

24th June 2025

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to take this opportunity, while presenting the Parish Financial Statement to the end of the calendar year 2024, to acknowledge my personal thanks and support you have extended to the parish in these challenging times.

The financial report highlights your continued commitment to support the daily running costs of the Parish estate through the weekly collection. It also reflects your on-going commitment to Trócaire and the special Diocesan collections.

We continue to endeavour to exercise financial prudence with regards to parish finances. Reduced Mass attendance has inevitably taken its toll on parish income. The uncertainty continues into this cycle particularly with the cost of living and increased inflationary costs. However, we are very grateful to the increasing numbers of parishioners who are now using the provision of standing orders to support the parish. (Further details are available on the parish website - www.parishofkilrea.com) or alternatively contact the Parish Office.

I ask for your consideration to avail of the Gift Aid scheme available to those who; pay income tax and use parish envelopes and standing orders. The Gift Aid scheme is under-used in this parish. It does not affect your personal tax; those details are private to yourself. However, the parish can benefit from the contribution you make to the parish by an additional 25% either via an envelope or Standing Order if you are a taxpayer. The only requirement is to fill in a Gift Aid card. (Gift Aid cards are available in each sacristy or the parish office).

If you are interested in supporting our parish through the medium of a standing order. In this correspondence you will find the details of the **Parish of Kilrea & Desertohill - Gift Aid A/C (Bank of Ireland) Sort Code - 904982. A/C No - 92433611**. It is at your discretion if you wish to contribute to this account by weekly/monthly contributions. If you advance the standing order, (it can be processed on-line with your bank), or alternatively bring the completed mandate to your bank. We request that when you are issuing your instruction to the bank, that you do so with your personal name, in doing so we can therefore identify from whom the standing order has been authorised. Also, you can withdraw the mandate at your own discretion. We would appreciate an acknowledgement of this transaction (by email) when it is activated, so that we can have a copy for the parish records. In the information forwarded we will require your address and telephone number. This information is required to ensure that you are not offered a box of envelopes next year. If your circumstances change and you wish to withdraw the mandate and continue with the use of envelopes, could you please contact the parish email address (parishofkilrea@btinternet.com). If you wish to contribute to the parish using parish envelopes, please contact the Parish Office or forward an email to register for parish envelopes.

If you have any further inquiries or clarification of any of the above, please contact either by email or telephone 29540343/29558251.

Parish Estate – Work has concluded in this phase of the development of Drumagarner cemetery. A cemetery policy has now been finalised and will shortly be available on the Parish website. The Marian Hall is open and enjoying continued success, the Parish extends its sincere gratitude to all the volunteers involved. We encourage use of this facility by the parish community. Craigavole Church Tower - we await from the Diocesan Building Committee approval to proceed and are presently seeking funding opportunities to advance this initiative.

Your continued generosity is very much appreciated in providing for the upkeep and development of the parish estate and the support of others who need our help particularly in developing countries.

Fr. Crowley.

