

3.8 Parish Collection Envelopes

The new boxes of Parish Collection Envelopes are distributed at the beginning of April each year. A parishioner not receiving a box and who wishes to do so should contact the Parish Office. Standing Orders are available should Parishioners find this a more convenient way of contributing to the Parish. The collection taken up every Sunday at Mass is vital for the general upkeep of the parish and to help reduce parish debt.

General Upkeep of the Parish

The white weekly collection envelopes are used solely for this purpose.

Upkeep of the Clergy

The three [blue] Voluntary collection envelopes at Easter, September and Christmas and the [pink] 'monthly offering' envelopes are the only contributions which go towards the upkeep of the clergy of the Diocese.

Special Collection Envelopes

There are nine [orange] envelopes or 'Special Collections' taken up during the year. They are as follows:-

Education of Diocesan Students

— This collection helps to fund the formation of students studying for the Priesthood in the Diocese of Down and Connor.

Peter's Pence [Pope's Collection]

— The proceeds are collected on a nationwide basis and given by the Church to the Pope for charitable purposes throughout the world, e.g. natural disasters such as earthquakes, famines etc.

Diocesan Pastoral Services

— The Bishop nominates each year the Pastoral Service or activity for which this collection is used.

Diocesan Care Homes

— Used for the upkeep of the Diocesan Care Homes for the elderly.

Propagation of the Faith

— To help with the promotion of missionary activity throughout the world, especially in the Developing World.

Bishops' Commissions

— This collection is to assist in financing the many Commissions set up by the Irish Bishops, e.g. the Faith and Justice Commission, The Family Life Commission, Ecumenism, Communications etc.

Diocesan Youth Commission

— For Youth programmes in the Diocese of Down and Connor.

Sick and Retired priests

— For all the priests of the Diocese who, because of sickness or age, are no longer in active pastoral ministry.

Needy Parishes

— This collection was set up in order that the wealthier parishes in the Diocese can assist those parishes in greater need.