

St Augustine's Parish YASS

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23 June 2026

Dear Parishioners,

Please find attached a copy of the Financial Statement for St. Augustine's Parish for the 2025 calendar year. The tables include the corresponding figures for 2024 for comparison, and an indicative budget for 2026.

The Parish Finance Committee (PFC) is very appreciative of the on-going financial support for our Parish by our parishioners. At the same time, the PFC is grappling with two major challenges: achieving financial stability for the Parish given the ramifications of the global economic and political uncertainty on the domestic setting impacting households; and the looming implications of the mid-2029 horizon to repay the loan for the Archdiocese's acquisition of the Uniting Church Property in Murrumbateman which is now the Murrumbateman Catholic Church Hall.

Where possible, the financial statement provides a breakdown of income and expenses attributable to Yass and Murrumbateman.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Planned Giving, First and Second Collections

Planned Giving/Second Collections/Tap Donations improved significantly in 2025, to around \$98,000, an increase from \$77,000 in 2024. This returns the Planned Giving/Second Collections/Tap Donations to pre-COVID levels of \$90,000. In the Budget for 2026, it is assumed that Planned Giving/Second Collections/Tap Donations will increase further to about \$103,000.

However, with an average inflation rate of 3.6% for calendar years from 2019 to 2025, this income source for the Parish has fallen by 12% from \$111,600 in 2019 to \$98,000 in 2025 in real terms (\$2025). Over the same period, construction costs have increased between 30 – 50% which has had a major impact on the Parish pushing ahead with repairs and maintenance activities for key projects representing a high opportunity cost in terms of rental income forgone on projects such as the Hartigan Centre.

Parish First Collections fell by 10.5% to \$34,000 in 2025, from around \$38,000 in 2024, but remain well below pre-COVID levels of approximately \$45,000 - \$50,000 p.a. Relative to 2025, First Collections in 2019 represented \$59,000 (in \$2025), 73% more

than those in 2025 in real terms. These collections are not managed by the Parish. Rather, they are forwarded to the Archdiocese and pooled with the First Collections from all other Parishes and used by the Archdiocese primarily to support the Priests across the Archdiocese.

A key driver in these trends is the decline in the numbers attending Mass regularly and actively participating in the life of the Parish over recent years, particularly in comparison to pre COVID years. This is despite strong ongoing population growth in the Yass/Murrumbateman region and healthy enrolments at Mt. Carmel School. Financial pressures associated with rising living costs and higher interest rates have probably also been a factor limiting the ability of some parishioners to contribute financially to the Parish.

The implication of the decline in the combined First Collections from the Yass Parish and the Gunning Parish is that the Parish is not covering the cost of supporting our Priest. This continues to be a concern in an era when Priests are short in number and the Archdiocese needs to make hard decisions in the allocation of available Priests across the Archdiocese.

Running Costs and the Importance of Rental Income

Total expenditure by the Parish in 2025 was around \$180,000. This included \$25,500 on repairs and maintenance (a relatively small sum given the number and age of Parish buildings), and a small capital expenditure of \$11,000 (replacing ineffective furniture and equipment in the Presbytery). On this basis, the figure suggests that it now costs around \$143,000 p.a. to run the Parish. This would appear to be a significant underestimate given the substantial backlog in repairs and maintenance as a product of the real decline in Parish income. The attached tables provide a broad categorisation of the range of costs which need to be met. For example, salaries and wages are around \$57,000 p.a. and the Parish insurance bill is now close to \$34,500 p.a.

It was agreed that, in order to reduce the total estimated cost of the **children's liturgy room** (initially \$90,000) and to have it completed as a high priority, the sacristy could be converted for that purpose. With the generous assistance of parishioners' donations, the liturgy room was ready for use by Easter this year at a total cost of around \$16,000. Feedback on the liturgy room has been very positive with Sunday attendances averaging around 15.

This highlights the importance to the Parish of rental income from various Parish properties, namely 106 Meehan Street, the ground floor of the Hartigan Centre, St. Augustine's Hall and occasional functions in the Lovat Chapel. Regrettably, progress on completing the upper floor of the Hartigan Centre was placed on hold during 2025 due to the tight financial position of the Parish

Total rental income in 2025 was around \$106,500. This represents a significant increase from \$57,000 in 2024. The increase, in part, reflects the ability to secure a tenant in St. Augustine's Hall from May 2025, which had been vacant since the departure of Yass Gymnastics in May, 2023. The Parish Finance Committee has been working hard with the new tenant to secure a long term agreement covering the development of an imagining centre to service Yass and our surrounding regions. The PFC has sought, and been granted, permission from the Trustees of the Archdiocese to lease the Hall on this basis.

The rental income from 106 Meehan Street has been stable over the past 18 months with a continuing rental agreement in place.

Further, the agreement with the St. Vincent de Paul Society for them to lease the Parish land on which their shop is located, alongside St. Augustine's Hall, took effect from 1 January, 2025, and will run for five (5) years with a five (5) year extension option. This lease arrangement is generating a significant new and much needed source of additional income for the Parish over coming years.

Net Result

While the net result appears promising with an operating surplus of \$74,400 for 2025, the forecast for 2026 is much less so. Total income from all sources is expected to fall from \$221,000 in 2025 to \$168,000 in 2026. With the substantial backlog in repairs and maintenance of property assets, expenditure on these items is forecast to increase from \$25,000 in 2025 to \$45,000 in 2026, with much of this unavoidable. Regrettably, this leaves a forecast operating surplus of around \$8,000. Factors contributing to this outcome include a 17% increase in salaries and associated items (long service leave, etc), a 15% increase in the cost of utilities (gas, electricity, etc) and a 16% increase in the cost of insurance.

MURRUMBATEMAN

The Archdiocese purchased the Uniting Church Property in Murrumbateman in 2024, using borrowed funds provided by a generous parishioner. The Archdiocese is required to repay the loan in full at the end of five (5) years, i.e. around mid-2029. While the funds were borrowed by the Archdiocese, repayment of the loan raises major implications for the Parish in raising sufficient funds, if possible, to allow the Archdiocese to repay the loan at that time.

The Parish is responsible for the ongoing running costs associated with the Murrumbateman property (the Murrumbateman Catholic Church Hall). These include rates, electricity, repairs and maintenance to the existing buildings and so on. Murrumbateman parishioners contributed \$16,440 towards Parish overhead costs associated with the Murrumbateman site. It is pleasing to see the growth in numbers attending Murrumbateman and the increase in planned giving contributions, resulting in the Murrumbateman account standing at \$36,600.

All second collections at Murrumbateman are now being deposited into the Murrumbateman account, as are all Planned Giving donations by Murrumbateman parishioners and any others who elect to have their funds paid into the Murrumbateman account. All funds raised through specific fundraising activities undertaken by Murrumbateman parishioners (and others) to go toward the eventual repayment of the loan will also be deposited into this account. The Murrumbateman Leadership Group has also made a substantial deposit into this account of funds raised by them from various fundraising activities undertaken over many years, most notably at the Murrumbateman Field Days. A separate bank account with the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) has now been set up for Murrumbateman, and as far as possible a separate and transparent set of financial accounts is being maintained for Murrumbateman.

In addition to the challenge facing the Parish in raising sufficient funds for repayment of the loan in mid-2029, there is also the need to develop a forward credible plan for future redevelopment of the site. While a wide range of fundraising activities will need to be explored, it is the view of the Parish Finance Committee that most of the funds

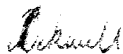
will need to come from some large donations by willing parishioners across the Parish, and a large number of small donations, over the next five (5) years.

Based on the Parish's financial position, it is clear that the Parish does not have the resources to meet the loan repayment in mid-2029, nor be in the position to fund major redevelopment of the site in the medium term beyond 2029. These concerns have been raised with the Murrumbateman sub-committee of the PFC.

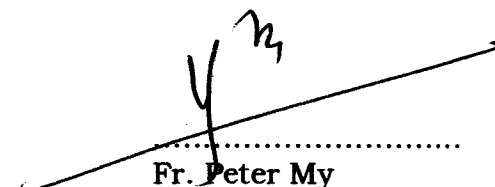
CONCLUSION

Dear Parishioners, many of the issues discussed above are difficult and complex. We, and all members of the Parish Finance Committee and Murrumbateman Sub-Committee would welcome your comments, suggestions and most importantly your prayers.

Yours sincerely,



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Anthony Ockwell
Chairperson
Parish Finance Committee



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Fr. Peter My
Parish Priest

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2025 CALENDAR YEAR

2024	Regular Income	Yass	Murrumbateman	Total	Budget 2026 Yass	Budget 2026 M'man
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
76,751	Planned Giving/2nd Collect./Tap Donations	67,932	30,013	97,945	102,617	38,600
2,872	Donations/Bequests ¹	3,445		3,445	5,005	
4,418	Functions/Fundraising/Ceremonies (M/B \$6041)	3,932	6,041	9,973	4,200	5,000
57,425	Hire/Rent of Facilities	106,550		106,550	107,056	0
	<u>Sundry Income:</u>					
569	Advertising	568		568	682	
0	Contributions: Gunning Parish re Presbytery overheads	2,440		2,440	1,200	
0	Contributions: Murrumbateman re Parish overheads		16,440	16,440		-16,980
3,706	Interest Parish Accounts	3,388	646	4,034		500
1,340	Educational Recoupment (Sacramental Programme)	2,060		2,060		
147,081	Total	190,315	53,140	243,455	220,760	27,120
	<u>Regular Expenses</u>					
14,199	Admin.Costs(Incl.M/B church req&Evangel. Support)	12,301		12,301	15,897	1,200
6,032	Motor Vehicle Expenses	6,000		6,000	6,100	
2,349	Education Resources	3,049		3,049	2,913	
69,284	Salaries/Super./Ann.& Long Serv.Leave/Parish Support	56,729		56,729	67,093	
8,845	Youth Ministry part-time employee/s	5,448		5,448	10,000	
0	Youth Ministry Expenses	0		0	1,000	
39,433	Insurances	34,500		34,500	40,044	
4,981	Diocesan Levies/Donations	4,438		4,438	4,836	
6,033	Property: Charges - Land & water rates (incl M'B)	7,993		7,993	7,951	1,000
5,945	Property: Rental Management Fees	7,420	427	7,847	6,955	
4,601	Presbytery/Parish Office: PropertyCharges/Elect/Gas	4,155		4,155	4,793	
	Murrumbateman - Electricity		1,083	1,083		1,900
161,702		142,033	1,510	143,543	167,582	4,100
	<u>Repairs & Maintenance</u>					
2,320	Church	4,130		4,130	3,000	
1,217	Chapel	165		165	20,000	
15,417	Parish Hall	8,319		8,319	2,000	
7,861	Hartigan Centre	3,885		3,885	6,000	
2,635	Presbytery/Parish Office	3,070		3,070	7,000	
0	106 Meehan Street	685		685	7,000	
	Murrumbateman - R&M		5,251	5,251		8,000
29,450		\$20,254	5,251	25,505	45,000	8,000
191,152	Total Regular Expenses			169,048	212,582	12,100
-44,071	OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT			74,407	8,178	15,020
CAPITAL ITEMS						
	<u>Capital Expenditure</u>					
0	Church - Children's Liturgy Room (Multi-purpose)			0	36,000	
26,948	Church - Overhead Audiovisual			0	0	
	Furn., Equip.(Comp.Equip, Presb.C'tee/Dining Table, Chairs			11,104	0	
26,948	Total Capital Expenditure			11,104	36,000	
	<u>Capital Receipts</u>					
21,661	Contributions - Children's Liturgy Room (Multi-Purpose)			0	0	
21,661	Total Capital Receipts			0	0	
-5,287	Capital Balance			-11,104	-36,000	
168,742	TOTAL RECEIPTS			243,455	220,760	27,120
218,100	TOTAL EXPENDITURE			180,152	248,582	12,100
-49,358	OVERALL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)			63,303	-27,822	15,020

Financial Statement 2025 Calendar Year

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER

2024		2025	Budget 2026 Yass	Budget 2026 M'man
\$		\$	\$	\$
	<u>Assets</u>			
95,852	Parish Account	160,949	133,127	
1,747	Youth Account	0	0	
	Murrumbateman Account	36,603	51,623	51,623
600,000	106 Meehan Street (Book Value) ²	600,000	600,000	

2,412	GST Refundable	459	2500	
700,011	Total Assets	798,011	787,250	51,623
	Liabilities			
5,297	Employee Long Service Leave	6,511	3,748	
10,509	Employee Annual Leave	11,364	8,328	
1,519	Sundry/Archbishop Christmas Appeal	1,122	1,100	
0	Other Creditors	15,553	1,000	
21,661	Donations Multi-Purpose Room	35,761	0	
38,986	Total Liabilities	70,311	14,176	
661,025	Net Assets	727,700	773,074	51,623

Balance Parish Account 28 February 2026: \$161,293.12

Balance M'bateman Account 28 February 2026: \$ 38,598.55

Note: 1

Funds raised by Murrumbateman Parishioners, under the Murrumbateman Leadership Group, over recent years, transferred into the new Murrumbateman Account in early 2025.

2

Other Parish properties are not included in the Balance Sheet at this time because no recent valuations are available. Insurance valuations of the buildings are available, but these do not reflect the value of the land on which the buildings sit.

3

The Murrumbateman Catholic Church Hall, and the loan from the parishioner, are not included because these are Archdiocesan Assets and Liabilities.

FIRST COLLECTIONS

2024	2025
38,414	34,235

*These collections are forwarded directly to the Archdiocese and are not controlled by the Parish.
The Collections are used primarily for the support of the priests across the Archdiocese.