

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL PARISH



Planned Giving Program 2024



Sale, Briagolong, Rosedale, Stratford & Loch Sport Communities

A FEW FACTS—A FEW QUESTIONS

Who could/should give?

- ◆ Current contributors
- ◆ Those currently unpledged
- ◆ New Parishioners
- ◆ Young people now working
- ◆ School parents

Why?

- ◆ The Parish needs your support
- ◆ Everyone needs to shoulder their fair share in providing for the Parish as all benefit by receiving the gifts of Christ through the Parish

How much?

- ◆ A realistic amount—at least one hour's income
- ◆ Not just loose change
- ◆ Consider present day values i.e cost of bread, milk, takeaway coffee
- ◆ Current pledge amounts have lost over 15% value since the last program
- ◆ Move forward, increase you pledge - if possible
- ◆ If all our current planned givers were to increase their pledge by \$5-10 per week this would go a long way in helping us make our ends meet.

How?

- ◆ By recurring direct debit payments from your credit card or bank account.
- ◆ By envelopes
- ◆ By filling out the enclosed pledge card and returning it at masses on 19th/20th October or to the parish office

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL PARISH

Parish Office, 47 Foster St

PO Box 13

Sale VIC 3850

Present Envelope Number (if known)

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code..... Phone..... Email.....

My new Pledge will be \$.....week OR \$..... Per (Month/Quarter/Year)

Send me a Direct Debit Form Debit my Credit Card below I will set up my own Direct Credit payment

Send me Offering Envelopes I understand that this authority can be cancelled in writing at any time.

Master Card Visa Name on Card.....

Card Number _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry _____ / _____

Each Month/Quarter for the term of Years or until further notice.

Signature..... Date.....



Dear Parishioners

It is now six years since the parish ran the last Planned Giving Program. A lot has happened during this period, including the dark times of Covid, significant economic downturn and a number of natural disasters, all presenting us with their unique challenges and all of which have prevented us from holding a program any earlier.

Planned Giving is a time when we reflect more consciously on the contribution we make to our parish family, by giving of our time, our talents, and our finances. Thanksgiving is not just a financial commitment; it is your pledge to make a lasting impact.

Our Parish only functions in a practical sense because of the regular support of Parishioners like you. Parishioners of the Cathedral Parish have always upheld a tradition of practical generosity in sharing responsibility for maintaining and 'growing' the Parish.

Think of your parish as a household or business with various expenses throughout the year. The Planned Giving Program is the cornerstone that enables the parish to plan its finances with confidence. It grants the assurance needed to cover our financial responsibilities as they arise.

For this I sincerely thank you in Jesus' name. Please continue this spirit of generosity in our new Planned Giving Program to continue the work of Jesus Christ, as we continue our journey together through the next few years.

Fr Francis Otobo
Dean of the Cathedral

Our Finances

When considering your contribution to the Planned Giving Program we would like you to please have regard to the parish's financial position.

The parish's expenses for the 2023-24 financial year totalled \$384,011 or \$7,384 weekly. At the time of the running of the last program in 2018 the weekly figure was \$6,557.

Our weekly Planned Giving contributions, including Loose Collections, for the 2023-24 financial year totalled \$3,786.

Our shortfall, which was not entirely met, came from other income sources such as property rental, investment returns and other donations and offerings.

Unfortunately our budget predictions for this financial year show a loss of \$79,000. This is due to a combination of factors, none more so than the escalating cost of our insurances, which rose to \$95,331 in 2023-24 and will increase to over \$100,000 this year.

While the parish finance committee is trying to find other means of income it is clear that we need to increase our weekly giving if our parish has any hope of meeting it's financial commitments.

Please support the work of our Parish and help carry the load by joining the Planned Giving Program.

Pledged Offerings

The most efficient and cost effective way to ensure your pledge is paid regularly is using the Direct Debit payment method.

Last year the cost of providing envelopes totalled \$1,800. This year will be even greater. Therefore, our preference is for givers, wherever possible, to make their payments using any online method.

Direct Debit payment forms are available in the assembly area of the Cathedral, from the parish website at www.stmaryscathedralsale.com.au or by making contact with the Parish office where our staff can assist you in setting up payments this way.

Alternatively you can set up your own regular payment direct to the parish account at:

BSB: 083-879
Account no: 489168836
Name: St Mary's Cathedral Parish
Ref: Name & Thanksgiving number

You may also wish to consider a specific donation and/or bequest, a wonderful way to make a lasting contribution to your Parish.

The Joy of Stewardship

'But just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us - see that you also excel in this grace of giving.'
2 Cor 8:7-9

