



DIOCESE OF PAISLEY
Diocesan Centre Cathedral Precincts
Incle Street, Paisley
PA1 1HR
Tel: 0141 847 6130
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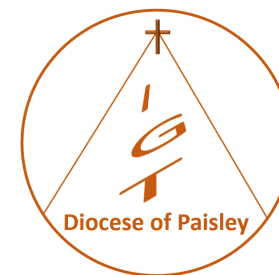
Scottish Charity Number SC013514



DIOCESE OF PAISLEY

**INCOME GENERATION
ANNUAL REPORT**

AUGUST 2025



EVANGELISATION PRAYER



*God our loving Father,
who sent your Son to show us the way
to live fully in the Spirit,
be with us while we walk together
as a Diocesan Family.
Help us to be people who will accept
the mission of passing on Your Word
and sowing seeds of Your love
in our Diocese and beyond.
Send the Holy Spirit to guide us;
to keep us united in purpose;
and to give us the courage to fulfil our mission.
As we journey together in faith,
help us to be aware of Your presence;
to listen to Your voice;
and to discern Your Will for our Diocese
in the months and years to come.*

Our Lady of Paisley, pray for us.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I thank you for taking the time to read this Annual Report and for your continued financial support to each of the special collections taken up in your parish throughout the year. Your sacrifice is gratefully appreciated and your kindness is undoubtedly helping to change the lives of many people, locally and beyond.

Each year you will receive a booklet keeping you well informed on what you give and on how your offerings are supporting the mission of the Church.

I take this opportunity to thank a large number of people working in partnership to produce the materials for this booklet and for the finances to cover its cost. In particular, my gratitude extends to:

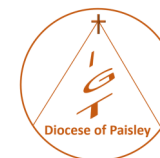
Bishop John Keenan
The Diocesan Clergy
Fr. John Morrison
Father Ryan Black
Philip McEachen
Neil Roarty
D. Moodie & Co.
Kathleen & Margaret Nolan
Tommy Connell

Bishop of Paisley
Diocese of Paisley
Director of Vocations
Vicar Episcopal for Youth
Diocesan Finance Manager
Director of Schools
Sponsor
Graphics, Typeset & Design
Printing

Finally, I thank the Income Generation Team (IGT) volunteers from many of our parishes in the Diocese. The time and commitment they give to making the appeals and many hours they give to planning and promoting fundraising initiatives is gratefully appreciated.

*Please pray daily the Evangelisation Prayer
imploping the intercession of Our Lady of Paisley
to guide and direct the mission of the Diocese
for the good of all God's people.*

Canon Edward D. Cameron
Convener for Income Generation
Diocese of Paisley



SPONSOR



D. MOODIE & CO.

INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Proud to support Diocese of Paisley

THREE GENERATIONS OF EXPERIENCE

FULLY QUALIFIED STAFF

24 HOUR PERSONAL SERVICE

GOLDEN CHARTER PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS

39 Cross Arthurlie St
Barrhead, G78 1QU
0141 881 1414

61- 63 Glasgow Rd
Paisley, PA1 3PD
0141 840 4567

2 Rowan Street
Paisley, PA2 6RH
0141 848 0480

1-3 Station Road
Neilston, G78 3EE
0141 881 2580



**Golden
Charter**



JUBILEE PRAYER



*Father in Heaven,
may the faith You have given us
in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of Your Kingdom.*

*May Your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators
of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole Cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new Heaven and a new Earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
Your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of Heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the Earth.*

*To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen*

PREFACE

Brothers and Sisters,

I read recently the words of St. Paul in his Letter to the people at Corinth: “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (2 Cor. 9:6-11)

Indeed, who does not love a cheerful giver? Growing up in my teen years, I heard on many occasions older and wiser parishioners say that, “the more you give the more you will get back.” Also, that, “there is more joy in giving than in receiving.” How true that is, I believe. The joy and satisfaction we experience in giving is reward enough when we see and know that the sacrifices we make bring so much joy and peace to the lives of so many.

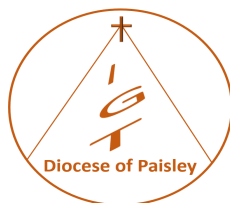
It is comforting to know from the figures contained in this year’s Income Report that you continue to support the many appeals for worthy causes. Every donation you give is making a difference, locally, nationally and internationally. Where it has not been possible to show comparison for appeals for 2025 and 2024, or if 2025 figures are not available then we compare 2024 and 2023 figures. Please know that your generous giving does not go unnoticed.

The greatest joy for me is to see the increase each year in the membership for the ‘Friends Scheme’ which continues to increase revenue for the five key Diocesan projects: Education; Youth; SPRED; Sick and Retired Clergy; and Ecclesiastical Students. If you are not a member, please consider joining **TODAY** by completing the enclosed registration form and return it to the Diocesan Office, using the envelope provided.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND FOR TAKING THE TIME TO SIGN UP.



Canon Edward D Cameron
Convener for Fundraising



EASYFUNDRAISING

Roman Catholic Diocese of Paisley

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/diocese-of-paisley>

Sign up and support this cause



Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be **raising free donations** for Paisley Diocese with *easyfundraising*?



easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity shopping site

Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use *easyfundraising* to shop with them - including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, Booking.com and M&S - and it **won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.**

All you need to do is:

- 1 Simply go to the website:
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/diocese-of-paisley>
- 2 Every time you shop online, **go to easyfundraising first** to find the site you want and start shopping
- 3 After you've checked out, the brand will make a donation to
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/diocese-of-paisley>
at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

If you prefer to use your phone to take you straight to our donation page please use the QR Code below.

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you would sign up and support us. It's completely **FREE** and only takes a moment. There are no catches or hidden charges and the **diocese-of-paisley** will be really grateful for your donations.



You'll be able to see how much you've raised in your account and you'll receive updates on when the Roman Catholic Diocese of Paisley gets paid.

Track all the donations and watch the magic happen!

Thank you so much!

FUNDRAISING : GOING FORWARD

FRIENDS' CAMPAIGN



“A friend is a friend at all times.” Prov.17:17

You are invited to take part in the Diocese of Paisley Friends' Campaign. Our *Friends' Campaign* is the heart of this and it is hoped that, if every member of our Diocese gave just £5 per year as a friend, we would be in surplus. If you feel you would like to help in this way, please choose the method which suits you (see below). *Your information will be kept completely private and not shared with any outside bodies.*

***TELEPHONE** the Diocese of Paisley on 0141 847 6131 to discuss a standing order / direct debit / cash payment.

***STANDING ORDER FORMS** on behalf of the Diocesan Appeal for Special Collections can also be found in the Information Pack provided by the Diocesan Income Generation Team and which is available in your parish. Please speak with your parish priest or parish representative (s).

***BY CHEQUE** payable to the **DIOCESE OF PAISLEY**
 Send to: **Finance Office, Diocese of Paisley,
 Cathedral Precincts, Inle Street,
 Paisley, PA1 1HR.**

The aim is to eventually engender around £100,000pa from this fund through standing orders and direct debits. The good news is that many parishioners across the Diocese have signed up to our campaign, while others have topped it up through one off donations or fundraising events.

Many thanks to our fundraising team for their dedicated work and to all who have so far given so generously.



**THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND OF
OUR DIOCESE.**

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS CALENDAR



2025

Vocations 2	14th September
Mission Sunday (Missio)	19th October
Education	16th November

2026

Justice & Peace	4th January
Sick & Retired Clergy 1	18th January
SPRED	8th February
SCIAF & Papal & Episcopal Charities	15th March
Holy Places	3rd April
Vocations 1	26th April
Sick & Retired Clergy 2	17th May
Communications	14th June
Pro-Life	28th June
Peter's Pence	12th July
Apostleship of The Sea	6th September
Vocations 2	20th September
Mission Sunday (Missio Scotland)	18th October
Education	15th November

INTRODUCTION



DIOCESE OF PAISLEY
Bishop John Keenan
Diocesan Centre Cathedral Precincts
Incle Street, Paisley
PA1 1HR
Tel: 0141 847 6130
Fax: 0141 847 6140

August 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The summer holidays are now behind us and I hope that it was a time for you and your families to enjoy some rest and refreshment together, and that you feel recharged and ready for the year ahead as our schools get back up and running.

You will probably also be getting used to this time being the season for our annual update and appeal for our 'Friends Scheme' and our appreciation of your faithful and ongoing support of it.

Through your generous contributions we have been able to build up our pastoral ministry across a number of areas which I know are deeply important to you.

I particularly appreciate your support of our Youth programme and wish you could have been with us on our Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in July where a coach full of our young people, joined by our young adults, joined us to help our hospitality with our frail and elderly, transporting them from their hotels to the various pilgrimage venues. Their joy and friendship, together with their music and prayers, brought memorable hope and encouragement to all who were with us.

I came home to meetings with our Youth and Education offices who are jointly organising the Carlo Acutis Relics Tour in September. They have managed to ensure that his official Relics will come to our Diocese accompanied by the Diocese of Assisi in the very week following his canonization. The Relics Tour follows upon our highly successful Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition last year which the Education team brought to all our Catholic schools in the Diocese and which had a profound effect on pupils and staff alike. Our Education team continues its close and fruitful relationship with our SPRED ministry which goes from strength to strength in providing an environment for our brothers and sisters with additional needs to experience the Church and to grow in their faith in preparation for the Sacraments.

GOING FORWARD : WAYS TO DONATE

Many thanks for your continued support of your
Parish / Paisley Diocese via:

*PARISH ENVELOPES *STANDING ORDERS
*DIRECT DEBITS *QR CODES *ON-LINE GIVING

Or *ON-LINE GIVING at: <https://rcdop.org.uk/online-giving>



The link or QR code above will take you to the Diocesan Charities Trust on-line giving page where you can choose to donate to any Parish or (further down the list) one of our Diocesan Funds.

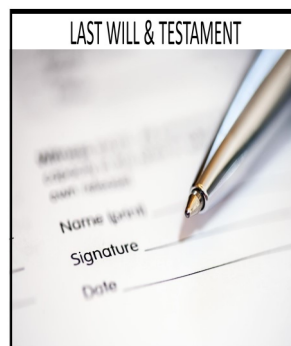
Your donations to any of the above options will always be welcomed in the Diocese of Paisley. Thank you!

*These continue to be difficult times for everyone financially
so please simply give what you can.*

Your financial support is always very much appreciated.

If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid offers a simple way to increase the value of your gift to charity by allowing the charity to reclaim the tax on your gift. Currently charities are able to claim an additional 25p from every £1 donated by UK Tax Payers. The Church is a registered charity and can therefore benefit from your giving through gift aid at no extra cost to you. All that is required of you is to complete a simple Declaration Form available from your Parish/Diocese.

giftaidit



LEGACIES: When making your Will have you thought of leaving a legacy to your Parish or the Diocese? A legacy to the Catholic Church is a valuable and lasting way for you to continue to support its ministry and mission within your community and help the Church to meet the needs of future generations.

Making a Difference:

Every gift left to the Catholic Church – no matter how large or small – can have a significant impact.

Diocesan Fundraising Appeal 2024 - Standing Orders & One-Off Donations

As At 22-Jul-25

PMcE

Number of Standing Orders	39
Number Gift Aided (So far)	9
Number of On-Off Donations	4

	Per Annum Excl Gift Aid	Per Annum Incl Gift Aid	One-off Donations (incl Gift Aid)
Retired Priests	£2,388	£2,461	£1,500
Education	£1,152	£1,225	£1,250
SPRED	£3,497	£3,751	£1,350
Vocations	£2,112	£2,215	£1,250
Youth	£1,392	£1,465	£1,250
TOTALS	£10,541	£11,115	£6,600

Total Income from first year of standing orders, Gift Aid plus one-off donations **£17,715**

I have also been liaising with our Marriage, Family and Life Commission who are working hard to prepare the upcoming marriage preparation courses, family days and annual Mass for Marriage, and who are building a real culture of family support across our Diocese.

This was followed by meetings with our three seminarians who shared their experiences of Salamanca and Rome with me and their high hopes for the year ahead as they look to continue their journey into the priesthood and their service of our Diocese. They are all fine men of different ages and stages, and all committed to following their call into the priesthood.

I see so much wonderful work developing across our Diocese and it is all possible because of the continued contributions you are making to our Friends' Scheme. As I write to you, I can feel the good fruits of your continued support and generosity and I want to express my sincere thanks. Your contributions are making a big impact on our five key initiatives of pastoral care in the Diocese for young people, disability groups, vocations and the health and wellbeing of our clergy.

So thank you again from the bottom of my heart and I know that you will continue to support us and our Friends' Scheme in these good missions of our Diocese. Thank you for your contribution in recent years and for what you will provide this year which is gratefully appreciated by me and our Friends Scheme team who work so hard and effectively for its success, and which is always well received by your beloved people.

With assurance of my prayers and blessings,

John Keenan

+ **John**
Bishop of Paisley
bishopjohn@rcdop.org.uk



INCOME GENERATION : ANNUAL APPEAL

30/31 August 2025

Good morning,

Thank you to N.N, for this opportunity to speak to you on a matter of importance for all of us as brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Paisley.

My Name is N.N. I am a member of the Diocesan Income Generation Team. It is my pleasure to be with you today to make this annual appeal on behalf of Bishop John and the priests of Paisley Diocese.

I ask you, please, to ensure that you collect a copy of the Annual Report as you leave church today. The information it contains is a brief presentation of facts and figures, collated by the Diocesan Finance Manager, showing the total income received by the Diocese from the parishes in response to Diocesan, National and International Appeals.

You will note in the Report that the income for each appeal increased from the previous year, helping to reduce further the expenditure of the Diocese. It is commendable that you continue to provide essential funding to ensure that the mission of the Church, locally and nationally, will continue to grow and flourish. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, it is reassuring to know that we are moving in the right direction and can look to the future with optimism and confidence.

Your generosity makes it possible to provide valued and much needed ministries in the Diocese: You help our Young People to grow in their understating of the faith and provide opportunities for them to come together to celebrate their faith; you support their education by providing invaluable resources for our schools through the excellent work of our Diocesan Education Department; you make it possible for people young and older with learning disabilities to celebrate the Sacraments in a unique way through SPRED which helps them to understand and celebrate their faith in a meaningful and joyful way; your prayers and financial contributions promote and support the Call to Priesthood and those who respond to that call; you show compassion and love for your Clergy when you provide for their needs in sickness and in old age.

VOCATIONS: A Closer Look

In the Diocese of Paisley, Vocations ministry may be separated into four different areas: **awareness; promotion; discernment and application; and seminary formation.**

Vocations Awareness

Vocations awareness is concerned with making people more aware of the calling they receive in baptism. Many people experience life as an inchoate series of seemingly random events with little direction, purpose or meaning. The Catholic imagination offers a little more! As Pope Benedict famously reflected – ***‘Each of us is a thought of God. Each of us is willed. Each of us is loved. Each of us is necessary.’***

In our vocations office, we seek to constantly articulate this vision by reminding people that God has a plan for their lives. We support this vision by creating educational and spiritual resources and constantly working on our social media platforms.

Vocations Promotion

Vocations promotion is the more purposeful suggestion of the priesthood, the diaconate and the consecrated life. It’s the posters, newsletters, school programs, and retreat opportunities that continually propose the vocation of formally serving God in the Church. Every year we prepare and distribute materials at three points – National Vocations Week (generally in September), our January appeal for seminary applicants and Good Shepherd Sunday (generally in May).

Discernment and Application

The Diocese of Paisley has developed a programme to assist those who are discerning a call to Priesthood. This programme has been adopted nationally. If an enquirer wishes to apply for seminary formally he enters the **PASS** system (Programme of Application for Scottish Seminaries) which consists of a number of residential weekends. Over the years, the Scottish Bishop have asked for more elements to be added to this process. On average the process of PASS costs the Diocese of Paisley approximately £2,000 per applicant. This year we anticipate having one applicant.

Seminary Formation

Upon completion of the PASS system, a candidate is then admitted to Seminary. After a propaedeutic period of six months at the Royal Scots College in Salamanca, the student will then study at the Scots College, Rome, for seven years. It costs the Diocese of Paisley, £30,000 a year to train a student Priest. This year we will have one student at the Scots College in Rome.

Fr John Morrison Director of Vocations

Strengthening Home-School-Parish Links

Our Diocesan Parent Forum has been set up to provide advice for Parent Councils. We also wish to support parents as the first educators of their children and have developed Family Sacramental Workbooks for P4 and P7. In Session 2024-25, we worked on developing an app for Confirmandi and their parents to deepen their learning about Confirmation. We hope this will be able for 2025-26 and plan to develop further apps for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. As part of the Diocesan Secondary Religious Education course, we have produced leaflets for parents outlining the key learning in each unit.

In Advent, we continued to work with the Daughters of St Paul to ensure the Travelling Crib programme was delivered to all P2 classes. Cribbs went home to families, together with a nativity story and a short prayer service. With financial support, we plan to develop further initiatives which strengthen home-school-parish links.

Supporting Schools and Developing Teachers

Teachers as individuals and as a group are responsible for creating the distinctive Christian ethos of our schools. The Department provides support for both their professional and spiritual development, including a Retreat for Head Teachers, Retreats for teachers, Induction Programmes for new Head Teachers and Newly Qualified Teachers and support for the delivery of Religious Education, including preparation for the Sacraments.

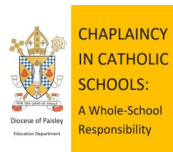
The Department provides guidance on the life of our schools as Communities of Faith and Learning. Our termly *Centred on Christ* newsletter contains articles on various aspects of the mission of the Catholic school. This represents a significant financial cost to the Diocese. All 40 schools evaluated their effectiveness as Catholic schools and submitted a Developing in Faith report to the Diocese.

We continue to liaise with Glasgow University and Diocesan Head Teachers to deliver a conference for S6 pupils which encourages them to choose Catholic teaching as a positive career choice.

Supporting Chaplains

Our priests provide an invaluable service as chaplains to our schools. Chaplains' meetings enable them to discuss important topics. The Department has published two documents to help schools and chaplains to work together in enhancing the spiritual lives of young people. Joint Meetings of Clergy and Head Teachers enable them to share practice and plan developments

Neil Roarty, Director of Schools, DoP



The articles in the Report give a brief insight into the wonderful work that is going on around the Diocese, all made possible because of your kindness and willingness to support these vital projects ongoing.

In the past year, the contributions to the 'Friends' Scheme' increased by £17,715. Thank You to our new 'Friends' for registering last year and to all our existing Friends who have faithfully supported the Scheme since its inception.

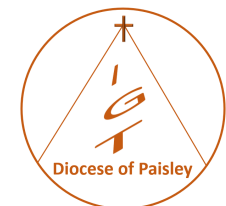
I ask you, PLEASE, if you are not yet a member of the 'Friends' Scheme' to seriously consider supporting one or more of these special projects by completing and returning the registration form enclosed in your Report to the Diocese using the envelope provided. The little extra you give will go a long way to ensure that we can continue to provide pastoral care for our brothers and sisters in our parishes and in our Diocese.

These projects are the most challenging and costly for the Diocese. The shortfall for each of these appeals, though slightly less year on year, continue to be a cause for concern, impacting directly on our parishes and the Diocese. As a charity, we rely entirely on your generosity and consistent offerings to provide for these pastoral initiatives. Any increase you make to these appeals would be gratefully appreciated and help significantly to ensure their viability for years to come.

We are 'Pilgrims of Hope'. We look to the future with hopeful expectation that our parishes and Diocese will continue to be strong and vibrant communities, working in partnership to deepen our relationship with the Lord and with each other. This we can achieve, because we firmly believe that we are the one family of God in the Diocese of Paisley; we provide for all that we need. We are strong in faith and always at the service of one another as brothers and sisters in the Lord. Are we not?

THANK YOU for your generous support.

THANK YOU for listening.



NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL APPEALS

Justice and Peace Scotland

This collection helps fund our Scottish Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, our Marriage Tribunal and our Catholic Parliamentary Office. Our Justice & Peace Commission campaigns against renewal of Trident; for fairness for asylum seekers and refugees; for action against climate change; and for the environment. It also networks with parishes and advises our Bishops on social justice, international peace and human rights. Its office supports two employees. Our national Marriage Tribunal processes cases for annulment and supports two staff. Our Parliamentary Office works with MSPs, MPs and the wider political society to promote the influence of Catholic Social Teaching on our law and supports one officer.

In 2024 this collection raised **£16,803** with £1,373 from Gift Aid and £1,657 in interest and £8 donations bringing total income to **£19,841**.

In 2024 our total expenditure was **£34,953** with £10,300 as our Diocesan pro-rata contribution to the National J&P work and £24,653 for the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency. So, our costs in 2024 were around 76% higher than our total income.

Our 2025 collection income of **£16,589** is down by around 1% or £214 on 2024's collection.

SCIAF & Papal & Episcopal & St. Mirin's Fund

The proceeds of this collection are divided 75% to SCIAF and 25% to our St Mirin's Fund. SCIAF is the official aid and international development charity of the Catholic Church in Scotland. It works in sixteen countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America to help the poorest in the world, regardless of religion, to work their way out of poverty. The St. Mirin's Fund awards small grants for good causes that promote the Kingdom of God among us, with special consideration to: children and young people; the elderly; those with disabilities and special needs; those suffering from poverty, mental illness, homelessness; or refugees.

In 2025 this collection raised **£26,823** compared to **£27,194** in 2024. Total expenditure in 2024 was **£36,875** or 35% more than the collection income.



Following the impact of the Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Encounter in all eight school Clusters, we have included the life of Saint Carlo in the S1 R.E. course and encouraged schools to consider how they can ensure there is a legacy of the Encounter, particularly in devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. The Diocese has obtained four relics of Saint Carlo which will be hosted in some of our High Schools and has also arranged a visit of the relics from Assisi in September 2025 immediately after his canonisation.

The Diocese continues to engage with the National Schools Singing Project. Our Choral Director has been working with all P4 pupils in Inverclyde. Schools have warmly welcomed this initiative and noted how well children now sing at Mass. We have also set up six school choirs which sang at parish Masses. With financial support, we hope to expand this to other parts of the Diocese.

To mark the Jubilee Year, we created Jubilee Prayers for Primary and Secondary pupils. Schools have been creative in engaging with the Holy Year, such as completing Pilgrim Passports and installing Pilgrim Doors of Hope. Pupils who have participated with Jubilee Year events will be presented with a Jubilee Pin badge.

Serving God



The Department liaises with Aid to the Church in Need, Justice and Peace, Mary's Meals, Missio, SCIAF, SPUC and SSVP to encourage young people to put their faith into action: for example, a growing number of our schools have set up 'Mini-Vinnies' Groups (SSVP for children) which have supported a variety of community projects. Speakers from Missio, SCIAF and SPUC have delivered lessons and assemblies in schools. St Ninian's PS and St Joseph's PS, Busby have achieved the Five-Star Missio Schools Award.

Other schools are working toward this. P6-P7 pupils and S6 pupils continue to engage with the Pope Francis Faith Award and the Caritas Award programmes.

EDUCATION: A Closer Look



Diocese of Paisley
Education Department

The Diocesan Education Department works with schools to support children and young people in knowing, loving and serving God. We also liaise with the three local authorities to represent the interests of the Church on a range of issues. In 2024, the total cost to the Diocese in promoting its educational mission amounted to £68,927 including a contribution of £29,356 to the Bishops' Conference to fund the Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES).

Knowing God

High quality Religious Education is a key objective. We have published P1-P7 Planners to assist Primary teachers in planning Religious Education lessons. We have also supported schools in delivering 'God's Loving Plan', the Relationships Education programme for Catholic schools. This has been welcomed by Head Teachers and R.E. Coordinators. P3-P7 Planners for Other World Religions (Judaism and Islam) have been developed this year and welcomed by schools. The teaching of the Catholic Faith remains the overwhelming focus of R.E. in our schools. We have developed additional booklets to develop the Religious Education course in S1 and S2, ensuring there is a consistency of experience for our young people, no matter which school they attend. Further work to develop the S3 course will take place in 2025-26. We have also engaged with Principal Teachers of R.E. on reviewing S4-S6 courses.

Loving God



We continue to seek opportunities to enable young people to grow closer to God. Once again, the Sacrament of Confirmation was conferred on P7 pupils by Bishop John in St. Mirin's Cathedral. To support the children in preparing to choose their Confirmation saint, each school was presented with Volumes 1 & 2 of *Our Friends in Heaven*. The Diocese provided 3500 Confirmation Mass booklets. All children were presented with a Confirmation Prayer Card as a memento of this important milestone.

The Department has shared practice in Retreats which have been provided by parishes, FireCloud, the New Evangelisation Team (NET) and Dalmally. In June 2025, Diocesan schools were allocated a week's residential retreat and outdoor experience with Generation Hope. Schools also developed a range of activities to enable young people to encounter Christ on their faith journeys.

We have been encouraging schools to establish Rosary Groups as part of the Diocesan Consecration to Jesus through Mary. With financial support, we provided each P4 child with a Missio Rosary and encouraged them to pray the Rosary for the intentions of the Missions during October. In addition, the Diocesan Travelling Rosary project encouraged families to pray the Rosary with their children. Each class chosen to participate was given a pack to be sent home, containing a statue of Our Lady, a Rosary book and a leaflet to support the family in their prayer.

Collection Totals By Parish By Year

Justice & Peace	Jan-24	Jan-25	Increase / (Decrease) from 2024 to 2025
Christ the King	157	203	46
Holy Family	605	204	(401)
Our Lady of Lourdes	737	586	(151)
St Aidan	312	153	(160)
St Andrew	499	415	(84)
St Bernadette	134	164	30
St Bridget	125	95	(30)
St Cadoc	1,147	1,125	(22)
St Charles	782	492	(290)
St Colm	77	-	(77)
St Columba	293	290	(3)
St Conval	290	296	6
St Fergus	149	75	(74)
St Fillan	249	412	162
St Francis	-	340	340
St James, Paisley	134	-	(134)
St James, Renfrew	379	371	(8)
St John, Barrhead	1,151	1,026	(126)
St John Bosco	226	157	(69)
St John the Baptist	548	573	26
St Joseph, Clarkston	2,534	2,570	36
St Joseph, Greenock	399	545	146
St Joseph, Wemyss Bay	527	549	22
St Laurence	612	653	41
St Margaret	464	636	172
St Mary, Greenock	1,185	943	(242)
St Mary, Paisley	366	468	103
St Mirin Cathedral	945	1,170	225
St Ninian	649	746	97
St Patrick	540	632	92
St Paul	90	-	(90)
St Peter	122	160	39
St Thomas	375	539	164
Justice & Peace	16,803	16,589	(214)

% Decrease 2024 to 2025 -1%

Collection Totals By Parish By Year

Papal & Episcopal Charities	Mar-24	Mar-25	Increase / (Decrease) from 2024 to 2025
Christ the King	501	495	(5)
Holy Family	495	605	110
Our Lady of Lourdes	-	832	832
St Aidan	1,037	390	(648)
St Andrew	537	717	180
St Bernadette	573	245	(328)
St Bridget	145	145	-
St Cadoc	2,301	2,402	101
St Charles	1,576	1,174	(402)
St Colm	263	481	219
St Columba	691	648	(43)
St Conval	475	703	228
St Fergus	137	130	(7)
St Fillan	788	-	(788)
St Francis	813	819	6
St James, Paisley	239	-	(239)
St James, Renfrew	551	851	301
St John, Barrhead	1,021	1,065	44
St John Bosco	362	344	(18)
St John the Baptist	1,002	892	(110)
St Joseph, Clarkston	4,507	4,055	(452)
St Joseph, Greenock	588	572	(16)
St Joseph, Wemyss Bay	939	662	(277)
St Laurence	866	939	74
St Margaret	827	756	(70)
St Mary, Greenock	1,417	1,488	70
St Mary, Paisley	564	520	(44)
St Mirin Cathedral	1,130	1,506	376
St Ninian	1,247	1,142	(106)
St Patrick	859	1,182	323
St Paul	158	-	(158)
St Peter	243	197	(46)
St Thomas	342	867	525
Papal & Episcopal Charities	27,194	26,823	(371)

% Decrease 2024 to 2025 -1%

Holy Places

This collection is for the upkeep and repair of the fifty shrines that are dear to Christians and pilgrims the world over; and for the Church's pastoral, educational, social and cultural mission in the Holy Land, including the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem; the Church of Mary and Joseph's homes in Nazareth; Peter's house in Capernaum; the Upper Room of the Last Supper; Pentecost; the Church of the Calvary and the Holy Sepulchre. In 2024 this collection raised **£20,202** which was fully remitted to the Commissariat of the Holy Land.

In 2025 the collection is up to **£22,172** (+£1,970 or +10% on 2024).

Communications

This collection pays for our national Scottish Catholic Media Office which provides a service to the press and media with information on the activities of the Church in Scotland.

In 2024 total income for Communications was **£18,303** made up of collection income **£15,688** and £1,400 Gift Aid and £1,215 donations.

Our total expenditure was **£22,303**, made up of the Bishops' Conference Communications pro-rata of £16,464 computer related costs of £747 and £5,050 for Podcasts productions and other costs of £42 .

This resulted in a shortfall of £4,000, which was funded Diocesan reserves.

Our collection income funded 70% of our costs.

In June 2025, members of the Youth Commission were involved in a five-day Summer Camp outside Crieff, with around 100 secondary school pupils from the Diocese of Paisley (S1-S3) participating. The Generation Hope Summer Camp provides a unique opportunity for teenagers to gather together and grow in community and faith.

In June and July 2025, the bi-annual Youth to Lourdes and Young Adults to Lourdes pilgrimages coincided with the larger Diocesan pilgrimage, with 44 secondary school pupils and 12 young adults from across the Diocese participating.

The Youth Office also has a representative on the Scottish Catholic Youth Service (SCYS), so that its own interests are well represented and so that good working relationships with other Diocesan Youth Offices can be developed and maintained. Working with SCYS, the Youth Commission plans to transport secondary school pupils and young adults to the National Youth Pilgrimage in Perth in September 2025.

The four Retreat Days for primary school pupils have proven popular with children and their families. The Youth Commission intends to organise these four Retreats again in the coming year. The Youth Commission is exploring the possibility of organising a pilgrimage for secondary school pupils in the coming year.



JANUARY RETREAT

The Retreat Days and monthly catechetical events for school pupils and young adults are funded entirely from the Diocesan Youth Fund, as are many of the costs associated with national and international pilgrimages.

Vicar Episcopal for Youth
Father Ryan Black
VE-Youth@rcdop.org.uk

YOUTH MINISTRY: A Closer Look

FOSTERING FAITH. DEVELOPING FRIENDSHIPS.

Bishop Keenan appointed me as Vicar Episcopal for Youth in September 2024. In the weeks that followed this appointment, a new Youth Commission comprising eight lay people and three clerics was established. Members have experience working with young people from pre-school to 35 years old. The Youth Commission will seek to maintain and strengthen links between what might be considered the three departments of the Youth Office: Primary, Secondary and Young Adults. Its aim is to serve our young people, fostering the faith and developing friendships.

Since September 2024, the Youth Commission has organised and hosted four Retreat Days for primary school pupils (P4-P7); a World Youth Day Conference for S3 pupils; two Acutis Evenings of catechesis, community and prayer for secondary school pupils (S4-S6); and eight catechetical talks for young adults (18-35 years old) - all of which have been followed up by opportunities for the young adults to pray and socialise.



ACUTIS EVENING

The clear majority of young people intimated a desire to better understand the teachings of the Catholic Church (catechesis) and a need to more easily identify like-minded young Catholics (community) with whom they can share their experiences of faith. The now-established monthly Acutis Evenings were a direct fruit of these meetings with senior secondary school pupils across the Diocese.

In January and February 2025, members of the Youth Commission engaged with senior secondary school pupils in all eight Diocesan secondary schools, asking them to review past initiatives and provide insights into possible future initiatives. These meetings were overwhelmingly positive and gave cause for great hope.

Collection Totals By Parish By Year

Holy Places	Mar-24	Apr-25	Increase / (Decrease) from 2024 to 2025
Christ the King	-	389	389
Holy Family	504	300	(204)
Our Lady of Lourdes	536	551	15
St Aidan	613	402	(211)
St Andrew	450	431	(19)
St Bernadette	208	376	168
St Bridget	285	215	(70)
St Cadoc	1,631	1,656	25
St Charles	989	975	(14)
St Colm	119	99	(21)
St Columba	343	417	74
St Conval	204	410	206
St Fergus	55	149	94
St Fillan	704	379	(325)
St Francis	811	845	34
St James, Paisley	107	-	(107)
St James, Renfrew	415	513	98
St John, Barrhead	1,047	1,433	386
St John Bosco	208	20	(188)
St John the Baptist	873	657	(216)
St Joseph, Clarkston	3,556	3,047	(509)
St Joseph, Greenock	396	633	237
St Joseph, Wemyss Bay	428	453	25
St Laurence	630	630	0
St Margaret	593	-	(593)
St Mary, Greenock	1,198	1,501	302
St Mary, Paisley	344	742	398
St Mirin Cathedral	544	1,559	1,015
St Ninian	807	1,307	500
St Patrick	706	787	81
St Paul	204	-	(204)
St Peter	244	411	166
St Thomas	448	885	437
Holy Places	20,202	22,172	1,970

% Increase 2024 to 2025

10%

Collection Totals By Parish By Year

Communications	May-23	May-24	Increase / (Decrease) from 2023 to 2024
Christ the King	161	124	(37)
Holy Family	297	283	(15)
Our Lady of Lourdes	616	638	21
St Aidan	305	263	(42)
St Andrew	408	456	48
St Bernadette	153	204	51
St Bridget	125	80	(45)
St Cadoc	523	743	220
St Charles	921	750	(171)
St Colm	67	-	(67)
St Columba	244	316	72
St Conval	403	332	(71)
St Fergus	141	154	13
St Fillan	472	580	108
St Francis	558	678	120
St James, Paisley	149	84	(65)
St James, Renfrew	181	366	185
St John, Barrhead	1,024	1,177	153
St John Bosco	117	159	41
St John the Baptist	482	462	(20)
St Joseph, Clarkston	1,967	2,021	54
St Joseph, Greenock	624	404	(220)
St Joseph, Wemyss Bay	481	468	(13)
St Laurence	667	586	(81)
St Margaret	410	512	102
St Mary, Greenock	1,114	873	(241)
St Mary, Paisley	230	259	29
St Mirin Cathedral	907	695	(212)
St Ninian	538	744	206
St Patrick	547	590	43
St Paul	70	54	(16)
St Peter	135	114	(21)
St Thomas	458	522	64
Communications	15,494	15,688	194

% Increase 2023 to 2024

1%

Pro-Life (Day for Life)

This collection helps the Diocese support Pro-Life causes with half of the funds collected going to the Bishops' Conference Pro-Life fund. *Parishes also have parochial Pro-Life collections with most of the money being sent to SPUC generally.*

In 2024 this collection raised **£19,570** up 31% on the 2023 figure of **£13,539**.

Peter's Pence

This is the practice of the laity to provide financial support to the Holy See to allow the Holy Father the means to respond to those suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster and disease. Normally Catholics around the world contribute roughly £70M annually through this collection. In 2024, this collection raised **£16,348** which was fully remitted to the Apostolic Nunciature (up 1% on 2023's figure of £16,171).

The Apostleship of the Sea

This provides practical and pastoral care to seafarers, regardless of nationality, belief or race through port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors. They welcome, offer welfare services, advice, practical help, care and friendship. Founded in Scotland, the Apostleship is now part of an international network known as *Stella Maris* that works in 250 ports around the world. Ninety per cent of world trade is transported by ship but the life of a modern seafarer is dangerous and lonely. They may spend up to a year at a time away from home, separated from their families and working in harsh conditions.

In 2024, this collection raised **£10,152** (up from **£9,927** in 2023) which was fully remitted to the Apostleship of the Sea.

Missio Scotland

Missio Scotland is the Scottish branch of the Catholic Church's mission aid agency. This enables missionaries to help communities in need through grassroots projects. They build and maintain hospitals, schools and seminaries; care for people in need; and act for justice in the developing world, regardless of race, stigma, religion or gender. In 2024, this collection raised **£26,148** (down from **£27,201** in 2023) which was fully remitted to Missio Scotland.

Collection Totals By Parish By Year			Increase / (Decrease) from 2023 to 2024	Collection Totals By Parish By Year			Increase / (Decrease) from 2023 to 2024
Retired Priests	Jan & Jun 2023	Jan & May 2024		Vocations	Apr & Sep 2023	Apr & Sep 2024	
Christ the King	203	600	397	Christ the King	216	117	(98)
Holy Family	873	884	11	Holy Family	817	724	(93)
Our Lady of Lourdes	1,465	1,596	131	Our Lady of Lourdes	1,561	1,066	(495)
St Aidan	1,026	1,303	277	St Aidan	756	982	225
St Andrew	1,087	1,023	(64)	St Andrew	1,107	990	(117)
St Bernadette	371	561	190	St Bernadette	369	400	31
St Bridget	280	285	5	St Bridget	300	173	(128)
St Cadoc	1,666	3,089	1,423	St Cadoc	3,138	3,184	46
St Charles	1,877	1,651	(226)	St Charles	2,056	1,839	(217)
St Colm	316	212	(104)	St Colm	231	386	155
St Columba	359	342	(17)	St Columba	321	550	230
St Conval	931	858	(73)	St Conval	885	787	(98)
St Fergus	290	290	-	St Fergus	245	209	(36)
St Fillan	1,357	1,520	163	St Fillan	1,222	1,334	112
St Francis	1,134	1,378	244	St Francis	1,404	1,608	204
St James, Paisley	213	325	111	St James, Paisley	263	156	(107)
St James, Renfrew	608	811	203	St James, Renfrew	682	1,002	320
St John, Barrhead	2,795	2,862	67	St John, Barrhead	2,674	2,691	17
St John Bosco	396	466	71	St John Bosco	344	427	82
St John the Baptist	1,435	1,924	489	St John the Baptist	1,508	1,562	55
St Joseph, Clarkston	4,120	4,991	871	St Joseph, Clarkston	4,588	4,754	166
St Joseph, Greenock	1,184	1,191	7	St Joseph, Greenock	999	1,121	122
St Joseph, Wemyss Bay	642	602	(40)	St Joseph, Wemyss Bay	1,066	1,128	62
St Laurence	1,396	1,568	171	St Laurence	1,482	1,503	21
St Margaret	1,246	1,317	72	St Margaret	979	1,130	151
St Mary, Greenock	2,490	2,346	(144)	St Mary, Greenock	2,270	2,209	(61)
St Mary, Paisley	806	858	52	St Mary, Paisley	801	740	(61)
St Mirin Cathedral	2,224	1,318	(906)	St Mirin Cathedral	1,526	230	(1,296)
St Ninian	1,344	1,620	276	St Ninian	1,424	1,443	19
St Patrick	1,463	1,584	121	St Patrick	1,304	1,481	177
St Paul	263	235	(28)	St Paul	216	99	(117)
St Peter	671	624	(47)	St Peter	393	357	(37)
St Thomas	857	1,048	191	St Thomas	1,012	1,095	83
Retired Priests	37,384	41,279	3,895	Vocations	38,159	37,474	(685)
% Increase 2023 to 2024			9%	% Decrease 2023 to 2024			-2%

Sick and Retired Clergy

We remember our Sick & Retired Priests of the Diocese with great love and affection. We have eight retired priests, still active in prayer and witness: one living in Rome, one living in Chile, three in houses throughout the Diocese, two in parish presbyteries, and one at the Residence of the Little Sisters. We thank God for the gift of these priests and keep them in our prayers.

In 2024 our two special collections raised **£41,279** and Friends standing orders & fundraising £10,736, donations of £5,978 and Tax on Gift Aided donations £5,331 and rental income of £9,695. Our total income was **£73,019**.

In 2024 our expenditure was **£144,456** made up of retired priests allowances £63,330, retired priests' housekeepers and nurse wages £11,926, repairs to properties including grounds £11,884, medical & nursing home fees £4,082, Healthcare Trust £18,099, council tax £7,285, rental of premises £20,040 and various smaller costs totalling £7,810.

Although there is a shortfall of **£71,437** of income compared to expenditure, this is offset by net dividend income (less fees) of **£78,910** from the Sick & Retired Priests Investment Fund which was set up over 30 years ago for this purpose.

Vocations and Ecclesiastical Students

This collection pays for our Paisley seminarians studying in Rome. In 2024 these two collections raised **£37,474** Friends Standing Orders and fundraising £10,190, donations of £3,190 and Gift Aid tax due £4,405, interest on fund balance £1,250, grant income (Jesuits) of £16,667 and votives £2,843 to bring our total income of **£76,019**.

In 2024 our costs totalled **£43,173** made up of student grants £5,538, student fees £24,605, retreats £2,135, travel £2,561, hospitality (vocations Mass) £1,570 and various smaller costs totalling £6,764. From Autumn we will have three students in Rome anticipating higher costs for 2025 onwards. Although there was a surplus of £32,846 in 2024 we are anticipating a deficit in 2025-2026 due to having more students.

Collection Totals By Parish By Year

Pro-Life	Aug-23	Jun-24	Increase / (Decrease) from 2023 to 2024
Christ the King	-	185	185
Holy Family	464	339	(125)
Our Lady of Lourdes	729	918	189
St Aidan	430	518	87
St Andrew	476	468	(8)
St Bernadette	178	223	46
St Bridget	88	115	28
St Cadoc	576	1,006	430
St Charles	716	832	116
St Colm	115	97	(18)
St Columba	61	349	288
St Conval	424	328	(96)
St Fergus	75	113	38
St Fillan	388	719	331
St Francis	328	809	480
St James, Paisley	105	91	(14)
St James, Renfrew	99	525	425
St John, Barrhead	1,434	1,543	109
St John Bosco	210	176	(34)
St John the Baptist	681	996	315
St Joseph, Clarkston	1,620	2,550	930
St Joseph, Greenock	511	485	(26)
St Joseph, Wemyss Bay	-	650	650
St Laurence	-	772	772
St Margaret	474	483	9
St Mary, Greenock	486	996	510
St Mary, Paisley	538	317	(220)
St Mirin Cathedral	825	885	60
St Ninian	710	853	143
St Patrick	-	579	579
St Paul	106	86	(20)
St Peter	122	105	(17)
St Thomas	571	460	(110)
Pro-Life	13,539	19,570	6,031

% Increase 2023 to 2024

31%

Collection Totals By Parish By Year

Peter's Pence	Jun-23	Jun-24	Increase / (Decrease) from 2023 to 2024
Christ the King	187	255	68
Holy Family	477	301	(177)
Our Lady of Lourdes	536	614	78
St Aidan	363	399	36
St Andrew	564	465	(99)
St Bernadette	175	187	12
St Bridget	90	90	-
St Cadoc	409	674	265
St Charles	866	898	32
St Colm	180	120	(59)
St Columba	241	347	106
St Conval	469	384	(85)
St Fergus	100	133	33
St Fillan	501	-	(501)
St Francis	253	809	556
St James, Paisley	95	135	39
St James, Renfrew	366	502	136
St John, Barrhead	822	1,094	272
St John Bosco	167	260	94
St John the Baptist	776	498	(278)
St Joseph, Clarkston	2,024	1,517	(507)
St Joseph, Greenock	432	476	43
St Joseph, Wemyss Bay	384	465	81
St Laurence	731	618	(113)
St Margaret	460	510	50
St Mary, Greenock	1,176	1,137	(38)
St Mary, Paisley	425	384	(41)
St Mirin Cathedral	1,091	1,054	(38)
St Ninian	644	766	123
St Patrick	679	659	(20)
St Paul	70	72	2
St Peter	104	148	43
St Thomas	312	376	64
Peter's Pence	16,171	16,348	177

% Increase 2023 to 2024

1%

DIOCESAN APPEALS

SPRED Special Second Collection

Our Paisley Diocese SPRED offers people with learning disabilities a personal friend who takes time to share life and faith, spiritual nurture in a small community of faith; and a sense of belonging to a parish community. Twenty-one SPRED groups meet in our church halls and special needs schools, allowing two hundred parishioners to come together in faith and friendship to share and experience God's love. Paisley SPRED supports two employees. *In SPRED I feel that I belong and everyone is my friend.*

In 2024 total income for SPRED was **£55,817** made up of **£26,388** from the Special Collection, Friends Standing Orders £12,735, Gift Aid income of £2,874, Donations of £6,914, Grants £1,000 and fundraising events £5,906.

In 2024 total expenditure for SPRED was **£75,427** made up of wages related costs of £71,335, electricity £2,132, gas **-£3,135** (refund for over charge), telephone and internet £1,138 and various smaller costs totalling £3,957.

In 2024 the deficit for the SPRED fund was £19,609 which was funded from general reserves. In 2024 collection income of £26,388 funded 35% of the total costs.

In February 2025 the collection decreased to **£18,581** down -£7,808 (-30%) on the 2024 figure.

Education

This collection supports the Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES) which promotes and protects our Catholic schools in issues of national significance; and supports our schools, parishes and dioceses. The national office supports three employees and we also employ four part-time local members of staff to work in our schools and on the RE curriculum.

In 2024 this collection plus donations raised **£17,878** with £1,666 for Gift Aid claims and £3,020 in donations and £1,965 fundraising, bringing total income to **£24,509**.

Our expenditure for 2024 was **£68,927** made up of our SCES pro-rata contribution of £29,356, diocesan salaries of £31,851, resources £891, travel costs £409, hospitality £1,040, printing £2,140, stationery £1,455, computers and software £989 and other costs £796.

This resulted in a deficit of £44,418, as collection income covered only 26% of expenditure, with the deficit having to be funded from general reserves.

Collection Totals By Parish By Year

SPRED	Feb-24	Feb-25
Christ the King	313	258
Holy Family	454	471
Our Lady of Lourdes	807	735
St Aidan	599	529
St Andrew	450	481
St Bernadette	146	221
St Bridget	105	95
St Cadoc	3,565	1,138
St Charles	1,216	904
St Colm	167	184
St Columba	516	334
St Conval	498	383
St Fergus	137	46
St Fillan	897	477
St Francis	1,106	22
St James, Paisley	192	-
St James, Renfrew	500	459
St John, Barrhead	1,482	1,456
St John Bosco	230	155
St John the Baptist	706	623
St Joseph, Clarkston	2,976	2,284
St Joseph, Greenock	500	579
St Joseph, Wemyss Bay	632	680
St Laurence	688	732
St Margaret	620	639
St Mary, Greenock	1,183	887
St Mary, Paisley	353	511
St Mirin Cathedral	2,675	1,199
St Ninian	841	707
St Patrick	831	724
St Paul	129	-
St Peter	364	187
St Thomas	511	479
SPRED	26,388	18,581

% Increase 2024 to 2025 -30%

Collection Totals By Parish By Year

Education	Nov-23	Nov-24
Christ the King	261	189
Holy Family	351	346
Our Lady of Lourdes	804	458
St Aidan	409	240
St Andrew	400	517
St Bernadette	152	304
St Bridget	110	70
St Cadoc	1,191	1,591
St Charles	807	802
St Colm	85	142
St Columba	351	309
St Conval	397	371
St Fergus	122	83
St Fillan	617	754
St Francis	780	466
St James, Paisley	-	-
St James, Renfrew	471	365
St John, Barrhead	1,173	1,081
St John Bosco	162	164
St John the Baptist	598	574
St Joseph, Clarkston	2,113	2,505
St Joseph, Greenock	395	516
St Joseph, Wemyss Bay	596	574
St Laurence	709	612
St Margaret	482	569
St Mary, Greenock	1,117	845
St Mary, Paisley	337	500
St Mirin Cathedral	898	849
St Ninian	560	741
St Patrick	613	640
St Paul	147	-
St Peter	159	164
St Thomas	493	539
Education	17,860	17,878

% increase 2023 to 2024 0.1%