



## Finance Committee Update December 2023

It has been a busy year for the finance committee to date. The policy we are working to is trying to secure all of the buildings to make them as weather tight as possible. We are also focused on how we can maintain and heat the buildings in a more "Green" way. This has led to a number of major projects.

### In Ss. Peter & Paul's Church.

#### Lighting

- ✓ Just before Christmas 2022 we upgraded all of the ledge lighting and emergency lighting to low energy LED lights. This in turn leads to less energy being consumed when the lights are on and a longer lifetime for the bulbs. This in itself will lead to a sizeable saving over time.

#### Doors

- ✓ St. Peter & Paul's Church is a very large space, opened in 1937. It battles with its exposure to the Shannon, its height, and the actual structure itself which would not have the benefit of modern insulation in its construction.
- ✓ With this in mind we have been looking at the way heat escapes from the building. We have had the three sets of external doors taken away and completely refurbished, they now have modern draft proofing and the original almost 90-year-old locking systems fully restored. This is the first step of a project that will take a couple more years to complete.



#### Heating

- ✓ We are currently looking at Modern, Efficient, Environmentally Friendly heating options for the Church.
- ✓ Our hope is to have the smallest carbon footprint possible once a new heating system is agreed upon and installed. From the research we have done we are very confident that we can increase the temperature in the Church, reduce the cost of electricity and even move away completely from fossil fuels to heat and light the church. This will all take time and will have an initial cost, but we are confident it will make the church more comfortable and in the long-term lead to financial savings.

#### Sound

- ✓ St Peter & Paul's has over the last few years been know for its terrible sound. Thankfully it is much improved with the installation of a new digital sound mixer and new altar and Ambo microphones.

## St Brigid's Church Drum

### Bells

- ✓ The Bells on St. Brigid's had been quiet for a while. We replaced some of the electronic equipment and a new automatic striker for the bell. This has reinstated the Angelus, the Call to prayer before Mass and the dead bell at funerals.

### Wheelchair Seats

- ✓ We had two seats in the centre of the church modified so wheelchair users and sit with their family of friends during Mass. The easiest access to the church by wheelchair is through the double doors on the front porch where a low concrete ramp has been added.

### Tabernacle

- ✓ The Tabernacle is the most sacred place in the church, its doors had not been working correctly for some time, we had the front & doors of the tabernacle removed and a new frame designed and manufactured to re-hang the Original doors. This will ensure the doors operate smoothly into the future. Shortly we plan to re-line the inside of the tabernacle with a silk like material.



### Notice Board

- ✓ The Old Notice Board sat on top of a table lying against the window in the porch. The new one is hanging on the wall to the right as you enter the church. It will shortly have a light switch beside it to operate an integrated LED light in case anyone has a difficulty seeing the notices.

### Front Porch

- ✓ A lot of discussion and planning went into the replacement of the front door and window. We believe it was worth the wait.
- ✓ The New door & side window with the St. Brigid's Cross make a very nice welcome to the church and replace the old rotten frame.
- ✓ The new front porch window was installed recently and in its design hints at the outline of two St. Brigid's crosses. The new structure is double glazed and very weather tight and will ensure the weather will no longer have a negative affect on the porch.



## Our Lady of the Wayside Chapel, Clonown

### Painting

- ✓ Over the summer months the CE workers carried out the task of painting the outside of the church.



### Bell

- ✓ We are lucky enough to have the bell from the old Clonown Church.
  - We are currently working with Green's Forge to design a new bell structure with the view to hanging the bell in the church tower. Once this is complete, we plan to automate the bell so it will ring before Masses, for the Angelous at 12 noon and 6 pm and at funerals. We hope to have this in place in early 2024.

The above is a breakdown works completed during 2023.

We take this opportunity to thank all who have generously contributed to the parish over the last year.

As we progress larger projects (*Such as the Heat in Ss. Peter & Paul's Church*) it will not be possible to fund them using the normal weekly collection. In this event we will set up a fund-raising committee to work towards the goals. Thankfully nowadays we will hopefully be able to get some grant aid and possibly from other sources.

For now, we thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Parish.

Kindest Regards

The Parish Finance Committee.