



Catholic Values Trust

31 March 2026

Performance [^]	Gross Returns	Net returns ¹	Objective
Monthly (%)	-4.30	-4.36	0.50
Quarterly (%)	-3.06	-3.24	1.51
FYTD (%)	0.66	0.12	5.14
1 year (%)	6.80	6.08	6.63
3 years (% p.a.)	9.12	8.42	6.22
5 years (% p.a.)	8.00	7.30	7.34
7 years (% p.a.)	8.46	7.76	6.57
Inception (% p.a.)	9.15	8.45	5.76

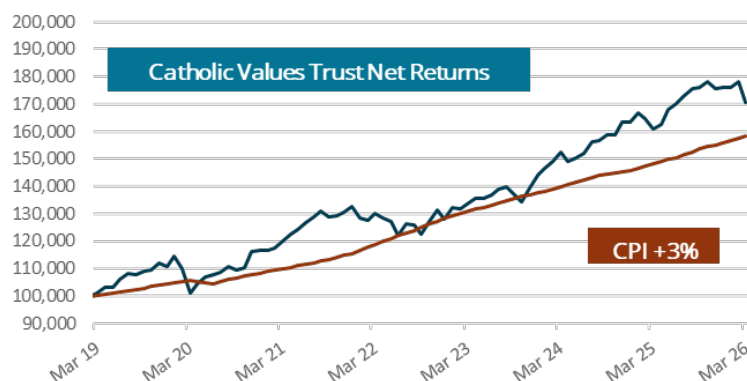
[^]Month, quarter and FYTD are holding period returns. Periods from 1 year to since inception are annualised.

¹ Total Net Return is the Trust return after the deduction of ongoing fees and expenses and assumes the reinvestment of all distributions.

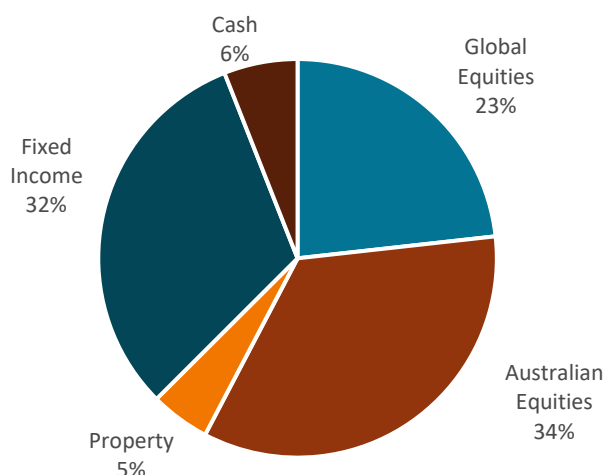
Past performance is not a reliable predictor of future performance.

Rolling 7-year Trust Performance vs Objective

\$100K invested over rolling 7 years



Asset Allocation



Source: SG Hiscock Group, Iress

Investment Objective

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

Key Facts

Investment Manager	SG Hiscock & Company Limited
Inception date	31 January 2002
Trust size	\$134M
Management fees ²	0.72%
Distributions payable	Half Yearly
Buy/sell spread	+0.20%/-0.20%
Base currency	AUD
Domicile	Australia

² Includes estimated GST payable, after taking into account Reduced Input Tax Credits ("RITC").



The Catholic Values Trust returned -4.36% net of fees for the month of March. The Trust has outperformed its objective over a rolling 7-year period.

Key Drivers

- Australian equities returned -6.60%, with Materials, Financials and Real Estate the largest detractors
- Fixed interest returned -1.73% due to rising yields and credit spreads widening
- Global equities returned -4.14%, with Technology, Healthcare and Discretionary the largest detractors

Market Highlights

March was dominated by a sharp escalation in geopolitical risk, with conflict in the Middle East driving a broad sell-off across markets. The surge in oil prices became the key transmission channel, lifting inflation expectations and forcing a repricing of interest rate expectations toward a more prolonged tightening cycle. This shift in the rates outlook saw bond yields move higher across the curve, particularly at the front end, while equity markets declined as higher discount rates and weakening sentiment weighed on valuations. The US dollar strengthened on safe haven demand, contributing to a weaker Australian dollar, as investors moved more defensively through the month.

Overall, markets adjusted quickly to a backdrop of higher inflation and slower growth, with conditions highly sensitive to the path of the conflict and oil prices, while the portfolio's defensive positioning helped mitigate the impact of the drawdown in risk assets.

Australian equities, as measured by the S&P/ASX 100 Accumulation Index (TR), declined 6.84% over March amid a broad-based sell-off as global risk sentiment deteriorated. Losses were widespread, with Materials (-12.30%), Information Technology (-12.74%), Real Estate (-12.31%) and Consumer Discretionary (-7.71%) among the weakest sectors. Financials also weighed on the index, falling -6.63%. In contrast, Energy was the clear outlier, rising 23.80% as oil prices surged over the month. The decline was driven by a sharp rise in bond yields, which increased discount rates and put pressure on equity valuations, particularly in growth and rate-sensitive sectors. This move largely reflected higher oil prices following the escalation in geopolitical tensions, which lifted inflation expectations and shifted the outlook toward more restrictive monetary policy. Investor positioning also became more defensive as the conflict persisted.

Domestic data was mixed over the month. Business and consumer sentiment declined as higher interest rate expectations and ongoing uncertainty weighed on confidence, while household spending showed signs of slowing, reinforcing a more cautious outlook. The labour market remained relatively resilient, with the February report showing stronger-than-expected job creation, although the unemployment rate rose to 4.3% as more people entered the workforce. Inflation data was slightly more encouraging, with February CPI coming in below expectations and annual inflation easing to 3.7%. However, this was overshadowed by expectations of a sharp increase in subsequent months, driven by higher oil prices.

Global equities, represented by the MSCI World ex Australia Index, declined 2.51% over March as markets repriced in a similar fashion to the domestic market. Performance varied across regions, with European and Japanese markets experiencing more pronounced declines due to their greater sensitivity to higher energy prices, while the US market was relatively more resilient despite still recording a meaningful pullback.

Sector performance was broadly negative across the board, with Energy the only standout as oil prices surged over the month. The broader weakness reflected pressure on both cyclical and growth sectors as higher yields and softer growth expectations weighed on valuations.

Australian fixed income markets recorded negative returns over March as bond yields rose across the curve and credit spreads widened. The RBA raised the cash rate by 25bps at its March meeting in response to rising inflation expectations.

The Bloomberg AusBond Composite 0+ Index returned -1.18%. The Australian 3-year government bond yield rose by 0.44% to 4.66%, while the 10-year yield increased by 0.32% to 4.98%, resulting in a bear flattening of the yield curve.

Inflation expectations moved higher over the period, driven by the rise in oil prices, with markets pricing around two and a half further rate hikes by year end. The outlook remains closely tied to the path of the conflict and energy prices. Reflecting the broader shift in risk sentiment, investment grade credit spreads widened, with the Australian iTraxx Index closing 23.6bps wider at 91.66bps.

Client service team

For any queries in relation to this monthly update, please contact **David Doolan** or **Fiona Hilbert** on +61 3 9981 3300 or email individualportfolios@sghiscock.com.au.

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