

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE
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26 October 2022

Dear Father, Deacon and Parish Pastoral Worker,

I am writing to you today about Share, the Diocesan Development Fund, which depends on the generosity of parishioners across the Archdiocese. Through the work of the Dublin Diocesan Offices, Share provides a range of essential services to our parishes and schools.

In the Diocesan Offices we are fortunate to have a dedicated and skilled group of people whose work is indispensable. They serve the Archbishop, priests, deacons, parish pastoral workers and all in pastoral leadership roles, ensuring the daily functioning of the Church in the Archdiocese.

Colleagues at Archbishop's House support me in my pastoral responsibilities to clergy, parishes, lay members of the Church, and those belonging to Religious Congregations who minister in the Diocese. The work of the Office for Mission and Ministry and the Communications Office is helping to renew the pastoral focus of the Archdiocese and its parishes in these changing times. The resourcing of Parish Pastoral Councils and Finance Committees, adult faith development, funeral ministry, and liturgy and music, for example, are crucial in the everyday pastoral life of the parish. The Education Secretariat provides important support for our schools, their teachers and pupils.

As a result of the Share collection, and in order to help them fulfil their increasing pastoral, administrative and statutory responsibilities, the Diocesan Offices also provide parishes with training and advice on legislative compliance across a range of areas, including the protection of children and vulnerable adults, financial reporting and auditing, property, health and safety, data protection, charity governance and human resources. In this way, parishes are continuing to meet and go beyond best practice standards.

The *Building Hope* initiative, promoting pastoral renewal and partnership between parishes will assist in the development of a pastoral strategy for the future. The need for contemporary approaches to our mission of bringing Christ to the people in our parishes and beyond has never been more stark.

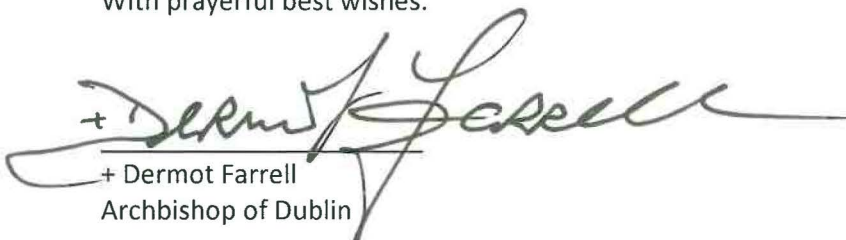
Share also continues to provide much needed financial support to disadvantaged parishes where alternative funding cannot be secured. As we emerge from the pandemic, the Office for Financial Development is available to parishes to ensure awareness of and provide access to available external grant funding.

All these services are invaluable to parishes and are primarily funded by the Share collection. The supporting financial schedules convey the very significant impact the pandemic has had. Considerable savings have been made through reduced numbers of staff in the Diocesan Offices, as also identified in the tables provided. With the final closure of Clonliffe, and the move to smaller diocesan premises, further savings can be achieved.

In this letter I have responded to a question sometimes asked in relation to the second collection. While the purposes of the Share collection have changed over the years, it is an essential source of funding in the Archdiocese, supporting parish life and ministry. Please give as generously as you can on this Share Appeal Sunday, and continue to support Share every Sunday.

Thank you for your understanding and generosity.

With prayerful best wishes.



+ Dermot Farrell
Archbishop of Dublin