policy

The Main Finance Board meets regularly to plan, monitor and review levels of expenditure on key or significant projects, and hence the impact on reserve levels. General income levels are also monitored regularly. The trustees consider that a prudent level of free reserves (those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or designated for specific purposes) is the equivalent of a maximum of 12 months' expenditure. This will allow the Diocese to deal effectively with a significant drop in income and also react to requests for funding arising from unexpected events. At 31 March 2021, the free reserves of £5,421,432 represented approximately 12.1 months of unrestricted expenditure. However expenditure in 2021 was significantly lower than in 2020 and based on 2020 expenditure free reserves at 31 March 2021 were 7.9 months. Trustees aim to increase the level of reserves held to 8 months by 31 March 23, 9 months by 31 March 2025 and 12 months by 31 March 2027.

Plans for the future

The Diocese will continue to monitor reserve levels to ensure that its long term aims can be met. The continued support of parish life and the Catholic community remains a priority and how this is to be achieved is a major focus for the Charity.

The principal focus will be on a number of main issues: -

- Exploring new ways of evangelisation so as to increase the numbers attending Sunday Mass.
- Using, in a more efficient way, the abilities and skills of the clergy, and being sensitive to the increasing demands made upon them.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

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Year ended 31 March 2021

- Mobilising the skills and abilities of lay professionals within our congregations to help address the financial and other challenges the Diocese will face over the coming years
- Ensuring that all Churches and ancillary buildings are appropriately maintained to support the mission of the Diocese.
- Making available Diocesan Funds in the event of national or international crises, subject to meeting the objects of the Charity.
- Enabling the resources of the Diocese to fund the core activities at the centre of the Charity's objectives.

Offertory appeals will be held around the Diocese to provide additional resources for parishes, and through the levy, the Curia. While specific increases have not been set, uplifts significantly in excess of inflation will be necessary to offset rising costs.

Funds held on behalf of others

Assets held as custodian trustees

Included within the Diocesan Investment Trust portfolio of shares are units held on behalf of a separately registered charity: The Northampton Diocesan Priests' Fund, whose objects are to aid the secular priests of the Diocese who are permanently or temporarily incapacitated by old age, infirmity, illness or accident. The assets within the overall portfolio are disclosed in note 2 and are separately distinguishable from assets of the Diocese. Quarterly reports are sent to the charity on the investment performance.

Signed by order of the trustees on.....2022

.....
Rt Rev Bishop D J Oakley

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2021

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of the charity's net movement in funds for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described 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 the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, 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 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 Report of the Trustees. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2021

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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the charity financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have 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 (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charity and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to Canon Law, employment law, safeguarding regulations and Charity Law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as Charities Act 2011 and Charities SORP.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

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Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees

Year ended 31 March 2021

- Review of minutes of trustees' meetings;
- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates. These related to depreciation, investment property valuations and accrued legacies.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 responsibility to anyone other than the charity's trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Haysmacintyre LLP
Statutory Auditors

10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

Date:

Haysmacintyre LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Balance Sheet

Year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	2021		2020	
	s	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	1	15,644,821		14,815,594	
Investments	2	10,125,166		8,578,768	
Investment properties	2	4,695,000		4,247,500	
			30,464,987		27,641,862
Current assets					
Debtors	3	2,891,467		2,565,260	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,148,654		-	
		5,040,121		2,565,260	
Bank Overdraft		-			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	5,530,337		258,246	
				3,781,971	
			(490,216)		(1,474,957)
Net current liabilities					
Total assets less current liabilities			29,974,771		26,166,905
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	5		(206,958)		-
Net assets			£29,767,813		£26,166,905
Funds					
General - unrestricted	6		5,421,432		2,785,806
General - fixed assets	6		15,336,612		14,500,380
			20,758,044		17,286,186

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Balance Sheet

Year ended 31 March 2021

Designated	6	5,306,210	4,782,200
Designated - fixed assets	6	169,078	172,921
Restricted	6	3,395,350	3,783,305
Restricted - fixed assets	6	139,131	142,293
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets		£29,767,8 13	£26,166,9 05
		=====	=====
		===	====

Approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on
its behalf by:

and signed on

.....
Rt Rev Bishop D J Oakley
Trustee

.....
Rev Dr B Killeen
Trustee

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2021

	Parochial		Curial		Diocesan	
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
Collections & donations	34,855	3,848,158	331,569	197,328	4,411,910	5,326,026
Second collections	11	113,179	-	184	113,363	404,053
Legacies		500	-	556,652	892,627	374,858
Grants received		30,868	39,388	200,158	612,331	305,465
Fundraising		64,975	27,749	44,704	286,455	909,478
<i>Investment income</i>						
Dividend income		-	43,401	16,885	124,471	184,757
Bank interest		-	-	-	4	23
Rental income		-	378,818	-	23,402	402,220
<i>Other incoming resources</i>						
Sales of assets		-	-	787,637	787,637	905,676
Total income	244,377	5,096,796	415,591	1,934,540	7,691,304	9,166,425
Expenditure on:						
<i>Raising funds:</i>						
Costs of generating voluntary income	9	24,019	51,459	-	57,802	133,280
Investment & property management costs		-	7,735	2,287	43,249	53,271
Charitable activities:						56,304
2 nd collections & grants	11	148,276	45,147	-	-	193,423
Support of parish life	7	38,293	3,506,280	48,386	714,049	4,307,008
Curial activities	7	-	7,906	571,731	838,916	1,418,553
School buildings provision	7	-	-	154,234	104,517	258,751
Total expenditure		210,588	3,618,527	776,638	6,364,286	
				1,758,533		9,422,660
		33,789	1,478,269	(361,047)	176,007	1,327,018
Other recognised gains/ (losses) on investment assets:						(256,235)
Realised on disposal		-	8,818	3,162	35,690	47,670
Unrealised- Investments		-	293,336	91,713	-	1,778,720
					1,393,671	(787,422)
Unrealised- Investment Properties		-	-	-	447,500	447,500
Net income/ (expenditure)		33,789	1,780,423	(266,172)	2,052,868	3,600,908
						(1,126,739)
Transfers between funds		-	(1,023,804)	(158,734)	-	-
					1,182,538	-

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2021

Net movement in funds	33,789	756,619	(424,906)	3,235,406	3,600,908	(1,126,739)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	950,489		2,975,109	9,029,863		
		13,211,444			26,166,905	27,293,644
Total funds carried forward at 31 Mar 2021	£984,278	£13,968,063	£2,550,203	£12,265,269	£29,767,813	£26,166,905
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

All the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

Detailed comparatives are shown in Note 17 to these financial statements.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2021

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities				
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities (see below)		1,134,017		(1,004,774)
Cash flows from investing activities				
Interest received	4		23	
Dividends received	184,757		267,139	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1,188,233)		(2,432,752)	
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	799,682		953,308	
Purchase of investments	(1,818,736)		(2,202,103)	
Sale of investments	2,098,728		2,260,363	
Sale of investment properties	-		431,979	
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Net provided by (used in) investing activities		76,202		(722,043)
Cash flows from financing activities				
Loans received	1,200,000		-	
Interest charged on loans	(3,319)		-	
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Net provided by (used in) financing activities		1,196,681		-
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Change in cash and cash equivalents		2,406,900		(1,726,817)
Cash and cash equivalents at start of reporting period		(258,246)		1,468,571
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of reporting period		£2,148,654		£(258,246)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		====		====
		===		==

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2021

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2021

(i) Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Net (outgoings)/income per SOFA	3,600,908	(1,126,739)
Returns on investment	(2,273,890)	870,504
Investment income	(184,761)	(267,162)
Surplus on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(787,637)	(905,676)
Depreciation	357,908	301,495
Interest on loans	3,319	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(337,154)	116,551
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	755,324	6,253
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	<u>£1,134,017</u>	<u>£(1,004,774)</u>
	=====	=====

(ii) Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

Net funds at 1 April 2020	(258,246)	1,456,064
Increase in cash in the period	2,406,900	(1,714,310)
Net funds at 31 March 2021	<u>£2,148,654</u>	<u>£(258,246)</u>
	=====	=====

(iii) Analysis of changes in Net Funds/(Debt)

	1 April 2020 £	Cash Flow £	31 March 2021 £
Cash in hand and at bank	(258,246)	2,406,900	2,148,654
Debt due within 1 year	-	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)
Debt due after 1 year	-	(200,000)	(200,000)
	<u>£(258,246)</u>	<u>£1,206,900</u>	<u>£948,654</u>
	=====	=====	=====
	==	==	==
	1 April 2019 £	Cash Flow £	31 March 2020 £
Cash in hand and at bank	1,468,571	(1,726,817)	(258,246)
Debt due after 1 year	(12,507)	12,507	-
	<u>£1,456,064</u>	<u>£(1,714,310)</u>	<u>£(258,246)</u>
	=====	=====	=====
	==	==	==

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2021

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2021

The principal accounting policies which are adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of non-marketable assets held for charitable purposes, investment properties and listed investments at market value. The format of the financial statements has been presented to comply with the Charities Act 2011, FRS102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland* and the Statement of Recommended Practice *Accounting and Reporting by Charities* ("SORP 2019"). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102. Figures are presented in sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

The charity has two subsidiary companies, RCDN Property Services Ltd and St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd. The latter is dormant and will remain so until COVID 19 restrictions are fully removed. In the opinion of the Trustees, the activities of RCDN Property Services Ltd are immaterial to the group as a whole and therefore consolidated financial statements have not been prepared.

General information

The Charity is a charity registered in England and Wales (charity number: 234091). The Charity's registered office address is Bishop's House, Marriott Street, Northampton, NN2 6AW.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties which would cast doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Trust has significant Fixed Assets including financial investments valued at 30 September 2021 at £10.8m. It also has a cash balance as at 21 January 22 (not including funds held on behalf of schools or clubs) of £4.1m. This balance includes £3m of bank loan finance. £1m of this is a Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan and a further £2m is a term loan used to help finance the construction of the St Thomas Centre. Forecast projections for 12 months from the date these accounts are signed indicate that the charity continues to be going concern in the foreseeable future.

Income and expenditure

Income is recognised in the period in which its receipt is probable and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income from parochial activities and other voluntary donations is recognised on a receipts basis. Income from investments, grant agencies, rental properties and other sources of a non-ex-gratia nature are recognised on an accruals basis. Legacies are recognised once the charity is advised that payment is due and the amount involved can be quantified.

Costs of raising funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the management of the Charity's investments.

Costs of charitable activities consist of all expenditure directly relating to the objects of the Charity. Support costs which cannot be directly allocated are apportioned between charitable activities and governance costs on the basis of the Trustee's estimate of the time spent on the relevant functions.

Employment benefits, including holiday pay, are recognised in the period in which they are earned. Termination benefits are recognised in the period in which the decision is made and communicated to the relevant employee(s).

Governance costs include expenditure on management and compliance with

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2021

constitutional and statutory requirements together with an allocation of support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is included with the category of expenses to which it relates.

Tangible assets

a. Freehold land and buildings

Functional land and buildings

1. Churches, Presbyteries, Halls and Offices etc.

Freehold land

Functional land (i.e. land used for the prime purpose of the Charity), is included in the financial statements at original cost or, where this is not available, at an estimate of its historic cost (or in the case of donated land, at its fair value at the date of receipt).

Freehold land is not depreciated because it has an indefinitely long useful life.

Freehold buildings

Functional buildings (i.e. buildings used for the prime purpose of the Charity), which are still in use by the Charity are included in the financial statements at original cost, or where this is not available, at an estimate of their historic cost (or in the case of donated buildings, at an estimate of their fair value at the date of receipt). All new functional buildings, improvements and major renovations are capitalised at the cost of construction.

Buildings which were in use at 31 March 1996 are depreciated at rates calculated to write off their estimated historic cost (less the estimated residual value) evenly over the remainder of their useful life.

The estimate of the useful life of a building varies depending on the condition and its future use, however, in general it is expected that a building in a reasonable state of repair will continue in use without major renovations or improvements for the following period:

Unlisted Churches	25 to 100 years
Cathedral and Listed Churches	100 to 200 years
Presbyteries	25 to 50 years
Other buildings	25 to 75 years

Depreciation rates are calculated using the age of the building and its expected useful life.

Details of the addresses of the Diocesan Churches and other buildings (both freehold and leasehold) can be found in the Diocesan yearbook.

2. Voluntary Aided Schools

Land

The charity owns the land on which its Voluntary Aided Schools are built. The nature of the occupation of the land by these exempt and excepted charities means that the Diocesan Trustees do not have the power to dispose of the land, until the school ceases its occupation, which in turn would require the approval of the governors and

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2021

the Secretary of State. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the land is treated as inalienable and is not capitalised. The cost of any land acquired for the purposes of a Voluntary Aided School is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of acquisition.

Buildings

The school buildings are occupied, improved, extended and repaired by the school governors. The nature of the occupation of these buildings by these exempt and excepted charities means that the Diocesan Trustees do not have control over the buildings, until the school ceases its occupation, which in turn would require the approval of the governors and the Secretary of State. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the buildings are treated as inalienable. The school governors account for the building, improvement and repair costs of the schools and account for any grants received in respect of these costs. Grants made by the Diocese or parishes to the governors in order to assist them with their liability for school building costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of payment.

Details of the Diocesan Voluntary Aided Schools (both freehold and leasehold) are given in the Diocesan Yearbook.

a. Freehold land and buildings (continued)

3. Academies

Land

The charity owns the land on which its Academies are built. The nature of the occupation of the land by these multi-academy trusts by long term lease or other agreement means that the Diocesan Trustees do not have the power to dispose of the land, until the school ceases its occupation, under the terms of occupancy. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the land is treated as inalienable and is not capitalised. The cost of any land acquired for the purposes of an Academy is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of acquisition.

Buildings

The school buildings are occupied, improved, extended and repaired by the Academy Trustees. The nature of the occupation of these buildings by these multi-academy trusts means that the Diocesan Trustees do not have control over the buildings, until the school ceases its occupation under the terms of the lease or occupation terms. Consequently, for the purposes of these financial statements the buildings are treated as inalienable. The academy trustees account for the building, improvement and repair costs of the schools and account for any grants received in respect of these costs. Grants made by the Diocese or parishes to the academy trust in order to assist them with its liability for school building costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of payment.

Details of the Academies are given in the Diocesan Yearbook.

b. Fixtures, fittings and equipment

Fixtures, fittings and equipment which were in use at 31 March 1996 and which had a current replacement cost exceeding £2,000 have been capitalised and included in the financial statements at an estimate of their historical costs (or in the case of donated assets, at an estimate of value at the date of acquisition). Subsequent acquisitions with a cost, (or in the case of donated assets, estimated value) of over £2,000 are capitalised on the same basis. They are depreciated at rates calculated to write off

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2021

the cost or valuation, less the estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Church furniture/plate	Over 50 years
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	Over 10 years
Computers	Over 3 years

Financial Instruments

The charity only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable and investments in stocks and shares. The measurement basis used for these financial instruments is detailed below.

Investments

Investments are disclosed at market value at the balance sheet date. All changes in value in the year, whether or not realised, are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Details of the date and basis of valuation and valuer in respect of investment properties are given in note 2 to these financial statements. As these assets are recorded at current market value, no charge for depreciation is made in the financial statements.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Pension schemes

Contributions towards employees' personal pension schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they become payable. The Diocese is neither liable to finance any funding shortfall, nor entitled to benefit from any over-funding.

The Diocese makes contributions to the personal pension money purchase schemes of a number of its priests. Such contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they fall due. The Diocese also makes provision to pay an income in retirement to priests who do not participate in the money purchase scheme. This provision is held as a designated fund and is funded principally by an annual transfer from general unrestricted funds.

Funds

Restricted funds are funds where the income is restricted by the conditions imposed by the donors. They represent special collections and Easter and Christmas offerings to priests, not yet paid out by the year end. They also include legacies received for specific purposes. Funds generated for specific causes such as the Cathedral Centre campaign are also treated as restricted.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Statement of Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2021

Designated funds represent funds set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes, as listed in note 6 to these financial statements.

The general fund for fixed assets represents the value invested in fixed assets, principally churches and presbyteries. The balance of unrestricted funds represents funds available to support the work of the Diocese in the future.

Significant judgements

In preparing these financial statements the trustees have had to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in these financial statements. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Key areas subject to judgement and estimation relate to depreciation, investment property valuations and accrued legacies.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

1. FIXED ASSETS	Church Property £	Furniture and Fittings £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2020	24,366,159	2,478,333	26,844,492
Additions	1,037,530	150,703	1,188,233
Disposals	(6,406)	-	(6,406)
	<u>25,397,283</u>	<u>2,629,036</u>	<u>28,026,319</u>
At 31 March 2021			-
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	10,000,755	2,028,143	12,028,898
Charge for year	312,329	45,579	357,908
Disposals	(5,308)	-	(5,308)
	<u>10,307,776</u>	<u>2,073,722</u>	<u>12,381,498</u>
At 31 March 2021			-
Net book value			
At 31 March 2021	<u>£15,089,507</u>	<u>£555,314</u>	<u>£15,644,821</u>
	=====	=====	=====
	=	==	===
At 31 March 2020	<u>£14,365,404</u>	<u>£450,190</u>	<u>£14,815,594</u>
	=====	=====	=====
	=	==	===

All assets are used for direct charitable purposes.

The properties, comprising churches, church halls and presbyteries, and contents are stated at actual or estimated historical cost. The market value of fixed assets has not been determined as the benefit to the readers of the financial statements does not, in the opinion of the trustees, justify the cost which would be incurred

Capital commitments

There are capital commitments of nil (2020 - £1,271,532) as at 31 March 2021 relating to building and improvement projects.

2. ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS	2021		2020	
	Market value £	Historical cost £	Market value £	Historical cost £
Hunting fund				
UK listed securities	765,497	548,111	422,977	375,591
Non UK listed securities	440,005	251,716	524,455	346,865
Cash balance	10,369	10,369	35,674	35,674
	<u>1,215,871</u>	<u>810,196</u>	<u>983,106</u>	<u>758,130</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Lord Braye Trust				
UK listed securities	8,688	8,236	7,575	8,236
Cash balance	104	104	104	104
	<u>8,792</u>	<u>8,340</u>	<u>7,679</u>	<u>8,340</u>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

8,792	8,340	7,679	8,340
=====	=====	=====	=====

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

2. ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENTS (continued)	2021		2020	
	Market value £	Historical cost £	Market value £	Historical cost £
Special reserve fund				
UK listed securities	1,208,917	950,071	633,002	637,599
Non UK listed securities	606,066	341,847	798,010	579,985
Cash balance	40,064	40,064	71,206	71,206
	<u>1,855,047</u>	<u>1,331,982</u>	<u>1,502,218</u>	<u>1,288,790</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
				=
Diocesan Investment Trust				
UK listed securities	3,046,979	2,198,379	1,594,833	1,390,831
Non UK listed securities	1,433,547	728,515	2,113,435	1,567,186
Cash balance	70,183	61,544	158,656	158,656
	<u>4,550,709</u>	<u>2,988,438</u>	<u>3,866,924</u>	<u>3,116,673</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
				=
Together in Faith				
UK listed securities	291,400	261,132	59,016	59,610
Non UK listed securities			382,683	406,492
Cash balance	1,258	1,258	11,638	11,638
	<u>292,658</u>	<u>262,390</u>	<u>453,337</u>	<u>477,740</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
				=
Legacy				
UK listed securities	407,794	409,285	601,345	629,279
Non UK listed securities			89,434	93,624
Cash balance	588,531	588,531	306,398	306,398
	<u>996,325</u>	<u>997,816</u>	<u>997,177</u>	<u>1,029,301</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
				=
Parish Legacy				
UK listed securities	977,459	886,857	481,977	564,920
Non UK listed securities	493,368	372,308	689,933	704,505
Cash balance	35,568	35,568	40,076	40,076
	<u>1,506,395</u>	<u>1,294,733</u>	<u>1,211,986</u>	<u>1,309,501</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Wholly Owned Trading Subsidiary				
RCDN Property Services Ltd	100	100	100	100

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

	=====	=====	=====	=====
	Market Value			
	2021	2020		
	£	£		
Total investments controlled by the Diocese	10,425,897	9,022,527		
Diocesan Investment Trust units held by The Northampton Diocesan Priests Fund	(300,731)	(443,759)		
Total investments held by the Diocese	£10,125,166	£8,578,768		
	=====	=====		
		==		

There are no material investments held representing more than 5% of the total. The investments are held for both maximising total investment return and to provide income for charitable activities.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Market value		
At 1 April 2020	8,578,768	9,489,511
Additions	1,696,411	1,890,945
Disposals	(2,098,728)	(2,260,363)
Unrealised (losses)/gains on investments	1,778,720	(787,422)
Realised (losses)/gains on investments	47,670	(65,061)
Movement on bank accounts	122,325	311,158
At 31 March 2021	£10,125,166	£8,578,768
	=====	=====
		=
	2021	2020
	£	£
Investment property		
At valuation		
At 1 April 2020	4,247,500	4,697,500
Additions		
Disposals	-	(431,979)
Transfers from/(to) fixed assets		

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

Realised (loss)/gain on investment property disposals	-	(18,021)
Unrealised gain on revaluation	447,500	
At 31 March 2021	£4,695,000	£4,247,500
	=====	=====
		==

The investment properties were valued by Ben Coleman Associates as at November 2021, on the basis of open market value. Trustees consider that the current values of the investment properties have not moved materially since the last valuation.

The investments are held for both maximising total investment return and to provide income for charitable activities.

3. DEBTORS	2021	2020
	£	£
School expenditure recoverable	1,445,093	1,618,724
Prepayments and accrued income	1,446,374	946,536
	£2,891,467	£2,565,260
	=====	=====
		==

Included in accrued income above are legacies of £846;846 (2020: £170,716) which have been received after the year end but were notified prior to this date.

4. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2021	2020
	£	£
Other creditors	522,943	946,320
School devolved formula capital monies	561,527	619,608
Other school monies	3,272,313	2,117,710
PAYE and social security	33,541	32,349
Accruals and deferred income	140,013	65,984
Bank loan	1,000,000	-
	£5,530,337	£3,781,971
	=====	=====
		==

The Bank loan is with the National Westminster Bank Plc. It is supported by the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme. The facility is due to be repaid on 31st January 2022 and the annual interest applicable is 0%. There is no security.

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	2021	2020
	£	£
Other creditors due within two to five years	6,958	-
Loan due within two to five years	200,000	

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

£206,958
=====

The loan facility is provided by Rathbone Investment Management Ltd. The loan is secured on the investments held with them and attracts interest at a rate of 2.5% above base rate. The loan is due to be repaid on 30th April 2025

6 FUNDS

	2020 £	Movement in year £	Transfer Between Funds £	2021 £
Restricted:				
Restricted: Parishes and other	2,055,869	138,884	(158,734)	2,036,019
Restricted: Together in Faith	1,727,436	(368,105)	-	1,359,331
Fixed Assets	142,293	(3,162)	-	139,131
	<u>3,925,598</u>	<u>(232,383)</u>	<u>(158,734)</u>	<u>3,534,481</u>
General: fixed assets	14,500,380	836,232	-	15,336,612
General: diocesan fund	2,785,806	2,650,345	(14,719)	5,421,432
Designated funds:				
Diocesan maintenance	135,713	36,982	-	172,695
Ecclesiastical Education	5,784	143,649	-	149,433
Educational Trust	602,447	107,560	-	710,007
Northampton Slough				
Diocesan Education Trust	345,149	90,815	-	435,964
Mass funds	196,790	39,700	-	236,490
Fox Den Trust	192,670	-	-	192,670
Fox Den Trust fixed assets	172,921	(3,843)	-	169,078
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	28,826	11,068	-	39,894
Chapter fund	9,457	(2,803)	-	6,654
Sick clergy insurance	43,594	42,206	-	85,800
Theological Education	9,875	-	-	9,875
Jubilee Fund	1,284,581	(438,464)	173,453	1,019,570
Property Fund	1,332,209	197,299	-	1,529,508
Trust funds	593,970	122,533	-	716,503

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

Ezekiel	1,135	12	-	1,147
	<u>4,955,121</u>	<u>346,714</u>	<u>173,453</u>	<u>5,475,288</u>
Total funds	£26,166,905	£3,600,908	£-	£29,767,813
	=====	=====	=====	=====
	==	=====	=====	=====

6 FUNDS (continued)

	2019	Movement	Transfer	2020
	£	in year	Between	£
		£	Funds	
			£	
Restricted:				
Restricted: Parishes and other	2,329,018	692,494	(965,643)	2,055,869
Restricted: Together in Faith	2,344,858	(439,284)	(178,138)	1,727,436
Restricted: Together in Faith Fixed Assets	145,455	(3,162)	-	142,293
	<u>4,819,331</u>	<u>250,048</u>	<u>(1,143,781)</u>	<u>3,925,598</u>
General: fixed assets	12,401,483	2,098,897	-	14,500,380
General: diocesan fund	4,434,749	(1,543,838)	(105,105)	2,785,806
Designated funds:				
Diocesan maintenance	130,150	5,563	-	135,713
Ecclesiastical Education	147,900	(142,116)	-	5,784
Educational Trust	629,224	(26,777)	-	602,447
Northampton Slough				
Diocesan Education Trust	370,812	(25,663)	-	345,149
Mass funds	205,824	(9,034)	-	196,790
Fox Den Trust	192,670	-	-	192,670
Fox Den Trust fixed assets	176,764	(3,843)	-	172,921
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	31,114	(2,288)	-	28,826

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

Chapter fund	10,392	(935)	-	9,457
Sick clergy insurance	80,641	(37,047)	-	43,594
GK Chesterton research	111	(111)	-	-
Theological Education	9,875	-	-	9,875
Jubilee Fund	1,297,383	(192,483)	179,681	1,284,581
Cathedral Centre Campaign	720,772	(1,789,977)	1,069,205	-
Property Fund	995,255	336,954	-	1,332,209
Trust funds	638,073	(44,103)	-	593,970
Ezekiel	1,121	14	-	1,135
	<u>5,638,081</u>	<u>(1,931,846)</u>	<u>1,248,886</u>	<u>4,955,121</u>
Total funds	<u>£27,293,644</u>	<u>£(1,126,739)</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£26,166,905</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
	====	====	====	====

Restricted funds (Parish and others) represent monies raised for specific purposes and Easter and Christmas offerings to priests, not yet paid out by the year end. They also include legacies received and fundraising for specific purposes, including for the Northampton Cathedral Centre, provisions made for the retirement of priests and voluntary parental contributions to building costs of our voluntary aided schools.

Restricted Together in Faith represents donations made to meet costs to support retired clergy and the training of new priests, as well as the funding of catechists and lay training and also particular parish projects.

6. FUNDS (continued)

Transfers totalling £27,805 (2020: £25,374) relate to amounts paid from general funds for which restricted income has been received.

Transfers of £130,929 were made from the restricted fund associated with the new Cathedral Centre to general funds as the costs of construction have been incurred in full.

An amount transferred from parochial unrestricted to curial unrestricted of £750,351 (2020: £788,089) relates to levies charged to parishes.

Designated funds are amounts set aside at the discretion of the trustees and are for longer term purposes. They include funds set aside for the support of the Bishop, the education of new priests and the laity, the provision of some accommodation for retired priests and the support of schools. Expenditure is made from the majority of these funds on an annual basis, but where this is not the case, the Trustees are continually reviewing their purpose to ensure their designation remains appropriate.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

An amount of £173,453 (2020: £179,681) was transferred from general funds to the Jubilee Pension Fund representing contributions made in the year by parishes to the retirement fund for priests.

The funds above incorporate all funds under the control of the Diocese and these include 3 trusts registered as separate charities:-

Northampton Diocesan Education Fund	Charity Number 267132
Lord Braye's Foundation	Charity Number 242281
The Charity of Frances Alice Chesterton	Charity Number 252034
Northampton Slough Diocese Educational Trust	Charity Number 1165631

7 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestrict ed Funds £	2021 Total £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestrict ed Funds £	2020 Total £
Support of parish life						
Liturgical and pastoral	24,577	319,154	343,731	91,716	629,198	720,914
Domestic Establishment		243,634	243,634		292,255	292,255
Office		987,387	987,387		1,175,810	1,175,810
Travel		252,258	252,258		310,893	310,893
Personnel		64,176	64,176		111,582	111,582
Parish workers	45,224	694,728	739,952	34,985	897,383	932,368
Repository		698,134	698,134	25,373	725,390	750,763
Parish church and		21,331	21,331	47,951	87,972	135,923

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

presbytery repairs	5,472	229,495	234,967	59,017	452,189	511,206
Church and presbytery repairs	8,244	355,286	363,530	6,160	1,203,617	1,209,777
Depreciation	3,162	354,746	357,908	3,162	298,333	301,495
Subtotal	86,679	4,220,329	4,307,00	268,364	6,184,622	6,452,986
Activities carried out centrally						
Religious advisers expenses		313,616	313,616		448,012	448,012
Expenses of diocesan commission	7,493	126,571	134,064	13,315	171,683	184,998
Mass funds		(1,908)	(1,908)		8,565	8,565
Marriage tribunal		23,781	23,781		27,435	27,435
Youth service		167,287	167,287		165,609	165,609
Diocesan maintenance		171,813	171,813		195,244	195,244
Ecclesiastical education	66,820	-	66,820		167,372	167,372
Personnel	497,418	39,396	536,814	355,944	267,119	623,063
Diocesan newspaper		6,266	6,266		13,305	13,305
Vocations		0			7,684	7,684
Subtotal	571,731	846,822	1,418,55	369,259	1,472,028	1,841,287
Provision of Catholic school buildings and maintenance						
Donations at parish level		-			2,000	2,000
School repairs	154,234	104,517	258,751	16,024	220,933	236,957
Subtotal	154,234	104,517	258,751	16,024	222,933	238,957
Totals	£812,642	£5,171,670	£5,984,312	£653,647	£7,879,583	£8,533,230
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

8. SUPPORT COSTS

Finance office costs, principally comprising salaries, bank charges, bank interest and office running costs, totalled £453,435 (2020: £527,856). These costs are apportioned to activities either on a direct cost basis, on a staff time basis or on an estimated usage basis of 75% parish life, 20% curia activities, 5% provision of school

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

buildings.

9. RAISING FUNDS	2021	2020
	£	£
Fundraising	98,895	193,911
Planned giving expenses	34,385	38,746
Investment management costs	53,271	56,304
	£186,551	£288,961

10 AUDITORS' REMUNERATION	2021	2020
	£	£
External auditors fees gross of VAT	36,600	28,560
Internal auditors fees	6,525	2,526
	£43,125	£31,086

11. SECOND COLLECTIONS PAYABLE IN FURTHERANCE OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS

These are special collections held at each parish in support of certain organisations related to the church or supported by individual parishes and the work that they carry out. These incoming donations are held as restricted funds and are then paid out to the relevant organisation.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Incoming second collections	113,179	404,053
Amounts paid out	148,276	486,749

Not included in these figures are second collections taken and paid out in full in relation to a number of organisations where it is either mandatory or customary to support those charities. The monies raised and paid out are treated as conduit funding and so are excluded from the Diocesan accounts. The total of such monies received and paid out in full was £133,129 (2020: £341,851). The organisations supported include Sick and Retired Clergy fund, Holy Shrines, Mass Media, Peter's Pence, Apostleship of the Sea, Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, Third World Aid, Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD), St Vincent de Paul Society, Survive-MIVA (Missionary Vehicle Association).

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

12 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS	Tangible		Net	
	fixed assets £	Investments £	assets £	Total £
2021				
Restricted funds	139,131	893,774	2,501,576	3,534,481
General	15,336,612	11,222,596	(5,801,164)	20,758,044
Designated	169,078	2,703,796	2,602,414	5,475,288
Total funds	£15,644,821	£14,820,166	£(697,174)	£29,767,813
	=====	=====	=====	=====
	==	=		==
2020				
Restricted Funds	142,293	801,186	2,982,119	3,925,598
General	14,500,380	9,848,658	(7,062,852)	17,286,186
Designated	172,921	2,176,424	2,605,776	4,955,121
	£14,815,594	£12,826,268	£(1,474,957)	£26,166,905
	=====	=====	=====	=====
	==	==	==	==

1 STAFF COSTS 3.	2021	2020
	£	£
Gross salaries	1,519,176	1,635,117
Employer's national insurance	103,528	111,454
Employer's pension contributions	47,766	50,283
	£1,670,470	£1,796,854
	=====	=====
	=	==

The average number of employees analysed, by function, was:

	Number	Number
Fundraising and publicity	1	1
Direct charitable	103	106
Management and administration of the charity	5	5
	109	112
	=====	=====

One employee (2020: one employee) earned between £70,001 and £80,000. Employer contributions of £2,913 (2020: £2,913) were made to a personal pension scheme on behalf of that employee.

Key management personnel received salary, employer's national insurance and pension contributions of £291,396 (2020: £320,425).

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

Redundancy and termination payments of £3,130 were paid during the year (2020: - £Nil).

14. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES

No trustee received remuneration (2020: None) and no trustee was reimbursed (2020: One £206) for expenses in their role as trustee during the year. Insurance premiums paid include trustees' indemnity insurance. A total of £30,520 (2020: £3,360) donations were received from Trustees during the year.

15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year (2020: £Nil).

16. SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

The charity currently has two wholly owned subsidiary companies.

St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral Centre Ltd did not trade in the year. It commenced trading in August 2021.

RCDN Property Services Ltd provides property project management services to schools within the Diocese. The charity owns 100% of the issued share capital of £100 in this company.

A summary of the accounts of the company is provided below:-

	2021	2020
	£	£
Turnover	44,599	15,573
Administrative expenses	(1,103)	(1,560)
Operating Profit	43,496	14,013
Corporation Tax on Profit	-	(2,662)
Profit for the financial year	£43,496	£11,351
Current assets	64,054	26,050
Creditors:- amounts falling due within one year	(20,458)	(14,599)
Net current assets	£43,596	£11,451

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

17. SOFA Comparative 2020

	Parochial		Curial		Diocesan	
	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2020 £	2019 £
Income from:						
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
Collections & donations	135,665	4,757,064	33,191	400,106	5,326,026	5,526,240
Second collections	11 404,053	-	-	-	404,053	438,183
Legacies	-	189,451	157,572	27,835	374,858	1,571,649
Grants received	74,685	12,500	218,280	-	305,465	262,900
Fundraising	224,142	404,512	232,474	48,350	909,478	796,200
<i>Investment income</i>						
Dividend income	-	60,449	18,874	187,816	267,139	275,846
Bank interest	-	23	-	-	23	18
Rental income	-	649,556	-	24,151	673,707	576,342
<i>Other incoming resources</i>						
Sales of assets	-	-	-	905,676	905,676	113,816
Total income	838,545	6,073,555	660,391	1,593,934	9,166,425	9,561,194
Expenditure on:						
<i>Raising funds:</i>	9					
Costs of generating voluntary income	50,575	123,320	-	58,762	232,657	181,557
Investment & property management costs	-	7,976	2,189	46,139	56,304	52,495
Charitable activities:						
2 nd collections & grants	11 486,749	113,720	-	-	600,469	577,437
Support of parish life	7 230,217	5,721,727	38,147	462,895	6,452,986	6,181,113
Curial activities	7 -	9,425	369,259	1,462,603	1,841,287	1,778,314
School buildings provision	7 605	2,739	15,419	220,194	238,957	256,988
Total expenditure	768,146	5,978,907	425,014	2,250,593	9,422,660	9,027,908
	70,399	94,648	235,377	(656,659)	(256,235)	533,286
Other recognised gains/ (losses) on investment assets:						
Realised on disposal	-	(2,796)	(1,060)	(79,226)	(83,082)	162,925
Unrealised	-	(125,391)	(54,668)	(607,363)	(787,422)	399,619
Net income/(expenditure)	70,399	(33,539)	179,649	(1,343,248)	(1,126,739)	1,095,830
Transfers between funds	(7,043)	(1,083,176)	(1,136,738)	2,226,957	-	-
Net movement in funds	63,356	(1,116,715)	(957,089)	883,709	(1,126,739)	1,095,830
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	887,133	14,328,159	3,932,198	8,146,154	27,293,644	26,197,814
Total funds carried forward at 31 Mar 2020	£950,489	£13,211,444	£2,975,109	£9,029,863	£26,166,905	£27,293,644

All the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.