

# **MONTHLY UPDATE** February 2024

# **CATHOLIC VALUES TRUST**

#### **Investment Objective**

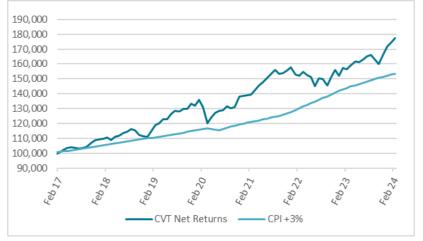
To provide a return (after fees and expenses) that exceeds CPI by 3% p.a. measured over a rolling 7-year period, and invest in accordance with the Catholic Values Policy.

Performance							
	Month	Quarter	FYTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	7 Years
Catholic Values Trust (Gross of Fees)^	1.91	7.36	9.43	14.04	9.06	9.04	9.19
Catholic Values Trust (Net of Fees)^	1.86	7.19	8.96	13.34	8.36	8.34	8.49
Objective^	0.44	1.33	4.19	6.51	8.11	6.67	6.10

^ Month, quarter and FYTD are holding period returns. 1 year, 3 year, 5-year, 7 year & since inception returns are annualised.

#### **Rolling 7-year Fund Performance vs Objective**

\$100K invested over rolling 7 years



Catholic Values Trust returned 1.86% net of fees for the month of February. The Fund has outperformed its objective over a rolling 7-year period.

#### **Key Contributors**

- Australian Equities returned 1.20% in February. Local markets followed global momentum higher. The technology sector was a standout, supported by continued optimism for artificial intelligence globally. The consumer discretionary sector had strong returns after solid earnings results from retailers.
- Global equities returned 6.04% in February. Moves in global markets were largely driven by strong US corporate earnings results, particularly in the technology sector. The AUD depreciated 1.08% against the USD over the month, adding to the unhedged return.

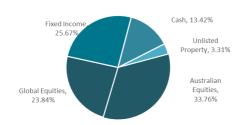
#### **Key Detractors**

- Fixed Income returned -0.10% in February. Rising bond yields resulted in negative market value movements in bonds.
- Property returned -0.68% in February, largely due to negative net valuation movements during the prior quarter.

#### **Portfolio Statistics**

Funds Under Management	129 Million
Performance Return Since Inception net of fees	7.03%
(Jan 31, 2002)^	
Distribution Frequency	Half Yearly

#### **Asset Allocation**



#### **Market Highlights**

◆ Australian equities (S&P/ASX100) finished the month 1.10% higher. Headline inflation rose less than expected at 3.4% on an annual basis in January. This month's data predominantly captured moves in goods prices and saw increasing housing costs offset by falls in pantry staples. Retail sales rose 1.1% in the month of January, rebounded after holiday spending volatility. However total retail turnover has been flat over the past few months. The labour market continues to soften, with the unemployment rate ticking up to 4.1% in January and only 500 total jobs added to the economy.

◆ Global equities (MSCI World ex-Australia \$A Unhedged) finished the month 5.92% higher. The Fed left rates on hold in February, and reiterated they were in no rush to cut rates. US Headline CPI rose 3.1% on an annual basis in January, hotter than expected, rising shelter costs continue to be the main driver of inflation. More jobs were added to the economy than expected in January and the unemployment rate held steady at 3.7%.

◆ Fixed Income, as measured by the Bloomberg AusBond Composite 3-5 Yr Index finished the month 0.20% lower. The yield on the Australian Government 3-year bond rose 13bps, and 10year rose 12bps. Domestic yield moves followed overseas markets pushing back timing for the first expected Fed rate cut.

## **INCOME TRUST**

#### **Investment Objective**

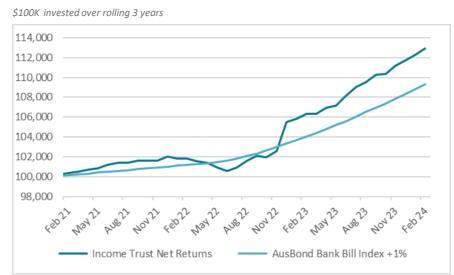
To provide investors with a quarterly income distribution and potential for capital growth by outperforming the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index by 1% p.a. (net of fees) over rolling 3-year periods.

#### Performance

	Month	Quarter	FYTD	1 Year	3 Years
Income Trust (Gross of Fees)^	0.63	1.73	4.87	6.89	4.66
Income Trust (Net of Fees)^	0.58	1.57	4.43	6.24	4.01
Objective^	0.43	1.34	3.55	5.04	2.94

^ Month, quarter and FYTD are holding period returns. 1 year & 3 year returns are annualised.

#### **Rolling 3-Year Fund Performance vs Objective**



The Income Trust returned 0.58% net of fees for the month of February. The Fund has outperformed its objective over a rolling 3-year period.

#### **Key Contributors**

- Fixed Interest returned 0.62% largely from accrued interests.
- Hybrids returned 0.52% from a narrowing of hybrid spreads.

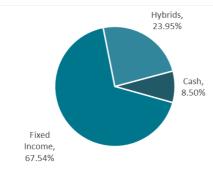
# AAA AA-A+ BBB+ BBB-BBB-BBB-0.00% 5.00% 10.00% 15.00% 20.00% 25.00% 30.00% 35.00% 40.00%

#### **Credit Rating Allocation**

#### **Portfolio Statistics**

Funds Under Management	28 Million
Performance Return Since Inception net of fees (July 31, 2004)^	4.05%
Distribution Frequency	Quarterly
Yield to Maturity	5.57%
Average Credit Rating	BBB+

#### **Asset Allocation**



### Market Highlights

◆ Fixed Income: Floating Rate credit finished the month 0.53% higher. Australian floating rate note spreads narrowed by 5bps over the month. February saw strong new issuance supply from financials as well as corporate issuers post, which continued to be met with strong investor demand.

◆ Cash: The RBA kept the cash rate on hold at 4.35% in February. In the latest statement of monetary policy, the RBA updated its forecast for inflation to return to the midpoint target of 2.5% in 2025. They also lowered their near-term growth forecast, reflecting a weaker outlook for consumer spending and increased their unemployment rate forecast. The three-month bank bill yield fell 1bps, finishing the month at 4.33%.

◆Hybrids (Major Banks) gained 0.51% overall during February. Average major bank hybrid margins narrowed by 8bps. There were new Hybrid issues from ANZ and BEN during the month.



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How to Contact Us					
Telephone	1300 655 220	William Manue Head of Asset	-		
Facsimile	03 9934 3464		0		
Mail	CCI Asset Management	Email	info@cciassetmanagement.org.au		
	GPO Box 180 Melbourne 3001	Telephone	03 9934 3073		
Website	www.cciassetmanagement.org.au	Mobile	0409 275 751		