2025 AGM – 14th September 2025

AGM Opening

Good afternoon everyone, and welcome once again to the 2025 Annual General Meeting of Mater Christi Catholic Parish. It's a joy to gather with you as we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the future.

Before we begin, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible people who help steward our parish's financial wellbeing.

A special thank you to our Finance Committee — to Darren Cutri, our immediate past chair, for his continued leadership and mentorship , and to Hellen Lehman, whose ongoing commitment and insight continue to guide us.

To Fr Peter and Fr Nicholas, thank you for your pastoral leadership and unwavering support of both the Finance Council and our broader parish mission.

We're also deeply grateful to the Parish office staff Michelle Sewell - our Parish Secretary , Yunita Lay our Pastoral Coordinator , Jo Mooney our Sacramental Coordiantor and Alan Fernandes, our Parish Bookkeeper . The team have been instrumental in maintaining clarity and confidence in our parish and financial operations.

And last but certainly not least — to you, our parish community. To the volunteers who serve in countless ways, from liturgy to hospitality, from maintenance to ministry. Your generosity, your time, and your presence ensure that our parish remains vibrant, relevant, and growing from strength to strength.

Thanks to your support, we continue to hold a strong net financial position — not just as a number on a balance sheet, but as a reflection of shared trust, shared mission, and shared hope.

Let's now take a closer look at the financial story of the past year.

Key Financial Snapshot

This year, our parish recorded a total income of $316,466, up 22% from last year
Expenses rose to $186,766, a 30% increase, largely due to one-off repairs and Jubilee events.
Despite that, we ended the year with a healthy operating surplus of $129,700, up 12%.
Our total assets now stand at $4.17 million, and our cash and bank balances have grown to $847,502, an 18% increase.
These figures reflect a financially strong and resilient parish.

Income Highlights

Let's look at what drove that income growth.

- Direct debit giving rose by $9.4k,.
- Donation Point Tap more than doubled — up 171% — thanks to increased digital giving.
- Loose change and interest income also saw healthy increases. Interest income driven by higher Term Deposit rates over the past year.
- A standout was the Jubilee Walk, which brought in $12.7k — a beautiful example of faith and fundraising coming together.
  On the other hand, Piety Stall and Hall Hire income declined, reminding us of areas we can rebuild.

Expense Highlights

On the expense side, the biggest item was building roof repairs, totalling $56.7k — a necessary investment in our facilities.
We also saw increased spending on hospitality and general repairs, reflecting our active parish life.
The Jubilee Walk had associated costs of $9.7k, which were well offset by its income.
insurance expenses appear to be down 97% however that relates to a change in policy dates due to changes in buying arrangements facilitated via the Archdiocese, presbytery expenses were also down 79%.

Balance Sheet Snapshot

Our total assets now sit at $4.17 million, with cash and bank balances making up $847.5k.
The bulk of our assets remain in property and contents, valued at $3.32 million.
Our liabilities are minimal, just $6.2k, and our net assets have grown by 3%.

Planned Initiatives

Looking ahead to FY 2025/2026, we're excited to build on this momentum.
We'll focus on revitalizing hall hire and piety stall income, expanding digital giving both through additional Donation Tap Point and EFTPOS terminals as well as online giving via our website while also continuing to invest in our facilities and ministries.
We're also exploring new ways to engage our community — spiritually, socially, and financially — so that Mater Christi remains a vibrant home for all.

Closing & Thanks

On behalf of the parish team, I want to thank each of you — for your time, your generosity, and your presence in this community.
Whether you give financially, volunteer, or simply show up with love and faith, you are part of what makes Mater Christi so special.
We look forward to another year of growth, grace, and shared purpose. Thank you.

Danby Sequeira