



OUR 2023 ST SIMON'S PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM

Welcome to the final week of our Parish Renewal Program – the Parish Commitment Weekend.

Last week we considered our **engagement** in parish life. How our involvement in parish groups & ministries is central to building parish community – and central to actively living our faith through service to others. This week we turn our attention to **parish finances**.

WE ASK FOR YOUR FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE PARISH

What is the current state of our Thanksgiving income?

- Thanksgiving remains the major source of parish income
- It has declined 34% in the last 4 years – this must be turned around to pre COVID-19 levels
- We have identified we need to increase Thanksgiving income from \$3,600 to a minimum of \$4,750 per week
- This is a challenge – but can be achieved with the support of ALL parish families

What does my financial support pay for?

Thanksgiving

- Supporting the missionary focus of our parish
- Supporting our pastoral care and outreach programs
- The maintenance of our church and parish facilities
- The operating costs of the parish – staff wages, insurance, utilities etc.

Presbytery

- Support for Fr Mark and Fr Samuel
- Support for retired priests through the Priests Retirement Foundation
- Support for less advantaged priests through the Priests Remuneration Fund
- Support for the Archbishop & Bishops of the Archdiocese

How much should I pledge?

- We are asking all parish families to make a meaningful pledge contribution to Thanksgiving. Our parish records show the majority of pledges have not been changed in 4+ years – so now is the time to “review and renew” – making them most relevant to our parish circumstances in 2023. How do you use your discretionary income? Is parish support a priority for you? As a simple guide - a daily cup of coffee can cost \$30 per week or \$130 per month. Isn't your parish worth at least a daily cup of coffee?
- We unashamedly ask those with the greatest capacity to contribute the most – reserving special thanks for those on restricted incomes whose continued support is very much appreciated

How do I pledge?

- Use the Commitment form from the Program brochure available at Mass and sent home to all school families – and available on the parish website
- Use the Commitment form available in hard copy at all Masses this weekend – Sat 27 & Sun 28 May
- Return your completed pledge at Mass this weekend – or to the Parish Office no later than Wed 31 May

THOUGHTS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Q: Why do you think it is important to support our parish financially through our Thanksgiving Program?

“Our parish cannot survive without our financial support – running the parish now and ensuring that we and future generations can continue to live out our faith and receive the Sacraments.”

“It is very simple. Supporting our parish financially helps create a lively parish and pays for all the opportunities and programs that nurture our faith community.”

“My faith and my St Simon’s family are integral to our family’s life. I want to support it to grow and continue to be a hub of life and faith for others to meet and fall in love with God.”

POPE FRANCIS SAYS

“The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.”

