

Diocese of Down & Connor

Diocesan Collections

Collection for Down & Connor Living Youth/Living Church

This collection helps defray some of the Down & Connor Living Youth's expenses in respect of its role of co-ordinating, promoting and developing the numerous forms of ministry to you within the Diocese, with special emphasis on helping Parishes to provide programmes aimed at developing the faith of young people. 2020 - £54,430

Collection for Sick & Retired Priests

This collection is required for the ongoing needs of priests in the Diocese who are either sick or retired. The collection is used to help fund the 'Provident Fund of Secular Priests' providing retirement grants, sickness grants, subsidising care home fees and medical bills for the sick and retired priests of the Down & Connor Diocese. 2020 - £62,360

Collection for Needy Parishes

This collection was established to create a special fund to assist 'financially needy' parishes. There are several parishes within the Diocese that have accumulated debt and are financially stretched. However, through financially restructuring schemes it is hoped that many of these parishes, with the aid of this fund, will be able to return to a positive financial position. This collection hopes to help less fortunate parishes return to sound financial footing. 2020 – £39,560

Collection for Catholics in the Holy Land

The annual Good Friday Collection aims to promote among the Christian faithful, a love for the Land of the Lord. Under the supervision of the Order of the Friars Minor (the order charged with responsibility for the Holy Places), this collection is used to help maintain the Holy Places, assist pilgrims and to help the local parish communities with social assistance including; health care, education work related schemes and housing restoration. 2020 – £18,780

Lenten Collection for Trócaire

Trócaire is the official overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland. Trócaire works in partnership with a broad range of organisations in Ireland and internationally to bring about change at individual, community, societal and institutional levels. Together they tackle the root causes of poverty. Trócaire commits to addressing the imbalance of power by supporting women and men to stand up for their rights, and by working with those in power to recognise their duties and responsibilities to those they serve. We will also strive to address the factors that undermine progress such as corruption, repression, and persecution. 2020 – £194,420

Collection for the Education of Diocesan Students to the Priesthood

The proceeds of this collection go to the Diocesan Clerical Students Fund which meets the cost of educating seminarians and supporting diocesan priests engaged in post-graduate studies. Educating seminarians is an investment in the future of the Catholic Church and the annual collection is the primary source of funding for men studying for the priesthood and for those engaged in post-graduate studies. 2020 - £20,770

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Collection for Peter's Pence

This collection was started centuries ago to provide financial support for the Pope and has evolved as a resource to fund the Holy See's charitable works for those in need. The Peter's Pence Collection is used by the Pope to support special charitable projects in developing countries as well as defraying expenses of the work of the Church. 'Peter's Pence' is the most characteristic expression of the participation of all the faithful in the Pope's charitable initiatives in favour of the universal Church.

2020 – £18,410

Collection for the Diocesan Cathedral Fund

The Diocesan Cathedral, St. Peters, is located in the Divis Street area of the Falls Road in Belfast. The original Parish Church of St. Peter's was built in the 1860s. It was not until 29th June 1986 that it became a Cathedral in the full sense. In its role as the Mother Church of the Diocese, and the Episcopal Seat of the Bishop of Down and Connor, it provides the sacred space for the various Diocesan liturgies and celebrations throughout the year.

The Cathedral is a 'Grade A' listed building and, although it is presently in good order, the cost of running and maintaining such a magnificent historic Church is significant. It is not justifiable or feasible, however, that the full costs associated with the Cathedral be borne by the Parish of St. Peters which struggles financially within a very deprived area of the city. This Diocesan Collection has been established to help defray the costs relating to the usage of the Cathedral for Diocesan celebrations throughout the year for the benefit of the whole Diocese. 2020 - £26,960

Collection for World Missions

World Missions Ireland is Pope Francis' official charity for overseas mission and is part of a worldwide network of 120 offices, under the coordination of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Rome. World Missions aims to share the Gospel and build the Church throughout the world. World Missions reach out to missionaries who work in some of the most inhospitable, marginalised, and disadvantaged communities in the world, offering aid to struggling communities, allowing them to grow and thrive.

2020 - £71,470

Collection for Bishop's Commissions

This collection helps defray the contributions from the Diocese for the work of the various National Episcopal Commissions. To help it fulfil its aims more effectively, the Irish Catholic Bishop's Conference has established various commissions, agencies, councils, and other bodies which focus on specific tasks and areas of responsibility within the mission of the Church. These are grouped into five departments as follows: Department of Catholic Education and Formation, Department of Pastoral Care, Department of Planning, Communications and Resources, Department of Social Issues and International Affairs and the Department of Worship, Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development. The Diocese is obligated to pay an amount levied by the Bishop's Conference each year and this annual collection helps cover part of the levy. 2020 – £31,970