



Food For Faith Charitable Trust Annual Report 2022- 2023

These notes accompany the second annual accounts for the *Food For Faith* Charitable Trust, formed in July 2021.

The Trustees, Merv Duffy SM, Chris Fogarty, Kate Kearins and Catherine Gibbs appreciate that FFF has until now been a spare-time hobby of Fr. John O'Connor. In 2021 a turning-point was reached with John's awareness of the need for such digital 'food for the faith' for people who might struggle to find good local spiritual nourishment for their faith. John had also come to see that for the mission to grow and develop he needed more support, especially from those who understood online missions and who had the I.T. skills to make it happen. John was wanting to commit more of his own time and energy to the production of regular content, rather than spend time trying to master the complicated world of computer programs.

The formation of the *Food For Faith* Trust has achieved John's hope, and with the financial support of many generous donors our second year has seen continued growth with ongoing interest from subscribers across Aotearoa as well as a good following in Australia, North America, across Asia (especially Philippines) and in Europe.

The notes below will give you an insight into our April 2022-March 2023 operations, with some explanation of how your donations have been used. (Figures have been rounded to nearest ten.)

To ensure that FFF continues to grow reaching more people John has always answered that your prayer and promotion is needed, with mention of the mission's need for financial

support. As the *Food For Faith* Trustees, responsible for all administrative aspects of the Trust including making sure that finances are available for the mission, we ask your continued prayer, your promotion, and your financial support.

Thank you to all who have given so generously in the past year. Now we ask that you continue to give generously. Thank you especially to those who have committed to contributing regular amounts monthly. If you are in a position to give a more substantial amount to the *Food For Faith* mission this would help us greatly in planning for the months ahead. Please contact John directly if you would like to discuss this.

Seasons of Advent/ Lent and other daily blogs

The daily reflections for Lent and Advent continue to be popular with several hundred emails being sent to those who subscribed, with more signing up each week. These emails have a very committed audience. In January we trialled a one-off podcast, to mark the death of Pope Benedict. This was well received and more are planned.

Homily Studio weekly podcasts

In 2021 FFF introduced a new initiative aimed at providing good resources for preachers, and others seeking to appreciate the liturgy readings for each Sunday. From a team of 16 people, (parents, theologians, women and men, single people and married), three or four of these spend half an hour in conversation producing a podcast which is available every week on all major platforms (Spotify, Apple, Pod bean etc.) These podcasts are followed by many preachers and others in several countries, and at times have been used by parish liturgy committees in their liturgy preparation, by people for support of their personal prayer, and at times listened to by a full congregation in the absence of a preacher.

Lectio Divina daily prayer podcasts

While ongoing finance is required for the Lectio Divina platform, most of the daily work in recording and editing work for these and

other podcasts are carried out by John as a way of saving money (a saving of \$400.00 per week)

The total expenditure for these activities is \$2868

Website monitoring, technological support and hardware

The use of the Screenweave IT company has enabled the FFF website to host a greater variety of digital ministries, *Mailchimp* to manage the growing email subscription lists, *Website maintenance and back-up* (earlier when the website failed it might take days to correct, now just minutes).

We all know that digital resources are costly, and essential for computer users. The move to more audio FFF resources (Lectio Divina, Interviews and Homily Studio) has required the purchase of some hardware, especially for John's use.

The total expenditure for these items is \$11,960

Administration for the Trust

With the growth of the FFF mission and the requirements of our Charitable Trust status administration is necessary to ensure that all Trust and administrative aspects are attended to including data entry, emails, phone, research, minutes, receipting, postal, basic accounts, letters, payments.

After realising the enthusiasm that so many people have for the FFF mission, and their desire to see the mission grow and develop, we made a commitment to providing the FFF Administrator with hardware and software thus setting up a permanent administration structure. At times some support is needed for donor liaison and receipting. Other miscellaneous costs include postage, printing/stationery, domain name, bank fees etc are regular small items.

The total expenditure for these items is \$11,868

Personal Formation

The FFF Trustees appreciate that John is the prime provider of content and needs access to ongoing formation and resources. Among support for John in recent months has been our part payment (along with Christchurch Diocese and National Liturgy Office (his primary employments) of a FFF share of his Professional Supervision.

A number of subscriptions are required as resources for the FFF mission. These include monthly subscriptions to iCloud storage; Dropbox monthly; Amazon books; Universalis for Lectio Divina scriptures; Zoom; Microsoft; Apple.

The total expenditure for these items is \$5696

Other items

As we near the end of our second FFF Trust year we note that some accommodation and travel expenses associated with the provision of parish and school retreats, mission and seminars were unexpected and in previous years were personally covered by John. An example is when a parish or school is unable to cover the full travel (and associated expense) cost for a retreat. The Trustees seek to ensure that John is not out-of-pocket for these ministries, and in future will ensure that parishes and schools cover all expenses associated with their use of FFF missions. (Est \$3,200)

Living expenses for a diocesan priest (food, housing, stipend) are covered by his diocese with income received from the parish or chaplaincy in which he ministers. Following the formation of the FFF Trust in July 2021 it was appropriate that FFF contribute for John's FFF mission which takes approximately ten percent of his time, alongside diocesan priestly presence and National Liturgy office work. This will be an occasional contribution allowing John to give more of his time to the FFF mission. (\$8,000)

The total expenditure for these items is \$7029



APRIL TO NOVEMBER 2023 UPDATE

Special Podcasts

Given the success of our one-off podcast, to mark the death of Pope Benedict in January we recorded the second, an inter-faith (Jewish-Muslim-Christian) conversation in September. These have been very well received and more are planned.

Trustees

In August 2023 Kate Kearins, a business school leader with teaching and research background in business and sustainability, joined the Trustee team. Kate has been an enthusiastic supporter of the FFF mission and is a regular Homily Studio participant.

Food For Faith – the book.

In November 2023 John published a collection of his FFF reflections. Already (in the two weeks since publication) the response has been enthusiastic, and time (and sales) will tell if future volumes are viable. At this early-stage copies are available only locally, but a significant number of offshore requests has the printer considering offshore distribution options.

In Closing

The trustees are pleased with the support they have received from all donors over the past twelve months. Those donations have meant that the vision of the Trust and the *Food For Faith* mission has been able to not only be sustained but grow in a positive direction. We are hopeful that with the donors ongoing support that the Trust's mission will continue to evolve over the next twelve month period. If you have any questions about this content please contact one of the Trustees.

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou - Warm wishes to you all.

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Food For Faith Trustees

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