St John's
Catholic Cathedral Portsmouth

I am pleased to present the accounts for our cathedral parish for **the year ended 31st August 2026**. I would like to thank the Parish Finance Committee and others who kindly donate their time to assist with the parish's financial matters. In particular, I would like to thank Mrs Ifeoma Azikiwe, who has stepped down as volunteer parish bookkeeper after almost three years of service in this role.

Canon James McAuley, Cathedral Dean
31st October 2026

Some statistics for the parish for the year:

- The ordinary cost of running the parish (excluding major repairs and other extraordinary costs) was **£651 per day** or **£4,569 per week**.
- The Sunday offertory (excluding Gift Aid) covered **67%** (2025: 55%) of our ordinary (day-to-day) operating costs (i.e., excluding major repairs).
- About **46**% (2025: 42%) of the parish weekly collection was by planned giving (standing order, direct debit or envelope).
- Assuming one third of the autumn 2026 Mass count of **1,084** (2025: 1,141) to be children, the estimated average weekly donation per Sunday Mass adult attendee was **£4.23** (2025: £3.68).

Ways in which you can support your parish:

- Consider whether you can **increase** your donation to the parish.
- Switch to giving by way of **standing order** or **direct debit**. This ensures that the parish receives a more regular source of income.
- If you are a UK taxpayer, complete **a gift aid declaration**, which increases your donation by 25% **at no extra cost to you**.
- Include a **bequest** to the cathedral parish in your **will**.

Our bank account details

Lloyds Bank, Southsea branch
Sort Code: 30-93-04 Account number: 00883884
Account name: CDP St Johns Cathedral

Ordinary ("day-to-day") Income	**2025-2026**	**2024-2025**
	£	**£**
Offertory collection (including gift aid)	**182,647**	**164,542**
Donations for candles (net of their cost)	**5,416**	**4,828**
Christmas & Easter collect., stole fees, Mass intentions	**22,739**	**20,662**
Unrestricted donations (incl. diocesan annual collection)	**28,016**	**29,882**
Hall rental income and rental paid by the diocese	**35,142**	**34,560**
Interest on bank deposits	**0**	**5,061**
Miscellaneous income	**7,990**	**8,703**
Total Ordinary ("day-to-day") Income	**281,959**	**268,238**

Ordinary ("day-to-day") Payments	**£**	**£**
Priests' stipend, NIC, housekeeping and motor expenses	**33,304**	**32,649**
Employees' wages and NIC	**45,632**	**50,604**
Altar and liturgical (including choir)	**27,720**	**16,250**
Light, heat and water	**25,255**	**51,946**
Ordinary repairs and maintenance	**20,646**	**30,037**
Telephone, post, printing, photocopying, IT, webcam	**8,672**	**7,478**
Insurance	**16,049**	**16,192**
Parish books, courses, events and transport	**2,795**	**5,572**
Parish contribution to diocesan central costs	**50,748**	**48,432**
Miscellaneous payments	**6,781**	**4,333**
Total Ordinary ("day-to-day") Payments	**237,602**	**263,493**

Surplus of Ordinary Income over Payments	**£44,357**	**£4,745**

Extraordinary ("rainy-day") Income	**2025-2026**	**2024-2025**
	£	**£**
Legacies	**0**	**98,805**
Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme (VAT reclaim)	**0**	**17,323**
Donations for major repairs and other restricted purposes	**119,335**	**55,048**
CRC dividend: prior year surplus (carpark & repository)	**59,223**	**69,396**
Parish share of donations to the Closer to Christ campaign	**57,982**	**49,173**
Interest on bank deposits	**15,628**	**0**
Donations from other parishes in the diocese	**590**	**14,500**
Shared costs recharged to the diocese for previous years	**0**	**40,141**
Total Extraordinary ("rainy-day") Income	**252,758**	**344,386**

Extraordinary ("rainy-day") Payments	**£**	**£**
Major repairs, related professional fees and costs associated with the Cathedral150 programme	**107,483**	**47,423**
Total Extraordinary ("rainy-day") Payments	**107,483**	**47,423**
Surplus of Extraordinary Income over Payments	**£145,275**	**£296,963**

Canon James McAuley
Cathedral Dean and Parish Priest

Mrs Jude Diggins
Chair of the Parish Finance Committee

Commentary on the year's results and financial outlook

In accordance with the diocesan cash accounting policy for parishes, these accounts present money **received** and **paid out** in **the year ended 31st August 2026**. Their timing can have a significant effect on the results in any year. The accounts consolidate transactions in the three parish bank accounts, but do **not** include transactions in Catholic

Resource Centre Limited (CRC), which is registered for VAT and which manages the carpark and repository. A surplus in CRC's operations for the year ended 31st August 2025 enabled CRC to pay a dividend of £59,223 to the parish in April 2026. This was less than the previous year's dividend because CRC had paid for urgent maintenance work in spring 2025 on trees in the carpark.

The average Sunday Mass attendance in autumn 2026 was **1,084** (2025: 1,141). The Sunday offertory (before gift aid) covered **67%** (24-25: 55%) of the total ordinary operating costs of the parish (i.e., excluding major repairs). The parish benefited from donations which had been made to the diocesan *Closer to Christ* campaign. No legacies were received in the year. **Please do consider leaving a bequest to the cathedral in your will.** The government grant scheme has ended, whereby we had been able to reclaim VAT incurred on eligible repairs. This has had the effect of automatically increasing our repair costs by 20%. Major repairs in the year included: (a) repair of the roof of St Patrick's chapel to stop persistent water ingress; (b) repair of the guttering on the outside of the Blessed Sacrament chapel; (c) repair of water damage in the south transept close to the organ; (d) repair of the broken outer and inner glass doors at the west end; (e) preliminary costs connected with the removal of asbestos from the roof space; and (f) upgrading of the sound system in St John's chapel (where the choir sings).

Donations received from other parishes during the year as a result of an appeal in early 2024 for assistance totalled £590, a considerable decrease on the previous year's donations of £14,500. In December 2025, we launched the Cathedral150 appeal to cover **essential** repairs required over the next few years to the cathedral roof, to the heating and electrical systems, as well as the possible underpinning of the subsiding west end. This work was costed several years ago at **£2.5 million.** Funds permitting, we also have ambitious, but necessary, plans for improvements to the interior of the cathedral and to the ancillary buildings on the site. Much of the work relating to the Cathedral150 programme is being done by volunteers. In particular, I am very grateful to Mrs Caroline Virgo for the donation of about 20 hours per week of her time over the past year.

Our total cash balance at 31st August 2026 of **£149,315** in current accounts and **£545,688** on bank deposit represents only **28%** of the estimated £2.5 million needed over the next few years to complete **essential** repairs to the cathedral building. In September 2026, the parish paid invoices totalling £40,529 relating to the removal in August of asbestos from the cathedral's roof space. In accordance with our cash accounting policy, these costs will be reflected in next year's accounts. In the new accounting year, we need to invest much more in the Cathedral150 programme if we are to have any success in raising the large sums of money needed.