

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

CONTENTS	Page
Trustees and Other Information	3
Report of the Trustees	4
Independent Auditors Report	15
Statement of Financial Activities	17
Balance Sheet	18
Cashflow Statement	19
Notes to the Financial Statements	20

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

TRUSTEES AND OTHER INFORMATION

TRUSTEES

- + Eamon Martin
- + Dermot Farrell
- + Diarmuid Martin (retired 2 February 2021)
- + Kieran O'Reilly SMA
- + Michael Neary
- + Donal McKeown
- + John Fleming
- + Denis Brennan
- + Brendan Kelly
- + Noel Treanor
- + William Crean
- + Brendan Leahy
- + Raymond Browne
- + Denis Nulty
- + Francis Duffy
- + Kevin Doran
- + Alphonsus Cullinan
- + Fintan Monahan
- + Alan McGuckian SJ
- + Thomas Deenihan
- + Lawrence Duffy
- + Fintan Gavin
- + Michael Duignan
- + Paul Dempsey (appointed 30 August 2020)
- + Dermot Meehan (replaced by Bishop Paul Dempsey)

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

Harry Casey

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COUNCIL

- + Dermot Farrell
- + John Fleming
- + Noel Treanor
- + Stephen Costello
- + Sean O'Dwyer
- + Anthony Harbinson
- + Aideen McGinley
- + Brian McEnery
- + Daire Hogan (appointed 19 February 2020)
- + Teresa Harrington (appointed 19 February 2020)

CHARITY NUMBER

CHY5956

CHARITY REGULATOR NUMBER

20009861

PRINCIPAL OFFICE

Columba Centre
Maynooth
Co. Kildare

AUDITORS:

Crowe Ireland
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Marine House, Clanwilliam Court, Dublin 2.

BANKERS:

AIB Plc
Bank of Ireland

INVESTMENT MANAGERS:

Davy Group

SOLICITORS:

Mason Hayes & Curran
South Bank House, Barrow Street,
Dublin 4

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Trustees present their annual report and the financial statements of the Hierarchy General Purposes Trust (HGPT) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Hierarchy General Purposes Trust was established on 12 December 1975 as a registered charity (20009861). The Trust's governing document is the Trust Deed. In line with the requirements of the Charities Act, and as an aspect of good governance, this Trust Deed was updated and was approved by the Charities Regulator on 28 April 2017. The updated Trust Deed expanded the number of Trustees, to include all Diocesan Bishops (including Apostolic Administrators and Diocesan Administrators) of each Roman Catholic Diocese on the island of Ireland.

Principal aims

The Trust was established to assist the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference (also known as the Irish Episcopal Conference) in exercising its collective responsibility for pastoral care, teaching and governance of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Trustees

The Trustees of the HGPT are the four Metropolitan Archbishops, Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin, Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly of Cashel and Emly, and Archbishop Michael Neary of Tuam and all Diocesan Bishops (including Apostolic Administrators and Diocesan Administrators) of each Roman Catholic Diocese on the island of Ireland.

Governance

The governance of the HGPT is accomplished through the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. This is the assembly of the Bishops of Ireland and the Conference normally meets in plenary session on a quarterly basis. The current membership of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference comprises the bishops (or Diocesan Administrators) of the 26 dioceses of Ireland together with auxiliary bishops. The Trustees are all Diocesan Bishops (including Apostolic Administrators and Diocesan Administrators) of each Roman Catholic Diocese on the island of Ireland.

To help it fulfil its aims more effectively, the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference has also established five Episcopal Commissions, comprising various Councils together with other agencies and bodies which focus on specific tasks and areas of responsibility to fulfil the mission of the Church. The day to day operations of Conference are overseen by a secretariat based in Maynooth, County Kildare.

The financial oversight of the HGPT is supported by the Finance and General Purposes Council (FGPC), comprising the Chairperson (Bishops' Finance Secretary), two other appointed bishop members and seven appointed voluntary lay members. The FGPC meets on a quarterly basis and all members of this Council (in line with all other Councils) are appointed for a minimum of three years with a potential maximum appointment of nine years.

Risk assessment

The Trustees annually assess the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to specific operational areas of the charity, its investments and its finances, by identifying and ranking risks in terms of their potential impact and likelihood. The Trustees believe that by monitoring the level of reserves, ensuring controls exist over key financial systems, and examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they are developing appropriate management strategies, and are establishing effective systems to mitigate these risks.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Relations with other charitable organisations

As the HGPT is the administrative and funding structure of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, it has close links with the diocesan charities throughout Ireland, through which the annual diocesan contributions towards the funding of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference are provided. The Trust relates to the charities of religious congregations within the Association of Missionaries and Religious Leaders of Ireland (AMRI), particularly through its provision of the administrative, human resource and financial management for the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI). The Trust also relates closely to those agencies of the Bishops' Conference that exist as independent charities, the main ones being: Trócaire, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development and ACCORD, Catholic Marriage Care Service. In December 2016 the Irish Episcopal Conference signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the World Meeting of Families 2018 Company Limited by Guarantee (registration number 590403) (WMOF 2018). This company, which is a registered charity in its own right (20152710), had the responsibility, in consultation with the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, for organising the IX World Meeting of Families (21-26 August 2018) in Dublin and the associated Papal visit at the time of that World Meeting. This company is now in the process of being wound up.

OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In order to fulfil its charitable aims and objectives, the activities of the HGPT are determined by the requirements of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.

The five constituent commissions of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, outlined below, broadly identify for the bishops the current areas of pastoral activity which optimally support the pastoral work of the twenty six dioceses on the island of Ireland and in their witness to the Gospel in the contemporary world.

Public benefit

The details of individual projects which are of public benefit are outlined below in this report. The work of the HGPT, through the pastoral outreach of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, contributes to the sum of public knowledge by publishing resources, by promoting initiatives, and by raising public awareness in the media, on its website (www.catholicbishops.ie) and via the digital media platforms of the Conference, the objective of all of which is to support Catholic life in Ireland.

The Trustees have been cognisant of general guidance on public benefit when reviewing their aims and objectives in planning their future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set. Through the work of the following five commissions – and their councils and agencies - the Trust, in line with Church teaching, seeks to ensure the moral and spiritual wellbeing of the individual, and to help discern the common good for all of society.

- Commission for Pastoral Care
- Commission for Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development
- Commission for Social Issues and International Affairs
- Commission for Catholic Education and Formation
- Commission for Planning, Communications & Resources

COMMISSION FOR PASTORAL CARE

During 2020 the Commission was chaired by Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare & Leighlin. The purpose of the Commission is to facilitate collaboration in order to serve the strategic objectives of its thirteen constituent parts and to make recommendations to the Bishops' Conference:

Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service

Accord on the island of Ireland comprises three autonomous incorporated companies limited by guarantee: Accord Northern Ireland; Accord Dublin; and Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG. This latter company oversees the work of Accord Central Office in Maynooth and centres in the Republic of Ireland outside of the Archdiocese of Dublin. Each company is a registered charity and publishes its own annual report.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Council for Life

Bishop Kevin Doran of Elphin is chair of the Council for Life whose purpose is to advise the Bishops' Conference on questions relating to the promotion and protection of life. The Council's objectives include giving priority to exploring how best, in the current socio-cultural context, the Catholic community can offer practical support to women in crisis pregnancy and, in the process, give unborn babies the best chance at life. The Council seeks to promote a consistent ethic of life, to give priority to promoting an understanding of life questions among young people and to engage them in the challenge of defending life. The 'Council for Life Ireland' Twitter presence went live during 2020 and is identified by the handle @ChooseLifeIRL.

Consultative Group on Bioethics

The Consultative Group on Bioethics is chaired by Bishop Doran. The Consultative Group was established in 2014, building on the legacy of the previous Bishops' Committee for Bioethics. Its purpose is to brief the Bishops' Conference on questions relating to Bioethics and the Ethics of Healthcare. It works closely with the Council for Healthcare. Following the publication of the *Code of Ethical Standards for Healthcare*, in December 2017, the Consultative Group has continued to seek an opportunity to partner with third level institutes to develop a Certificate Programme in Bioethics, which would be based on the Code of Ethical Standards.

Towards Peace

Towards Peace is a spiritual support service for people who have experienced physical, emotional or sexual abuse perpetrated by representatives of the Catholic Church in Ireland, either on an individual basis or in institutions. Chaired by Andrew Fagan, the service originated in response to a request from a number of survivors who despite having received counselling were still searching at some deeper level within themselves. It was established in 2014 by the Bishops' Conference, the Conference of Religious of Ireland and the Irish Missionary Union (the latter two are now represented by the Association of Leaders of Missionaries & Religious of Ireland).

Through conversations with a spiritual director/companion, an 'anam cara' or soul friend, Towards Peace is a pathway, a safe space where people who have been hurt can connect with their own spirituality, their sense of God and the sacred, their own journey towards peace. The service is free and is available to the families of those who have been affected. All Towards Peace spiritual companions are fully trained, qualified and experienced lay people, religious and clergy, based throughout the country, committed to ongoing specialised training and regular professional supervision. They are also members of AISGA (All Ireland Spiritual Guide Association) and abide by its Code of Ethics.

Given the particularly sensitive nature of the work where face-to-face meetings are central to the provision of such assistance, Covid-19 and its attendant restrictions has impacted sharply on the manner of the service throughout 2020. Where possible the challenges have been met by moving meetings to a virtual platform, but most of our client group have opted to wait for the return of one to one encounters, availing of periodic telephone contact in the interim.

Aware that the pathway of spiritual direction/accompaniment may not suit everybody, the service is continually looking for new ways to outreach to survivors. As a result of ongoing engagement with those who utilise the resources, plans had been in train to expand the service to include possibilities such as retreat days, pilgrim walks, support/ meditation groups etc. These have now been placed on hold for the duration of the pandemic.

Towards Peace works collaboratively with both the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland and Towards Healing.

Council for Healthcare

The Council for Healthcare, chaired by Bishop Michael Router, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Armagh, was established by the Bishops' Conference in 2014. It keeps abreast of developments in policy and practice within healthcare; the ongoing challenges to Catholic healthcare facilities; and the challenges encountered by Catholic healthcare professionals. It actively promotes the *New Charter for Healthcare Workers* (Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Healthcare Workers: 2017) and the *Code of Ethical Standards for Healthcare* (2018). The Council maintains appropriate engagement with statutory agencies and other stakeholders within healthcare in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland. It promotes and supports the annual celebration of World Day of the Sick. The Council also promotes chaplaincy as an essential ministry for the provision of holistic care within healthcare facilities.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Healthcare Chaplaincy Board (HCB) is under the auspices of, and accountable to the Council for Healthcare. The role of the HCB is to: (i) Set standards for certification, and administer the certification process for Catholic healthcare chaplains; (ii) Negotiate with educational institutions regarding the availability of theological education and pastoral formation that meets the standards for chaplain certification; (iii) Monitor compliance with continuing professional development requirements for chaplains.

The Support Network for Catholic Healthcare Chaplains (SNCHC) is an initiative of the Council for Healthcare. Bishop Ray Browne of Kerry is the Liaison Bishop for the Network with the Bishops' Conference. National and regional events are organized through the Network to provide ongoing theological and pastoral development for chaplains, and to facilitate pastoral reflection and peer support.

Council for Marriage and the Family

The Council for Marriage and the Family (CMF) continues to assist the Bishops' Conference in its service of marriage and family life. The Council members in collaboration with CMF chairperson, Bishop Nulty, works within the aims and goals of the Council's approved terms of reference. It met four times during 2020: 24 February; 25 May; 21 September and on 1 December.

Among the issues addressed by the CMF over the year were the ongoing review of sacramental Marriage Preparation, the impact of Covid-19 on families, designing an online platform support for ecclesial movements and asking how we as a Council might support young families, deeply affected by the current pandemic. The Council was represented at an International Conference on the pastoral care of the elderly in Rome in late January. It continues to keep ongoing contact with all ecclesial movements supporting marriage and the family on the island of Ireland, inviting groups on occasion to present at its meetings.

Council for Emigrants

Bishop Denis Brennan of Ferns chairs the Council for Emigrants. The work of the council is the pastoral response of the Bishops' Conference to the needs of Irish emigrants prior to and following departure. It is particularly committed to the needs of the most vulnerable emigrant groups. In large part, through the work of the chaplaincies and apostolates in the United States and Britain, and in conjunction with the host Churches, it seeks to provide practical and pastoral support to Irish emigrant communities. Parish resources are provided annually as well as grant funding to organisations working with Irish emigrants.

Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas

The Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas is a subcommittee of the Council for Emigrants. The ICPO provides information, support and advice to Irish people imprisoned overseas and to their families. It works with approximately 1,200 Irish prisoners in thirty countries around the world. With offices in Maynooth and London, the ICPO seeks to address the needs and concerns of prisoners on a wide variety of matters including, repatriation, deportation, post-release supports, hardship fund support and prison visits. ICPO also engages in advocacy at a national and international level on issues affecting its clients.

Council for Immigrants

The Council for Immigrants, chaired by Bishop Brennan, develops and fosters initiatives for the pastoral care of immigrants among the dioceses and parishes of Ireland. It identifies immigrant communities within a local setting, recognises their needs and develops pastoral outreach strategies to engage with, support and integrate immigrant communities into dioceses and local parishes.

Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative

The Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative is the pastoral response of the Bishops' Conference to assist parish communities in raising awareness and developing an informed outreach to help address the issue of drugs and alcohol at a local level. To achieve its objective, the IBDI provides bespoke information, education and training, as well as offering alternative activities to avoid substance misuse. The IBDI has met the challenges Covid-19 has presented by moving where possible to an online facilitation service. This initiative has seen programmes facilitated directly to schools remotely and recordings sent to those who could not facilitate the online service. In the context of the coronavirus pandemic and when public health restrictions have allowed, the IBDI has continued to facilitate in classrooms in partnership with the schools and parishes.

Apostleship of the Sea

Bishop Brennan is a designated liaison bishop to the Apostleship of the Sea.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Chaplaincy for Deaf People

The Chaplaincy for Deaf people, which is an autonomous and separate charity in its own right has a designated liaison bishop, Bishop John Buckley, Bishop Emeritus of Cork & Ross.

Irish Prisons Chaplains Team

Bishop Éamonn Walsh, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Dublin, is the liaison bishop to the Irish Prisons Chaplains Team. Periodically, a member of the IPCT makes a presentation to the meeting of the Commission for Pastoral Care.

Chaplaincy to the Defence Forces

On occasion the Head Chaplain to the Defence Forces in Ireland makes a presentation to the meeting of the Commission for Pastoral Care.

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL ISSUES AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

This Commission is chaired by Bishop Noel Treanor of Down and Connor. The Commission comprises the Council for Justice and Peace (with the Northern Ireland Catholic Council on Social Affairs); Trócaire, a registered charity in its own right; the Council for Missions; and, the Council for Europe. The purpose of the Commission is to facilitate collaboration in order to serve the strategic objectives of its four constituent parts and to make recommendations to the Episcopal Conference:

Council for Justice and Peace and the Northern Ireland Catholic Council on Social Affairs

The Council's role is to advise the Bishops' Conference and its commissions, agencies and councils, on justice and peace issues and on the social dimension of the Sacred Scriptures and Catholic Social Teaching. The council is chaired by Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ of Raphoe and its role includes promoting justice and peace related issues in the public forum. Key activities of the Council in 2020 included the hosting of talks for local justice and peace groups, representing the Bishops' Conference at COMECE Social Affairs Commission and Justice and Peace Europe, and participation on the Holy Land Coordination, while NICCOSA worked on a number of priority areas, including Brexit, Legacy and Centenary, as well as its extensive participation on inter-church networks and initiatives.

In addition during 2020, the Council worked on the Community Sponsorship Programme.

Trócaire

Bishop William Crean of Cloyne is chair of Trócaire, the Catholic Agency for World Development. Trócaire was established by the Bishops' Conference as an independent Trust in 1973, to express the Church's concern for the needs and problems of the people of the developing nations. Trócaire produces its own annual report and its long term development projects and emergency relief programmes in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East tackle the injustice of global poverty. In Ireland, through its education programmes and campaigning, Trócaire works to raise awareness about development issues and the principles of social justice involved. Trócaire changed its legal status from that of a Trust to a Company Limited by Guarantee in 2020. Trócaire's Charity Regulatory Authority No. is: 20204842; Revenue Number: CHY 22508; Company Number: 661147.

Council for Missions

Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA is chair of the National Mission Council. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the Council met on three occasions (twice *via* video conference) to ensure it continued to work collaboratively and in support of the activities of missionary bodies in Ireland. The Council received reports throughout the year from the National Director for World Missions Ireland, the National Secretary for the Society of Missionary Children, the Secretary General of AMRI, the President of the Legion of Mary, and other participating groups. Members shared their personal and professional experiences of the situation around the country in terms of the Covid-19 pandemic, along with their concerns for the wellbeing of the people they are in ministry with, the restrictions in place, and looking to the future. The experience and situation for missionaries overseas was also discussed throughout the year with questions raised in relation to the consequences for missionary outreach, awareness raising, faith formation, and fundraising (for mission congregations at home and mission dioceses overseas). A particular emphasis was placed on the impact Covid-19 would have on the World Mission Sunday collection (18 October 2020) in the absence of the faithful being present in churches for Mass on this day.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Council for Europe

In 2020, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin was chair of the Council. The Bishops' Conference was represented on COMECE, the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community, by Bishop Treanor, who is one of the four Vice-Presidents of COMECE. The Bishops' Conference is also a member of the Council of the Bishops' Conferences of Europe (CCEE) and sends delegates to the meetings and conferences organised by CCEE and its Commissions.

COMMISSION FOR WORSHIP, PASTORAL RENEWAL AND FAITH DEVELOPMENT

The Commission is chaired by Bishop Donal McKeown of Derry and comprises the Council for Clergy, the Council for Liturgy, Council for Vocations, Council for Religious, and the Council for Pastoral Renewal & Adult Faith Development (including youth ministry). The purpose of the Commission is to facilitate collaboration in order to serve the strategic objectives of its five councils and to make recommendations to the Episcopal Conference:

Council for Vocations

The Council for Vocations is chaired by Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan of Waterford & Lismore and, along with the National Office for Diocesan Vocations, relates to the promotion of diocesan vocations to priesthood and the permanent diaconate in Ireland. It arranges in-service for Vocations Directors and information seminars for prospective candidates for priesthood in Irish dioceses.

Council for Clergy

The Council for Clergy is chaired by Bishop Ray Browne of Kerry and deals with matters related to the life and ministry of priests and permanent deacons. Twice annually, representatives meet with the chairpersons of the council of priests of each diocese.

Council for Religious

The Council for Religious facilitates the Bishops' Conference to consult and collaborate with AMRI on matters including safeguarding, education and the alleviation of poverty and injustice, as well as Christian worship, witness and faith development.

Council for Pastoral Renewal & Adult Faith Development

The Council for Pastoral Renewal & Adult Faith Development is chaired by Bishop McKeown and concerns itself with the baptismal responsibilities of all adult Christians in Ireland, and with empowering their leadership for Gospel and ecclesial witness. This council collaborates with Catholic Youth Ministry in Ireland, a forum for practitioners of youth ministry.

Council for Liturgy

The Council for Liturgy is chaired by Bishop Francis Duffy of Ardagh & Clonmacnois and, along with the associated National Centre for Liturgy, advises the Bishops' Conference on matters liturgical, for example, on the provision of the Church's ritual texts in the English language so that they are of a quality suitable to the culture and idiom of English used in Ireland. The Advisory Committee on Church Music, the Advisory Committee on Sacred Art and Architecture, and An Coiste Comhairleach um an Liotúirge i nGaeilge also play important roles in advising the Council for Liturgy.

National Centre for Liturgy

The National Centre for Liturgy, based at Maynooth, provides accredited courses in pastoral liturgical formation, and is financed and managed by the Bishops' Conference. From 1 September 2020, responsibility for the management of the National Centre for Liturgy passed to Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth.

COMMISSION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

The Commission is chaired by Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick and comprises the Council for Education (with the Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education); the Council for Catechetics; the Council for Doctrine and the Council for Ecumenism & Inter-Religious Dialogue. The purpose of the Commission is to facilitate collaboration in order to serve the strategic objectives of its four councils and to make recommendations to the Bishops' Conference:

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Council for Education

The Council for Education is chaired by Bishop Brendan Kelly of Galway and it articulates policy and vision for Catholic education in Ireland, North and South, on behalf of the Episcopal Conference. It has responsibility for the forward planning necessary to ensure the best provision for Catholic education in the country. It liaises with other Catholic education offices, the Department of Education and Skills in the Republic, and the Department of Education Northern Ireland. The Council advises the Bishops' Conference on all Government legislation as it applies to education and responds to and comments on issues related to the work of education. It seeks also to develop long-term strategies in education for the Episcopal Conference.

Major educational initiatives during the year involving the council included:

- Catholic Schools Week 2020 on the theme *Catholic Schools: Living in Harmony with God's Creation*.
- Attending in Glasgow the annual meeting of the Education Offices of the Episcopal Conferences for Ireland, England and Wales, and Scotland.
- Hosting the annual meetings with the educational trusts which are Public Juridic Persons;
- Working closely with the Implementation Group of the (Catholic Education Services Committee) CESC Strategic Plan for the Catholic Post-Primary Sector.
- Collaborating with the Council for Catechetics of the Bishops' Conference in providing submissions to the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment on Religious Education, on Relationships & Sexuality Education and on the draft new primary curriculum.
- Working with Education and Training Boards Ireland on a template Characteristic Spirit Statement for the Admissions Policies of Designated Community Colleges.
- Working with the Association of Joint Patrons on a template Characteristic Spirit Statement for the Admissions Policies of Community Schools.
- Attending meetings of the Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education.

Council for Catechetics

Bishop Brendan Leahy is chair of the Council for Catechetics. The Council activities in 2020 included the following:

- Appointment of new National Director for Catechetics, Mr Patrick Logue, who replaced Ms Kate Liffey in July.
- The Council for Catechetics met three times in 2020; in person in January, and remotely in September and November.
- *Laudato Si'* Working Group membership included Monsignor Dermot Lane, Sylvia Thompson, Kate Liffey, Dr Lorna Gold, Vivek De Silva, Jane Mellett, Sr Catherine Brennan, Prof. John Sweeney, Sr Patricia Lynott, Fr Brian Grogan SJ and Anne Keegan. It is co-chaired by Monsignor Lane and Dr Gold. The Group promotes *Laudato Si'* through conferences, webinars and resource material.
- Recognition of Teaching Qualifications: The Council for Catechetics publication *Recognition of Qualifications to Teach Catholic Religious Education in Catholic Primary Schools on the Island of Ireland* (Veritas, 2018) remains in need of review. Questions have emerged regarding its applicability in Northern Ireland, its non- recognition of, for example, qualifications from St Andrew's Foundation for Catholic Teacher Education in Glasgow, and its omission of qualifications from certain other colleges.
- New Directory for Catechesis: The updated *Directory for Catechesis* was published in 2020, and is expected to inform the development of national directories. Here, *Share the Good News: The National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland* was published ten years ago. The Council for Catechesis considers *STGN* a robust document, which may require some additions in light of the new Directory.
- CCEE Webinar and 2021 Conference: In October 2020, Bishop Leahy and Patrick Logue took part in a webinar on the New Directory organised by the CCEE Catechesis Section. Archbishop Fisichella invited all National Directors for Catechetics to gather for a conference in Rome on 17-19 June 2021.
- Coronavirus Pandemic: In March, Bishop Leahy established an *ad hoc* committee, which led to the production of a series of videos to assist with Sacramental preparation while schools were closed. In September, Patrick Logue wrote a discussion document *Living our Faith in a Time of Covid-19*, and attention was drawn to the document *Serving a Wounded World in Interreligious Solidarity: A Christian Call to Reflection and Action During COVID-19 and Beyond*, a co-publication from The World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.
- National Council for Curriculum and Assessment: In December, the Council made a submission on the *Draft Primary Curriculum Framework 2020*.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Teaching Council Registration: In November 2020 The Teaching Council published revised registration requirements which will come into effect on 1st January 2023. These call for of teachers of RE to study any five from a list of seven subjects, which means that registration will become possible for candidates who have never taken modules in Scripture or Christianity. Discussions with the Council are on-going.

Resources for Post Primary Religious Education: A sub-group led by Kate Liffey (CEIST) and Dr Tom Finnegan (MIL) have worked on adapting the *Credible Catholic* programme, originally designed by Fr Robert Spizer, SJ and the Magis Centre in America. A team of CEIST RE teachers have redeveloped the material to suit the Irish school environment, and the material will soon be available on the Council for Catechetics website.

Relationships and Sexuality Education: The Council for Education now takes the lead on RSE, with the Council for Catechetics in a supporting role; a copy of its autumn report to the IEC is included in the Annual Report.

Council for Doctrine

Archbishop Michael Neary of Tuam is chair of the Council which works in close association with the Bishops' Conference on matters relating to faith and morals.

Council for Ecumenism & Inter-Religious Dialogue

Bishop Leahy is chair of the Council whose main purpose is to service the various ecumenical bodies, both national and international. From it is provided the Catholic membership of:

- the Inter-Church Meeting
- the Inter-Church Committee
- the Standing Committee on Mixed Marriages
- Churches Together in Britain and Ireland www.ctbi.org.uk

The Bishops' Conference's Advisory Committee on Ecumenism was set up after the Second Vatican Council and one of its principle concerns is the restoration of unity among all Christians. The Committee is an advisory body to the bishops on ecumenical affairs in Ireland and maintains contact with the secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome.

The Bishops' Conference established an Advisory Committee on Inter-Religious Dialogue in 2019. Its terms of reference are as follows:

To advise the Conference on issues relating to dialogue with leaders and members of other non-Christian religious traditions in Ireland;

To advise the Conference on how best to promote mutual understanding, respect and collaboration between Catholics and the followers of other religious traditions;

To consider developments and documents issuing from the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue;

To liaise with the Council of Catechetics in encouraging the study of religions; and,

To promote the formation of Diocesan personnel dedicated to inter-religious dialogue.

COMMISSION FOR PLANNING, COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOURCES

The Commission is chaired by Bishop John Fleming of Killala and comprises the Council for Communications; Veritas; and the Finance and General Purposes Council. The purpose of the Commission is to facilitate collaboration and thereby support the operation of its three constituent parts, and to make recommendations to the Bishops' Conference to further the mission of the Church:

Council for Communications

Archbishop Eamon Martin is chair of the Council which comprises the Catholic Communications Office (CCO) and the publishing company for the Bishops' Conference, Veritas Communications CLG.

On behalf of the Conference, its agencies and commissions, the CCO provides information to the faithful, and engages with the mass media and on digital media to promote the work of the bishops at a local, national and international level. This includes facilitating media training, related communications support and collaborating with communications officers of the twenty-six dioceses on the island of Ireland, the Holy See Press Office, personnel from bishops' conferences abroad, and with media officers of other Christian denominations and faiths in Ireland. *Intercom*, the bishops' pastoral and liturgical magazine for people in ministry, is produced and edited in the CCO and published ten times per year by Veritas.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

In terms of raising awareness of the work of the Bishops' Conference, its agencies and commissions, during 2020 the CCO published and posted 308 media statements as well as responding to hundreds of external queries and hosting numerous briefings with journalists on Church-related topics. In addition, the CCO managed the main digital media accounts of the Bishops' Conference across a suite of platforms reflecting a multiplicity of areas of pastoral concern. As 2020 saw the outbreak of the global Covid-19 pandemic, the majority of CCO communications throughout the year related to the Church response to the virus and its impact on the life of the faithful. This included updates on restrictions and guidelines, statements on the pandemic and various resources for parishes. To assist the substantial increase in online viewing of Masses and prayer services, 2020 saw the introduction of 'The Digital Hub' by the Catholic Communications Office which offered support to parishes and dioceses to effectively livestream Church services and maximise their social media potential.

The main communication themes highlighted during 2020 included: planning in response to pressure on public worship caused by the pandemic; safeguarding children; Catholic Schools Week; Lent; Holy Week and Easter; Advent and Christmas; support for human life including end of life care; Accord; marriage and family; ordinations and vocations; overseas development; religious intolerance and persecution of Christians; ecumenism and inter-faith; domestic violence and violence in society; Brexit; justice and peace issues; the interface between faith and society; appointment of bishops by Pope Francis; and, the financial crisis caused to the Church by the pandemic.

The CCO also assisted members of the public with queries on Church teachings and also with information requests relating to tracing family faith history.

Veritas Communications CLG

As the official publisher of the Bishops' Conference, Veritas publishes general religious books, liturgical texts in Irish and English, and catechetical texts. See www.veritas.ie for details.

The Finance and General Purposes Council

In 2020, Bishop Dermot Farrell, then Bishop of Ossory, was chair of the Council which acts in an advisory capacity to the Bishops' Conference on matters related to finance, administration and governance.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The trustees acknowledge that the financial year under report was one of the most challenging ever experienced by the Bishops' Conference which operates under the Hierarchy General Purposes Trust (HGPT). The primary source of funding for the operational requirements of the trust comes by way of contributions from each of the twenty six dioceses on the island, which in turn are reliant on direct financial contributions from parishioners. Covid-19 had an immediate impact on the income of our primary funders as it is a matter of public knowledge that Sunday and weekday Masses were suspended to the public for most of 2020. In response to a collapse in their income, our primary funders were left with no option but to significantly reduce their support to the HGPT over the course of 2020 and this reduction will be even more pronounced as we face into 2021.

The trustees, noting the year end surplus, recognise that such an outcome could not have been achieved without the ongoing support of employees, the Government's Wage Subsidy Schemes, the response of the executive team in taking difficult cost saving measures right across all aspects of the organisation, which unfortunately also included a small number of redundancies and an indefinite 20% reduction in working hours for all employees whose salaries are dependent on diocesan contributions. The year-end outcome was also influenced by better than anticipated investment returns in what was a volatile year for investment markets. The trustees note that, within the year-end reported surplus, circa €31k is retained in restricted reserves at 31 December 2020 and is not available for use at the discretion of the trustees.

The trustees further note that the increase in income was as a result of restricted donations, the spending of which was dictated by the donor (Albert Gubay Foundation) and was outside the control of the trustees.

The financial outcome for 2020 has allowed the trustees to bring a certain degree of stability to future planning, albeit we recognise that the current uncertainty will remain with us for some time to come.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Income and expenditure

In 2020 the income of the Trust from all sources was €4,721,822 (2019: €4,017,104). The main sources are diocesan contributions provided by the bishops for the purposes of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, its councils, agencies and associated initiatives. Additional contributions were received from dioceses in support of the Church's contributions to the Counselling support service Towards Healing, Anscombe Bioethics Centre, support of the Holy See (Universal Church) and the care of retired bishops. Other income is derived from investments and external grants.

Total expenditure for the year was €4,600,990 (2019: €4,013,429). The expenditure of the Trust is analysed in detail in the accounts attached to this report. The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference employs staff to carry out the work of the Councils, agencies and associated initiatives, which also rely on the participation of volunteers who serve as council members and advisors.

The results for the year are shown on page 16. The net movement in funds for the year was a surplus of €120,833 (2019: surplus €3,675).

The Balance Sheet shows total reserves of €4,778,387 (2019: €4,657,554). Of this, €1,110,299 (2019: €1,079,358) is restricted to be applied for specific purposes. The remaining funds are unrestricted.

Reserves Policy

The operational policy of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference is to try to ensure that it has adequate "free" reserves to meet its continuing charitable obligations and day-to-day working capital requirements. It is reliant upon diocesan contributions for the majority of its income, and this is agreed annually by the Bishops' Conference.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Investment Policy

The objective of the Investment Policy is to maintain high liquidity while ensuring maximum security, meeting ethical standards and achieving the highest possible return within these limiting factors. Investments are undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio, mitigating against credit risk, currency risk and country risk.

In the management of investments both Charity Law and Church teaching applies. Under Charity Law, the Trustees must seek to obtain the best financial return possible consistent with commercial prudence. Following the Church's teaching, the Trustees also seek to maintain an ethical investment policy through a process of making judgments about the products, services and corporate practices as well as their financial efficacy. The judgement of the Trustees and their decisions to invest or disinvest, and of seeking to change through shareholder action, reflect particularly that teaching which promotes the dignity and sanctity of human life and the importance of society in general.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the Trust's affairs and of its income and expenditure for the year. The Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Irish Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue in operation.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the Trust keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Trust, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the Trust to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. They are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the financial information included on the website.

POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to have an adverse effect on the operations of the Charity, however the more recent updates on the continued roll-out in 2021 of Covid-19 vaccines and the relaxation of travel restrictions, gives confidence that the remainder of the Government restrictions will be lifted sooner rather than later. Once restrictions are ended and the current period of uncertainty has passed the Trustees expect activity levels to gradually return to pre-Covid levels.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Trust is continuing with its programme of works to meet its objectives and to ensure that it conforms to all best practice guidelines for a not for profit entity.

TAXATION

The Trust has been granted charitable status under sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

AUDITORS

Crowe Ireland are eligible and have expressed their willingness to continue in office.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

+ Kieran O'Reilly

Date: 16th June 2021

+ Michael Neary

Date: 16th June 2021

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Hierarchy General Purposes Trust, for the year ended 31 December 2020, which comprise the Statement Of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cashflow Statement and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and with reference to the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective 1 January 2019.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- * give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Trusts' affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its net movement in funds for the year then ended;
- * have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and with reference to the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective 1 January 2019.

BASIS OF OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), 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 Trust'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 Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

Opinions on other matters

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- in our opinion, the information given in the Trustees' report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the Trust were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Trustees' report

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 Trust'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 management intends to dissolve the Trust or cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITORS' 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 (Ireland) 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: [https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/ISA-700-\(Ireland\)](https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/ISA-700-(Ireland)). The description forms part of our Auditors' report.

THE PURPOSE OF OUR AUDIT WORK AND TO WHOM WE OWE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

This report is made solely to the Trust's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trustees' members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' 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 Trust and the Trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed: _____
Roseanna O'Hanlon

For and on behalf of:

Crowe Ireland

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Marine House
Clanwilliam Court
Dublin 2

Date:

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total 2020 €	Total 2019
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations	4a	1,577,917	2,624,964	4,202,881	3,715,798
Investments	4c	195,017	214	195,231	295,628
Other	4d	-	323,710	323,710	5,678
Total		1,772,934	2,948,888	4,721,822	4,017,104
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	5	(16,383)	-	(16,383)	(18,441)
Charitable activities	6	(1,666,659)	(2,917,947)	(4,584,606)	(3,994,988)
Total		(1,683,042)	(2,917,947)	(4,600,990)	(4,013,429)
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		89,892	30,941	120,833	3,675
Total funds brought forward	16/17	3,578,196	1,079,358	4,657,554	4,653,879
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	16/17	3,668,088	1,110,299	4,778,387	4,657,554

All income and expenditure arises from continuing operations. There are no recognised gains or losses other than the result for the year.

The notes on pages 20 to 30 form part of the financial statements.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	10	17,754	18,071
Financial Assets	11	2,475,549	2,184,326
		<u>2,493,303</u>	<u>2,202,397</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	12/13	1,776,934	2,217,723
Cash at bank and in hand		973,222	1,091,569
		<u>2,750,156</u>	<u>3,309,292</u>
Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)	14	(266,898)	(429,803)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>2,483,258</u>	<u>2,879,489</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		4,976,561	5,081,886
Creditors (amounts falling due after more than one year)	15	(198,174)	(424,332)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>4,778,387</u>	<u>4,657,554</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Unrestricted funds	16	3,668,088	3,578,196
Restricted income funds	17	1,110,299	1,079,358
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		<u>4,778,387</u>	<u>4,657,554</u>

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

+ Kieran O'Reilly
Date: 16th June 2021

+ Michael Neary
Date: 16th June 2021

The notes on pages 20 to 30 form part of the financial statements.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

CASHFLOW STATEMENT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Net Cash from/(used in) Operating Activities	18	43,330	(156,711)
Net Cash from Investing Activities	19	219	5
Net Cash used in Investing Activities	19	(161,896)	(4,817)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE REPORTING PERIOD	20	(118,347)	(161,523)
RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH OUTFLOW TO MOVEMENT IN NET FUNDS			
Change In Cash And Cash Equivalents In The Reporting Period	20	(118,347)	(161,523)
Cash And Cash Equivalents At Beginning Of The Reporting Period	20	1,091,569	1,253,092
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD	20	973,222	1,091,569

The notes on pages 20 to 30 form part of the financial statements.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies are applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Trust's financial statements:

1.1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland and with reference to the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (Charities SORP), effective 1 January 2019.

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the Trust's accounting policies.

1.2 INCOMING RESOURCES

Income is treated as being general and unrestricted unless a donor has specified the manner in which the income is to be spent, in which case it is treated as restricted income. Income earned on funds held on deposit is treated as unrestricted income, unless specified by the donor. Restricted income is allocated to the fund as specified by the donor.

Diocesan contributions

Diocesan contributions are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.

Grants

Grants are recorded when receivable, and if relevant when any performance conditions are satisfied.

During the year under review, the Trust availed of various government supports related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Where government supports are treated as a grant in accordance with Section 24 of FRS 102, the supports are recognised at the fair value of the asset receivable using the accruals model where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all attaching conditions will be complied with.

Other Income

Other income is accounted for when received.

1.3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred and is recorded as part of the expenditure to which it relates. Cost of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income. Expenditure on charitable activities are those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its stated objectives. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them. Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated in proportion to estimated benefits received.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

All expenditure is authorised by the Irish Episcopal Conference.

1.4 PENSIONS

The Irish Episcopal Conference operates a defined contribution scheme and pension benefits are funded over the employees' period of service by way of contributions from the Trust and the employees. Contributions are charged to the relevant Councils in the year in which they become payable.

1.5 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS POLICY

A liability is recognised to the extent of any unused holiday pay entitlement which is accrued at the Balance Sheet date and carried forward to future periods. This is measured at the undiscounted salary cost of the future holiday entitlement so accrued at the Balance Sheet date.

1.6 FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The financial statements are presented in Euro, which is the Trust's functional and presentational currency and is denoted by the symbol '€'.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into euro at the rates of exchange prevailing at the accounting date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the date of the transactions. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1.7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible fixed assets are stated in the Balance Sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets, so as to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its' expected useful economic life on a straight line basis at the following annual rates:

IT and Office Equipment	25%
Furniture and fittings	25%

1.8 INVESTMENT POLICY

Investments are stated at market value.

1.9 DEBTORS

Debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

1.10 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents are 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.

1.11 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Trust only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable. Basic financial instruments are recorded at transaction price.

1.12 CREDITORS

Creditors are measured at the transaction price.

1.13 TAXATION

No charge to taxation arises as the Trust is exempt under Section 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

1.14 RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds consist of amounts received which can only be used for the purpose for which they are specified by the Donors.

1.15 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Unrestricted funds consist of grants and subscriptions which the charity can spend based on its own discretion to enable it to achieve its overall aim and objectives.

2. JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

Judgements and estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historical experiences and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. There were no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

3. GOING CONCERN

Like many charitable entities, Hierarchy General Purposes Trust is exposed to the continuing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst the Trust continues to be funded during the period there has been a notable reduction in funders activity compared to the same period in the previous financial year. Staff costs have been reduced and other costs have been further reduced where possible. The Trust will also continue to use government supports provided to businesses during this time. Based on the measures taken to reduce costs, the Trustees believe that the Trust is well positioned for its charitable activities to return to full capacity once the period of uncertainty passes. The financial statements have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

4. INCOMING RESOURCES

4 (a) DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total 2020 €	Total 2019 €
Diocesan Contributions	1,560,010	-	1,560,010	2,012,899
Care of retired Bishops	-	633,600	633,600	524,996
CCSS T/A "Towards Healing"	-	300,000	300,000	287,499
Episcopal Council Drugs Initiative (IBDI)	-	104,925	104,925	83,418
Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO)	-	222,357	222,357	223,433
Council for Emigrants	-	72,380	72,380	229,923
Council for Immigrants	-	10,000	10,000	30,000
Council for Justice & Peace	-	30,000	30,000	30,000
Anscombe	-	48,600	48,600	48,600
Holy See (Universal Church)	-	45,500	45,500	45,500
Council for Communications	-	8,486	8,486	20,560
Finance and General Purposes Council	-	23,070	23,070	26,841
Executive Administration Council	-	13,142	13,142	13,185
Council for Catechetic	-	35,000	35,000	35,000
Council for Healthcare	-	4,756	4,756	6,026
National Vocations Office	-	-	-	25,000
The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation Office Contribution	-	33,603	33,603	47,876
The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation WMOF Deficit	-	536,475	536,475	-
The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation Covid-19 Supports	-	490,400	500,000	-
Integrity in Ministry	17,907	-	17,907	-
Towards Peace	-	12,665	12,665	25,042
	1,577,917	2,624,964	4,212,481	3,715,798

4 (b) GRANT INCOME

Included within donations are the following grants received during the year:

	2020 €	2019 €
Health Service Executive (HSE)		
IBDI Programme (1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020)	69,750	69,750
Covid-19 Support Payment	5,000	-
	74,750	69,750
Government of Ireland - Emigrant Support Programme:		
ICPO Caseworker Grant - (1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021)	98,010	91,310
ICPO Caseworker England Grant - (1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021)	32,634	-
ICPO Hardship Fund - (1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020)	35,000	35,000
Family Information Days	500	500
Information and Work and Prison Visits to Australia	6,000	13,000
Other	-	4,000
Total Emigrant Support Programme	172,144	143,810
Prior Year Underspend:		
Hardship Fund	(1,653)	-
Emigrant Support Programme	(250)	(250)
Prison Visits	(12,168)	-
Other (ICPO conference)	(4,000)	-
	154,073	143,560

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

4 (c) INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total 2020 €	Total 2019 €
Interest earned on deposits	5	214	219	5
Loan Interest Receivable	12,507	-	12,507	25,827
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	300
Rental Income	28,488	-	28,488	29,195
Gain on Investments	154,017	-	154,017	240,301
	195,017	214	195,231	295,628

4 (d) OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total 2020 €	Total 2019 €
Employer Pension Refund	-	-	-	5,678
Government Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme	-	175,131	175,131	-
Government Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme	-	148,579	148,579	-
	-	323,710	323,710	5,678

5. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total 2020 €	Total 2019 €
Staff costs	16,383	-	16,383	17,555
Support costs (note 7)	-	-	-	85
Governance costs (note 8)	-	-	-	801
	16,383	-	16,383	18,441

6. DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total 2020 €	Total 2019 €
Commission for Planning, Communications and Resources	585,949	1,234,579	1,830,128	949,048
Commission for Pastoral Care	226,820	546,414	773,234	973,639
Commission for Social Issues and International Affairs	71,021	59,406	130,427	158,655
Commission for Worship, Renewal and Faith Development	94,732	27,439	122,171	138,636
Commission for Catholic Education and Formation	104,931	58,685	163,616	228,441
CCSS T/A Towards Healing	-	300,000	300,000	287,487
Care of retired Bishops	-	606,523	606,523	587,658
Holy See (Universal Church)	-	45,500	45,500	45,500
Integrity of Ministry	-	-	-	1,573
National Board for Safeguarding Children	194,602	-	194,602	337,050
Provision against Loan Balance	280,000	-	280,000	200,000
Support Costs (note 7)	14,711	39,400	54,111	8,020
Governance Costs (note 8)	93,893	-	93,893	79,282
	1,666,659	2,917,947	4,594,206	3,994,988

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

6.1 GRANT FUNDING ACTIVITIES

Included within direct charitable expenditure are the following grants by activity:

	Grants to Institutions	2020	2019
	€	€	€
Commission for Pastoral Care	28,627	28,627	28,901
Commission for Social Issues and International Affairs	34,373	34,373	40,758
Commission for Catholic Education and Formation	49,886	49,886	41,048
Anscombe	48,600	48,600	48,600
Holy See (Universal Church)	45,500	45,500	45,500
National Board for Safeguarding Children	194,602	194,602	337,050
CCSS T/A Towards Healing	300,000	300,000	287,499
	701,588	701,588	829,356

The only material grants made during the year relate to an amount paid to Coimirce amounting to €194,602 (2019: €337,050) and CCSS T/A Towards Healing amounting to €300,000 (2019: €287,499).

7. SUPPORT COSTS

Support costs included within the Hierarchy General Purposes Trust include Staff costs, Office costs, Administration, and Training. Costs are charged to each activity on the basis listed below:

	Governance	Charitable activities	Total Allocated	Basis of apportionment
	€	€	€	
Staff Costs	1,044	19,839	20,883	Staff Time
Office Costs	1,804	34,272	36,076	Staff Time
	2,848	54,111	56,959	

8. OTHER EXPENDITURE

		Charitable activities	2020	2019
		€	€	€
Governance Costs	(note 8.1)	91,045	91,045	79,656
Support Costs	(note 7)	2,848	2,848	427
		93,893	93,893	80,083

8.1 Governance costs

	2020	2019
	€	€
Episcopal Conference Bishops Expenses	14,760	36,646
Legal and Professional fees	63,032	32,248
Audit	13,253	10,762
	91,045	79,655

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

9. STAFF COSTS AND DISCLOSURES

The average number of employees during the year was 34 (2019 - 39). The aggregate amounts paid to or on behalf of the staff are as follows:

	2020 €	2019 €
Wages and salaries	1,209,381	1,439,816
Social welfare costs	101,048	151,598
Pension costs	86,880	113,501
Statutory redundancy and ex-gratia payments	44,438	-
	1,441,747	1,704,915

Government supports, which were provided in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, have been extended to the Hierarchy General Purposes Trust. Details of supports and amounts received during the year and set out in Note 21.

The number of employees whose remuneration was greater than €70,000 is as follows:

	2020	2019
Salary Range		
€70,000 - €80,000	-	-
€80,001 - €90,000	-	-
€90,001 - €100,000	1	1
€100,001 - €110,000	2	-
€110,001 - €120,000	-	2

Employer contributions of up to 14% are paid to a defined contribution pension plan on behalf of certain employees of the organisation.

None of the Trustees received any remuneration for their services during the year.

Three trustees received a gratuity in the amount of €83 each for their contribution to the Council for Liturgy.

Key Management Remuneration

Key management personnel include the Executive Administrator, Executive Secretary, Director of Communications and Finance Manager for whom the total remuneration costs, excluding pension contributions, was €335,237 (2019: €361,095) in the year.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment and Fittings €	Total €
COST		
At 1 January 2020	256,868	256,868
Additions	13,492	13,492
At 31 December 2020	270,360	270,360
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 January 2020	238,797	238,797
Charge for the year	13,809	13,809
At 31 December 2020	252,606	252,606
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 December 2020	17,754	17,754
At 31 December 2019	18,071	18,071

11. FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2020 €	2019 €
Valuation at start of year	2,184,326	1,959,028
Additions	816,298	410,339
Disposal proceeds	(667,894)	(413,867)
Realised Gain	125,191	87,539
Unrealised Gain	17,628	141,287
Valuation at end of year	2,475,549	2,184,326

Investments are stated at market value and are invested in a combination of bonds, equity, absolute return and property.

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020 €	2019 €
Prepaid expenses and other debtors	325,876	414,665
Term Loan - Veritas	350,000	150,000
Loan to Irish College Rome	-	50,000
World Meeting of Families 2018 Solidarity Funds	157,948	250,161
	833,824	864,826

13. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2020 €	2019 €
Loan to Irish College Rome	480,020	480,020
Provision against Loan - Irish College Rome	(480,020)	(200,000)
World Meeting of Families 2018 Solidarity Funds	278,342	420,615
Term Loan - Veritas	664,768	652,262
	943,110	1,352,897

Included within debtors is a provision against the recoverability of Loans made to Irish College Rome. In the event that Irish College Rome returns to a position of solvency in the future, the recoverability of these loans will be reviewed with consideration made to reverse this provision.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	€	€
Approved commission allocations and accrued expenses	116,912	139,371
World Meeting of Families 2018 Solidarity Funds	113,206	246,444
Payroll taxes	8,542	43,987
	<u>238,660</u>	<u>429,803</u>

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	€	€
World Meeting of Families 2018 Solidarity Funds	226,412	424,332
	<u>226,412</u>	<u>424,332</u>

16. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance
	€	€	€	€
General Unrestricted funds	<u>3,578,196</u>	<u>1,772,934</u>	<u>(1,683,042)</u>	<u>3,668,088</u>

Unrestricted funds are funds that have been raised by the Trust and which may be used at the discretion of the Trust in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

17. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Opening Balance €	Income €	Expenditure €	Closing Balance €
Episcopal Council for Emigrants	305,300	72,385	(120,759)	256,926
Episcopal Council for Immigrants	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas	184,605	222,357	(180,422)	226,540
Episcopal Conference Drugs Initiative	23,862	104,925	(92,799)	35,988
Education Office	5,658	-	-	5,658
Irish Council for Justice & Peace	-	30,000	(30,000)	-
Care of retired Bishops	45,963	633,600	(606,523)	73,040
Year of Vocation	17,563	-	-	17,563
CCSS "Towards Healing"	-	300,000	(300,000)	-
Anscombe	-	48,600	(48,600)	-
Holy See	20	45,500	(45,500)	20
Eucharistic Congress	107,651	-	-	107,651
Council for Healthcare	-	4,756	(4,756)	-
National Vocations Office	56,904	-	(2,037)	54,867
Council for Communications	-	8,486	(8,486)	-
Finance & General Purpose Council	-	23,070	(23,070)	-
Council for Administration	-	13,142	(13,142)	-
Council for Catechetical	-	35,000	(35,000)	-
Youth Ministry	32,318	-	-	32,318
Towards Peace	-	12,665	(12,665)	-
The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation (note 17.1)	228	1,060,478	(1,060,478)	228
	780,072	2,624,964	(2,594,237)	810,799
Pilgrimage Fund	299,286	214	-	299,500
	299,286	214	-	299,500
Government Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme	-	175,131	(175,131)	-
Government Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme	-	148,579	(148,579)	-
	-	323,710	(323,710)	-
	1,079,358	2,948,888	(2,917,947)	1,110,299

17.1 THE ALBERT GUBAY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

During the course of 2020 The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation provided two large grants which are included within restricted funding:

- 1 Responding to the humanitarian challenges arising from Covid-19, worked with the Trustees of the HGPT, to provide a crisis and food fund of €490,400 which was distributed by HGPT to support a number of catholic charities within Ireland.
- 2 Provided the Trustees of the HGPT with a grant of €536,475 to support individual dioceses in reducing their legacy debt arising from the funding of WMOF 2018. This grant was distributed by the HGPT to individual diocesan charities under the terms of the grant agreement.
- 3 The total funding during the year was €1,060,478. Contributions that were made from dioceses of €33,603 account for the remainder of income received during the year.

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

18. RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2020	2019
	€	€
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	120,504	3,675
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	13,809	15,384
Interest fees and charges	(219)	(5)
Realised gain on investments	(125,191)	(87,539)
Unrealised gain on Investments	(17,628)	(141,287)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	441,118	(597,611)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(389,063)	650,672
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	43,330	(156,711)

19. ANALYSIS OF CASHFLOWS FOR HEADINGS NETTED IN CASHFLOW STATEMENT

19.1 RETURNS ON INVESTMENT AND SERVICING OF FINANCE

	2020	2019
	€	€
Deposit Interest	219	5

19.2 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENT

	Note	2020	2019
		€	€
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	10.	(13,492)	(8,345)
Payments to acquire Investments	11.	(816,298)	(410,339)
Receipts from sale of Investments	11.	667,894	413,867
		(161,896)	(4,817)

20. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	31-Dec 2019	Cash Flows	31-Dec 2020
	€	€	€
Cash at bank	1,091,569	(118,347)	973,222

21. SUPPORTS TREATED AS OTHER INCOME

	2020	2019
	€	€
Temporary wage subsidy scheme	175,131	-
Employment wage subsidy scheme	148,579	-
	323,710	-

The Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS) + Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) are treated in line with Section 24 of FRS 102 and in accordance with the Trust's accounting policies and is recognised in Other Income. In accordance with the accounting policy, these government supports are recognised based on the accrual model.

22. PENSIONS

The Irish Episcopal Conference operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Irish Episcopal Conference in independently administered funds. The pension costs charged in respect of the scheme for the year was €86,880 (2019 - €130,767).

HIERARCHY GENERAL PURPOSES TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

23. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Trustees of the Hierarchy General Purposes Trust are members of the Irish Episcopal Conference ("IEC"). During the year, the Trust had transactions with its related entities, Coimirce and Veritas Communications. Both entities are also members of the IEC.

Coimirce is incorporated in the Republic of Ireland and is owned by its members which are appointed by IEC and Association of Leaders Missionaries and Religious of Ireland ("AMRI").

During the year ended 31st December 2020, IEC through HGPT provided funding of €194,601 (2019: €337,051) to Coimirce. The balance due from Coimirce at 31st December 2020 was €81,665 (2019: €144,450).

Veritas Communications has a repayable subordinated loan facility amounting to €664,768 (2019: €652,262). Interest of €12,507 (2019: €28,072) accrued on this loan during the year.

Short-term loan facilities have also been extended to Veritas Communications made up of €200,000 issued during the year and a separate facility granted in 2019 for €150,000.

The total balance due from Veritas Communications at 31st December 2020 was €1,014,768 (2019: €802,262).

24. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

The Trustees note the continuing significant impact of the Coronavirus outbreak in Ireland, and around the world. The Trustees have reviewed the impact of this on the organisations working practices. Based on knowledge to hand, the Trustees consider that while there are significant risks to be managed, the organisation expects to survive this period of uncertainty given the level of unrestricted reserves as at 31 December 2020, the available financial resources and the support of the Irish Government through the wages subsidy scheme.

At the time of approving the financial statements, it is not possible to quantify how the balance sheet may be impacted based on events since the year end and as a result an estimate of its financial effect cannot be made.

25. APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 16 June 2021.