



THE ARCHDIOCESE  
*of* BIRMINGHAM

THE PARISH LEVY

## PARISH LEVY: INFORMATION FOR PARISHIONERS

I want to provide you with greater transparency on how money raised through the parish levy is spent across the Archdiocese.

For most of us, the parish is our primary experience of the Catholic church. We think of the parish as the church buildings, its faith communities and the area it covers. However, the parish is a small part of the greater body of the Archdiocese, a part through which the Archdiocese can fulfil the Church's mission.

The Archdiocese of Birmingham extends from Stoke-on-Trent in the north to the Thames in the south. It includes seven cities and five counties; an area with over five million people. It serves a Catholic population of c. 450,000 through a network of 217 parishes and some 240 schools. There are some 250 Diocesan priests (50 are in retirement) assisted by some 80 Permanent Deacons.

The Archdiocese exists to support parish priests and the people in our parish and school communities to worship and live according to Gospel values and to evangelise within their local communities through the witness of their lives.

+ Bernard

Archbishop Bernard Longley



## WHAT IS THE PARISH LEVY?

The parish levy is a sum of money contributed by each parish to the diocese, in order to fund the wide range of services it provides for our parishes, our clergy (including our bishops) and the wider community within the Archdiocese.

## WHERE DOES THE PARISH LEVY GO?

The Diocesan Curia (the administration offices of the Archdiocese) supports the activities of clergy in our parishes as well as providing financial support for activities relating to pastoral care and help such as youth formation, religious education- including the Diocesan Education Service in support of our schools, area catechists, marriage guidance and poor parishes.

Financial support is also given to Catholic national organisations together with chaplaincies and commissions within the Archdiocese such as prisons, hospitals, universities, ethnic and disability groups, ecumenism, interfaith, justice and peace, and overseas development.

The Archdiocese maintains the offices of the Vicar General, Safeguarding Team, Matrimonial Tribunal, Property, Fundraising, Finance, including Gift Aid and Fundraising functions, together with the Communications Team, Diocesan Archives and Historic Churches Committee. It also supports the Bishops' houses together with the Liturgy Commission and the Art and Architecture Committee.

The Archdiocese works closely with, and supports, its associated charities: Maryvale Institute, Father Hudson's Society and The Kenelm Youth Trust Ltd.

The levy pays for around 60% of the Diocese's total expenditure. All funding received by the Diocese, from the levy and from other sources of income goes to these different functions as follows:

**29% Staff and curial offices** – for services including safeguarding, clergy welfare, marriage offices, evangelisation, finance, property, Human Resources, communications, legal and the Archbishop's office.

**25% grants** – to Kenelm Youth Trust, Clergy Training Fund, CaTEW (The Catholic Trust for England and Wales - also known as the Bishops' Conference), Maryvale Institute, Chaplaincies and others.

**20% Diocesan Education Service** supporting the Diocese's 237 Catholic schools

**14% clergy** – including retired clergy, senior clergy, training and support.

**12% property maintenance** – including curial offices, parish churches and other functional buildings.

## HOW IS THE LEVY CALCULATED?

Levies and charges consist of two main components:

### 1. Regular Diocesan Levy

The levy is calculated at 28% of the "ordinary income" of a parish. This figure is arrived at by taking the total cash income received and then by excluding exceptional income such as legacies, grants, insurance claims and sales of assets.

Of the 28% levy, 27% is retained by the diocese to deliver the services described above. The other 1% will be diverted to the Poor Mission Fund which will be available as grants to assist parishes in need.

### 2. Other levies and charges

Levies will also be made on certain large "windfall" items such as legacies and property sales. Any "windfall" under £50,000 will **not** be levied and half of the amounts raised will be distributed to other parishes via the Poor Mission Fund.

Parishes can also appeal to a levies committee in unusual or exceptional situations. These levies and charges will be taken as and when they occur.

The principal idea behind these additional levies is to help the wider mission of the diocese by sharing an element of the most substantial windfalls for the wider charitable objectives and the fulfilment of our mission.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Diocesan financial summary is available in the annual Advent edition of the free diocesan magazine *The Sower*, copies of which are available from your parish or online via [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/diocesan-magazine](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/diocesan-magazine)

You can find even more detail by looking at the Financial Report and accounts available on the Diocesan website: <https://tinyurl.com/AoBreport2018>