

Planned Giving

The concept of financially supporting our parish and our church is not new. In fact, it has been vital since the earliest days of the Christian church. Without funding, church buildings, services, donations, utilities, etc, would not be available. If left to a 'user pays system' or government provided funding, a very many of the currently available services simply would not exist.

The purpose of Planned Giving is to provide our financial support to the parish and it's mission.

How is this achieved? From the proceeds of the 2nd collection. Made up from our pledges and promises of financial support and commitment given by the members of the congregation. Our pledges are periodically reviewed to ensure sustainability.

How much should I give? Parishioners give usually according to their individual means. Tithing or 10% of your income was the old formula for donation to the church. However, times have changed and not everyone can contribute to this level. Currently the thought is to give the 'value of the first hour of your labour' as your contribution per week. E.g. \$20-\$25. Or giving, according to our individual circumstance.

Who should give? By giving, we say thank you to God for his gifts to us and ensure his work in the parish continues. Therefore, we all should contribute according to our individual means, from the youngest to the eldest. The biblical story of the widow's mite should be familiar to all. Remember, if times are difficult for us as individuals, then they are just as difficult for the parish.

New families to the parish are particularly welcomed, and invited to join with existing givers in maintaining the full benefits, in which

we all share.

Why Planned? Without planned structure for expenditure, money would be wasted on non-essential items and projects. It is important that the parish can count on a regular and constant income each week in order for it to maintain its commitments and services to all parishioners.

Each year a new budget is formulated, and pledges from the 2nd collection are channelled to meet that budget. Any shortfall in weekly contributions can cause serious concerns in meeting that budget bottom line.

How Can I Participate? By completing a pledge card indicating your planned family or individual pledge of support. The card is available from the parish office and can be handed or posted to the PG committee for processing. You will then receive the requested forms or envelopes – refer contribution methods

The First Collection The first collection is usually taken up just prior to the bible readings following the commencement of mass. This offering is primarily for the maintenance and support of the pastors, together with housekeeper and the like. Any excess over and above a preset allowance is then given to the bishops for the maintenance of other, less wealthy parishes in the archdiocese. The 1st collection directly supports; the parish pastors Their costs for operation of vehicles, cell phones, etc.

Second Collection This collection is the life blood of the parish financial system. It is the primary source of revenue for maintaining the liquidity of the parish. A regular, consistent and anticipated weekly influx of capital is important to the planning and ongoing financial viability of the parish. The key here is anticipated. By your stated pledge, the parish can expect a known and consistent income from each weeks collection. Currently it is

important for the parish to maintain a minimum weekly income of around \$6,250 per week in order to meet commitments.

The 2nd collection directly supports:

- Electricity
- Telephone
- Council Rates
- Loan Repayments – E.g. the mortgage, bank borrowings, etc
- Wages of parish administrative & support staff

Note: There are NO tax concessions available for any contributions made.

Methods of Contribution The following methods of contribution are available and in general usage throughout the parish. In order for the parish to be able to count on a regular and stable income, the most reliable and favoured donation method is by direct debit. This is also the least cost in terms of system maintenance and viability.

Methods: Envelopes, Direct Debit, Credit Card, Cheque / Annual Payment

The Planned Giving Committee As with all parish committees, the Planned Giving Committee is a small volunteer group, who meet regularly to process pledge card changes, co-ordinate banking arrangements, and co-ordinate regular statements and receipts.

It exists for the purpose of supporting our pastors and the parish councils in matters of raising monies to fund parish objectives and activities. To that end, the group conducts tri-annual 'funding campaigns' to encourage new and existing families and individual parishioners to commit to parish financial support.