

MARY, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH, BLACKTOWN

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FINANCE REPORT
Financial Year 2025-2026

Introduction

On behalf of the Parish Finance Committee, we are pleased to present the Finance Report for the 2025—2026 Financial Year. This report provides a summary of the parish's financial performance, major projects, key achievements, and future financial priorities. Despite ongoing cost-of-living pressures and rising operational expenses, the parish remains financially stable due to the generosity of our parishioners, prudent financial management, and the continued benefit of the income we receive from our investment properties.

1. Financial Performance

Parish Income and Expenditure

	2025-2026	2024-2025	Change
Income	$ 724,467	$ 726,885	0.33% Decrease
Expenditure	$ 619,387	$ 535,452	15.7% Increase

While total income remained consistent with the previous financial year, expenditure increased substantially due to major maintenance and capital works undertaken across parish properties.

The parish requires approximately $47,000 each month to meet its operating expenses and commitments. During the year, the average monthly income was approximately $60,000, resulting in an average monthly surplus of $13,000. Our annual insurance premium alone amounted to $73,000.

2. Parish Collections

Parish collections showed slight growth:

Total Collections	FY 2025-2026	FY2024-2025	Change
First Collection (for support of clergy)	$ 133,384	$ 131,163	+ 1.7%
Second Collection (supporting parish) Average weekly collections.	$ 364,603	$ 352,343	+ 3.4%
First Collection:	$ 2,565	$ 2,522	+ 1.7%
Second Collection:	$ 7,012	$ 6,776	+ 3.4%

We sincerely thank all parishioners for their ongoing generosity and commitment through Loose Collections and Planned Giving during these difficult financial times.

3. Fundraising and Special Collections

The parish benefitted from several successful fundraising initiatives and contributed to the various charitable appeals held by the Diocese..

Major Charitable Collections	Amount Raised
Caritas Project Compassion	$ 5,135
Bishop's Father's Day Appeal	$ 3,961
Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal	$ 3,791
Bishop's Christmas Appeal	$ 3,470

Major Fundraising Activities	
Parish Golf Day	$ 10,872
Christmas Gala	$ 4,767
Parish Feast Day	$ 4,748

The Annual Parish Golf Day attracted a record 124 players and raised $10,872 net profit. 10% of this profit was donated to the San Filipo Foundation to support children affected by Childhood Dementia. We thank all volunteers, sponsors, and participants who contributed to these successful initiatives.

4. Parish Financial Position (as at 30 June 2026)

	30-Jun-26	30-Jun-25
Bank Accounts	$ 81,656 Cr	$ 108,039 Cr
Parish Loan	$ 251,500 Dr	$ 190,351 Dr
Parramatta Catholic Foundation position	$ 1,433 Cr	$ 7,722 Cr

The parish exceeded its Parramatta Catholic Foundation quota for the year, creating a credit position and reducing future financial obligations.

5. Investment Properties

The parish owns nine (9) properties which continue to provide an essential source of income, financial sustainability and support to the ongoing operation of the parish.

Key outcomes for the year included:

- Net rental income increased 11%, i.e. from $207,883 to $229,637
- All properties remained tenanted throughout the financial year
- Property maintenance expenditure totalled $39,500 during the year.
- A major insurance claim covering damage at our 58B Orwell St property caused by a burst water pipe resulted in repair works valued at $148,000, with insurance covering the cost apart from the $5,000 excess paid by the Parish.

6. Major Maintenance and Capital Works

- **St Patrick's Church Roof Project**

The most significant project completed during the year was the finalisation of repairs to the roof of St Patrick's Church, with a total cost of $526,000.

Project Summary

Funding Source	Amount
Donations by Parishioners (Raise the Roof Appeal)	$145,000
Insurance Proceeds	$ 85,000
Contribution from existing Parish funds	$146,000
Loan from the DDF (Diocesan Dev Fund)	$150,000
Total Project Cost	$526,000

The committee remains profoundly grateful to everyone who supported the Raise the Roof Appeal. Your generosity significantly reduced the amount the parish needed to borrow and enabled this important project to be completed successfully.

- **Other Significant Works**
  - St Patrick's Church
    - CCTV system upgrade
    - Roof repair completion
  - St Michael's Church
    - CCTV system upgrade
    - Plumbing works at 151 Reservoir Road
    - Former Presbytery repainting and electrical upgrades

Following inspection of the roof of St Michael's Church and in light of future parish developments, it was agreed that no further action would be taken.

7. The Blacktown Parish Project

A major milestone for our parish occurred on 7 December 2025 when Bishop Vincent Long announced the purchase of land within the Blacktown CBD for the future construction of a new parish church. This was in association with the Blacktown Quarter redevelopment being undertaken by Walker Corporation.

Consultation with parishioners and planning activities have commenced and will continue over the coming years. This project has also influenced a number of financial decisions, with several proposed capital works being postponed or withdrawn to ensure the responsible stewardship of parish resources.

8. Other Highlights

Notable achievements during the year included:

- Seven (7) new parishioners joined Planned Giving, bringing participation to 364 parishioners, with 141 of these using envelopes.

- The annual insurance premium of $73,000 was able to be paid in full from parish funds.
- The parish successfully obtained a Safe Places for Faith Communities Grant of $36,869, reducing parish costs associated with the CCTV installation project.
- Piety Store operations generated $28,000 net income for the parish.
- The 2026 Parish Audit was completed with no significant concerns identified. This reflects the parish's responsible stewardship and prudent financial management.

9. Key Financial Priorities

The Parish Finance Committee continues to focus on the following priorities:

1. Responsible management and the reduction of parish debt.
2. Ongoing maintenance of parish buildings and properties.
3. Managing increasing insurance and operational costs.
4. Balancing current parish needs with future commitments associated with the Blacktown Project.

The parish remains committed to maintaining sustainable finances while continuing to provide a welcoming and vibrant faith community.

10. Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere gratitude to all parishioners who support the parish through weekly collections, Planned Giving, special appeals, volunteering, fundraising activities and prayer.

Special thanks are extended to the Prish Clergy – Fr Wim, Fr Stephen, Fr Tom, Deacon John, and also Fr Rooney; our Business and Finance Manager, Sarah Canete-Damole; Jill Franco, parish secretary; our parish collectors and volunteers; members of the various Fundraising committees and supporters; those who advertise in our parish bulletin and members of our Parish Finance Committee.

Conclusion

The Parish Finance Committee thanks all parishioners for their continued support, generosity and trust. Through prudent stewardship and the commitment of our parish community, we remain financially stable and well positioned to meet future challenges while preparing for the exciting opportunities presented through the Blacktown Quarter Project.

With our prayer and gratitude,

Michael Zerafa
Chairperson,
MQOF Parish Finance Committee
18 November 2026

Fr Wim Hoekstra
Parish Priest
MQOF Parish, Blacktown
18 November 2026