

October 2015

Dear Parish family,

We have not had a Thanksgiving renewal for more than 10 years in our Parish.

With the plans for the refurbishment of our Church well under way, the Finance Committee is of the belief that this is an appropriate time for everyone to review their current Thanksgiving offering commitment and to consider an increase in their support to St Vincent de Paul Parish.

Limited works have been carried out in our Church since it was originally constructed in 1959. However, you may have noticed some repairs which have been carried out during the last year, including drainage around the Church and the Presbytery. The lead lighting has been cleaned and broken glass replaced in windows of the Church, as well as rotten facias and rotten timber corners of the Church being replaced. In addition the construction of the Parish Administration Centre is well under way.

10 years ago you may remember that a packet of cigarettes was \$10.30, petrol was \$1.04 per litre, a glass of beer was \$2.25 and a takeaway cappuccino was \$2.65. Now consider the current price of these items. Whilst everything has been increasing in price, many of us haven't increased our financial contribution to our Parish in the last 10 years.

In that same 10 years the ongoing costs of running our Parish have increased and now with the refurbishment of our Church to be undertaken soon, we will have the added costs of repaying the loan taken out for renovations, and the interest on that loan. May I remind you that our contributions to our Parish Thanksgiving Program supports the financial running of our Parish.

Future maintenance works have also been identified, and we need to resurface the car park and the School hard surface area, replace the wall on Woodland street, as well as the proposed construction of a Memorial Garden on the east side of the Church, as well landscaping around the Church and Parish property.

May I also remind you that the offering for the Presbytery support which provides for the living costs and stipend for Fr Peter. From the Presbytery offering 25% goes to support the Priests' Remuneration & Retirement Funds, to assist priests in parishes unable to financially support their priest and the sick and retired priests of the Archdiocese, and 5% to the support of the Archbishop.

A copy of our Thanksgiving Campaign brochure is attached, outlining our current and future needs. We are now asking you to renew or start your financial commitment to our Parish of St Vincent de Paul by completing a Census Form and Thanksgiving Commitment Form which is attached. We would appreciate your completing the census and commitment details and returning the Thanksgiving form at Mass, to the Presbytery or to the School Office before 25th October.

Our Parish Mission is "a community celebrating Christ in life by striving to maintain a strong sense of belonging and generosity of heart".

Our Thanksgiving program provides you with the opportunity to maintain a strong sense of belonging, and your generosity will mean that our Parish of St Vincent de Paul can continue to be the liturgical & pastoral centre to celebrate our faith into the future.

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated support.

Gerry Delaney  
Parish Finance Committee Chairman