

Special Collections

Justice & Peace – Bishops’ Conference (January)

This collection goes to support the Archdiocese’s contribution to the National Justice & Peace Commission. Any surplus goes to support the Diocesan Justice & Peace Commission.

Lenten Alms – Diocesan

Any money collected with regard to Lenten Alms goes to the Archdiocese to help the Archbishop respond to requests for help that he gets.

SCIAF and Episcopal Charities – Diocesan (March)

The collection on the 4th Sunday of Lent is divided 75% to SCIAF and 25% to the requests that the Archbishop gets for charitable donations.

Aged and Infirm Clergy Fund – Diocesan (April)

This fund supports priests who have retired or are sick. The needs of this fund have changed hugely over the last 30 years, with many more priests now being retired. There is a drive on at the moment to create a central fund that will provide sufficient income to look after all retired or sick clergy. At the moment there are two collections a year in April and September.

Ecclesiastical Students – Diocesan (May)

This collection helps to meet some of the cost for the seminaries, students' fees, and other costs relating to students and staff in seminary. It is also used towards the costs of postgraduate studies and sabbaticals. The costs of educating students is always rising each year together with an increase in the number of candidates coming forward. On one level it is good that there is an increase in the number of students. At the moment the annual cost per student is approximately €22,000. There are currently 9 students studying in Rome.

Communications – Bishops’ Conference (May)

A National Levy is made on the Diocese by the Hierarchy. How this is used is communicated in literature received from the National Commission. Any funds left go to meet local communications costs.

Day for Life – National / Diocesan (June)

This was set up by the hierarchy and helps meet the contribution the Bishops' Conference make to the work of the Linacre Centre which advises and researches a whole range of bio-ethical and medical issues.

The surplus is allocated by the Bishops' Conference to groups/organisations working in the Pro Life field according to the theme for the year. In recent years Lifeline and SPRED have been worthwhile beneficiaries.

Peter’s Pence – National: Holy See (June)

This is sent to the Vatican via the Nunciature and is used to respond to charitable requests received by the Holy Father. It is not used for the upkeep of the Vatican or the Holy Father's expenses. It is acknowledged from the Vatican but no details of how the money is used are given.

African Missions and Holy Places – National: Holy See (August)

70% of this collection is sent to the Vatican via the Nunciature. A recent communication was received from the Vatican urging the ongoing support for this particular collection. 30% goes to the Commissariat for the Holy Places run by the Franciscans and is used to maintain the Christian Sites in the Holy Land as well as support pastoral work with both Christian and non-Christian groups. No detailed reports are received on the actual work carried out - only

acknowledgement of monies sent. A recent letter urges us to keep this collection going due to the difficulties the Church is experiencing now. The split is decided at Diocesan level.

The Aged & Infirm Clergy Fund – Diocesan (September)

Along with the annual levy, this is used towards the costs of those priests who are living in retirement or are sick. Reports and accounts are provided at the A.G.M. of the Fund each year.

Missio – National: Holy See (October)

There are three elements to Missio. The Mission Sunday collection is sent directly to the National Missio Office in Coatbridge for onward transmission to Rome where the money is allocated by the National Directors each May according to requests received. This collection should not be sent to the Diocesan-Office. Information on this is given by Missio itself direct to parishes.

The Missionary Children is dealt with in a similar fashion.

The St. Peter's Society for Native Priests is used to help and support the training of native priests in missionary lands. Reports are sent direct to parishes.

Catholic Education –

This is used to support the work of the diocesan office in education in regard to (i) schools and the education representatives on the local councils and (ii) the archdiocesan contribution to the Scottish Catholic Education Service.

Care Fund (Crib) – Diocesan (Christmas Season)

This is linked with the Lenten Alms and our share of Papal and Episcopal Charities to create our total Care Fund. It is normally collected using a box/basket at the Crib.

The Deanery Mission Appeal System – Local

Various missionary societies connected to Scotland are allocated a set amount of parishes and deaneries, within which to raise mission awareness and also raise money. The various Missionary Orders send reports to the National Mission Director and he produces details of the amounts collected.

St. Vincent de Paul Society: The SVDP have received little income this year since 23rd March, apart from some very welcome donations from parishioners. We intend to give them the equivalent of what they received from the parish last year. We anticipate that there will be increasing calls on their resources as various projects in the local area stop and as economic conditions deteriorate.

Various Local Parish projects

Other special collections can also take place. These are totally at the discretion of the Parish priests and include responses to various emergency appeals, SPUC White flower appeal, local links and twinning with third world projects etc. National and Diocesan Collections should be given priority.