

REPORTS – PPC : JUNE 2026

SACRED HEART BUILDING FUND – FUNDRAISING PROGRESS SUMMARY UPDATE 02/06/2026

Background

The parish faces significant building repair costs estimated at over **£210,000**. A Fundraising Group was established to support grant applications, coordinate fundraising activity and promote wider awareness of the financial challenge facing the parish.

Initial Position and Planning (April 2026)

At the first meeting of the Fundraising Group, members reviewed the parish's financial position and the scale of the fundraising challenge. Although funds exist within the parish deposit account, using these alone would threaten the long-term financial viability of the parish. Events and appeals including the 2025 Christmas Fayre and 2026 Easter Celebrations had been successful in raising funds but further fundraising activities were needed. The group therefore agreed that a combination of **grant funding, fundraising activity and parish engagement** would be essential.

A programme of fundraising events for 2026 was established including:

- Feast Day Fayre – 14th June
- Wine Tasting / “Call My Bluff” – 11th July
- Beetle Drive – 19th September
- Art Exhibition – October (subject to confirmation)
- Murder Mystery – 21st November
- Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Raffle – 20th December

Additional fundraising ideas identified included a “Buy a Roof Tile” appeal, hand-made greeting card sales, sponsorship opportunities, tea towels featuring church artwork, treasure hunt, race night, quiz night, afternoon tea and other community events. (Check website in case there are date changes)

Grant Applications and Diocese Support

Work has continued with Jodi Dinkelman at the Diocese on major grant applications.

Progress includes:

- Application preparation for a £15,000 grant from Northumbria Historic Churches Trust.
- Preparation of a further application to the Benefact Foundation.
- Updated cost estimates awaited following the tendering process.
- Ongoing discussions regarding the parish contribution required towards the works whilst maintaining financial sustainability.
- Clarification of likely future funding arrangements between grants, parish contribution and diocesan support.

Evidence gathering to support grant applications has also progressed, including:

- Environmental measures – installation of a water meter at the presbytery and sourcing of a water butt.
- Outreach evidence collection, including community and charitable activities.
- How the church promotes the Catholic faith.

Fundraising Progress and Promotion

The group has focused on improving publicity and community engagement.

Progress to date includes:

- “Save the Date” posters for forthcoming events produced and distributed.
- Posters for the Feast Day Fayre and Wine Tasting displayed at St Oswald’s School.
- A planning chart has been developed to help with preparation and advertising of events to try to maximise engagement and ensure things run smoothly.
- Promotion through parish communications and local Facebook community pages.
- The parish website updated with information about the required building works and fundraising target.
- The fundraising thermometer/tracker updated to reflect progress.
- A poster advertising the church hall as a party venue has been distributed to encourage hall bookings and income generation.

Feast Day Fayre – June 2026

Planning for the Feast Day Fayre is well advanced.

The event includes multiple stalls, refreshments, raffle activities and family attractions. Volunteers and stall holders have been secured and publicity materials prepared. A record card has been developed to track purchases at each stall and make it easier to pay once at the card reader at the event.

Wine Tasting Event – July 2026

Planning for the Wine Tasting (“Call My Bluff”) event has progressed substantially.

Current position:

- Tickets sold out

Donations and Funds Raised

The group was delighted to receive news that **POSH** had agreed to donate **£1,500 to the Building Fund**, with additional support planned through donation boxes at future performances.

As at **23 May 2026**:

- **£20,530 raised towards the Building Fund** (*this total does not include the POSH donation.*)
- £545 raised towards the West Window appeal.

Future Plans

Work is continuing on the remaining 2026 programme of events.

Recent developments include:

- Planning discussions for a **Treasure Hunt fundraising event**.
- Initial discussions about a **December concert with the Voicemail Choir**, with a proportion of proceeds supporting the Building Fund.
- Exploration of wider publicity, sponsorship opportunities and possible heritage/community engagement initiatives.
- The Fundraising Group continues to meet monthly and will start to plan events for 2027 at the next meeting, later in June.

SACRED HEART NORTH GOSFORTH**FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 11TH JUNE 2026**

£

1. Funds for specific purposes held in current account:

Church Building Fund	24,138
West Window Appeal	550
Toy Appeal	<u>491</u>
Total specific purpose funds	<u>25,179</u>

2. Funds available for day to day running of the Parish 14,316**3. Weekly / Monthly Offertory collections for running of the Parish**

Typical monthly cash / card offertory	1,600
Monthly Standing Orders	<u>3,400</u>
Total average monthly donations	<u>5,000</u>

As previously reported, the average monthly running expenses can exceed the monthly donations. To assist in breaking even the Parish relies on the funds from the Diocese for presbytery rental (£500) and utility costs (£230) plus income from hall rental together with Gift Aid income. There are months when total expenditure exceeds total income. This is evidenced by the slowly reducing balance on the current account.

4. Balance on the Deposit account 246,469 * see notes 1 and 2 below.**5. Balance on the Centenary Fund Account 5,358**Notes:

1. Estimates for repair works to be carried out on the church and car park (work being handled through the Diocese).
 - a) Church approx £215,000.
 - b) West Window £18,000- £20,000
 - c) Car Park – still unknown. The Diocese is in discussions with the next door landowner to establish liability.
2. The Diocese is advising on obtaining of heritage grants towards the church / window costs. These will be bid for when the work gets towards contract stage. Irrespective of any grants that may be received there will still be a significant charge made against the deposit account.

SAFEGUARDING

- 59 volunteers have DBS checks
- Approximate number of volunteers who do not require DBS check : 75 volunteers. This does not take into account those who are multi-tasking.
- 134 Volunteers
- 172 voluntary roles carried out within the parish
- 5730 volunteer hours worked within the parish per annum

PDG/BISHOP'S VISION

- Three meetings were held – two at Sacred Heart and a joint meeting with St Charles
- Meetings were held with students from St.Oswald's and St. Mary's
- Information was shared with PDG.
- Suggestions were shared regarding the future.
- Mission and outreach were seen as important issues.

SPIRITUAL/LITURGICAL EVENTS

Liturgy & Spiritual Life:

The sacramental programme continues for baptism, first communion and confirmation. Some special events services have taken place:

- **St Oswald's Easter production:** alongside the usual Holy Week services St Oswald's School performed their Easter production in the church.
- **Lenten Bags** encouraged us to journey through Lent by presenting a series of relevant symbols.
- **Service for the Victims of Abuse** - every parish in the country is asked by the Bishops of England and Wales to hold a day of prayer for the victims of abuse. Our parish held a service on Thursday 21st May 2026. The theme this year was the victims of domestic abuse.
- **Pentecost Sunday** - to repeat the diverse nature of our parish the Prayer of the Faithful was presented from among the faithful using twelve different languages reflecting the languages spoken in the congregation. In addition, people were encouraged to say the Our Father in their native tongues. This produced a prayerful cacophony of sound in the church. Simultaneously one parishioner used Makaton to sign the prayer.

OUTREACH:

Despite the tremendous effort to support the building fund the parish remains focussed on its Christian duty to support those in need. The Justice and Peace group, jointly run with St Charles, continues to raise issues. Updates are provided via regular newsletters. In addition Sacred Heart has supported other initiatives:

- **Toy Appeal** - the annual toy appeal was as successful as ever. The enormous response from the parish allowed us to reach out to families in need through women's refuges, social workers and educational welfare officers. A stock of toys and gifts enables us to respond to requests made during the year.
- **Food Collections** - the weekly food collections continued to be well supported. The food is donated to the Diocesan Refugee Service, Families 1st4 Additional Needs multibank in Brunswick and the Hazlerigg food bank. In addition on three occasions the Centenary Fund has paid three months membership fees to FareShare for the Hazlerigg food bank.

- **Mary's Place Homeless Café** - the parish continues to support this initiative mainly through the collection of clothes, personal items, sleeping bags and bedding.
- **Centenary Fund** recent donations of £200 Woodhub and 'Smile for Life'. Parishioners should be aware that the Centenary Fund is there to support local organisations. Request for support is made via the finance committee.

GARDENS

In addition to gardening, the team has worked on maintaining the grounds.

A paschal garden has been constructed. This has marked the season from Holy Week until Pentecost and has allowed parishioners to participate in its development.

Plants will also be sold at the Fayre.

ST OSWALD'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND CATHOLIC LIFE UPDATE

- The RE *Come and See* curriculum continues to be taught across all classes and will soon be replaced by the new curriculum, *The Way*.
- The diocesan-approved *Life to the Full* RSE programme continues to support pupils' spiritual, moral and personal development.
- A rich programme of liturgical and faith-based experiences has taken place throughout the year:
 - 4 and 5 led an Easter Reflection for families at Sacred Heart Church during Holy Week.
 - Reception pupils retold the Easter story for their families in school.
 - The Year 6 Faith in Action Team planned and led a Lenten reflection for families before Easter.
- Year 4 pupils joined other Newcastle Catholic schools for a Stations of the Cross service at St Mary's Cathedral.
- All classes also participated in in-school Stations of the Cross reflections and activities.
 - The school took part in the CAFOD Big Lent Walk:
 - Planned by the Year 6 Faith in Action Team.
 - Pupils from Reception to Year 6 completed a local route with prayer stations along the way.
 - Funds were raised to support CAFOD's work
- The Mini Vinnies continued their charitable outreach, raising awareness and funds for Comic Relief
- During Lent, the school launched a whole-school 'Plant and Pray' Challenge:
 - Introduced through whole-school worship.
 - Supported by weekly class reflections.
 - Pupils planted seeds and cared for them at home as a focus for prayer, reflection and growth throughout Lent.
- Sacramental preparation remains an important part of school life:
 - Year 4 pupils are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion on 13th June following several months of preparation.
 - Throughout the summer term, all classes will invite families to join them for a Celebration of the Word or Mass, which continue to be very well attended and valued by the school community
 - In July:
 - Year 6 pupils will attend the Leavers' Mass at St Mary's Cathedral alongside other Newcastle Catholic schools.
 - Year 6 will also lead their own final school Mass during the last week of term.

- The Year 6 Faith in Action Team, led by Mrs. Mooney, continues to play an active role in charitable and diocesan events:

Two pupils attended the Good Shepherd Mass and presented the school's donation alongside other diocesan schools.

Team members will receive their Faith in Action pin badges at the end of July.

- Collective worship and prayer life continue to develop:

The '*Let Us Pray 2gether*' programme is now firmly embedded across school. It offers a blend of traditional and contemporary prayer experiences that are engaging and accessible for pupils.

- Additional enrichment opportunities have included:

A Liturgical Movement Dance Club led by Mrs. Morris.

Year 3 and Year 4 pupils participating in the diocesan singing programme, culminating in an event at St Mary's Cathedral.

- Mrs. Mooney delivered a dedicated session for governors on:

The new RE curriculum, *The Way*.

School self-evaluation processes, including CSED and APOP.

- Children in Year 4 went on a residential retreat at the Youth Village, Consett.

Students continue to read at Mass and a team from St. Mary's write the Prayer of the Faithful.

FUTURE EVENTS

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Bereavement Service

Red Wednesday

Nativity Play - St. Oswald's

Carol Service

June 14 ; Fayre

July 11 : Wine tasting

19 September : Beetle Drive

7-18 October : Art Exhibition

21 November Murder Mystery

20 December Mulled Wine