



DEAR PARISHIONERS,

St Oliver's parish is a large community: people of many different backgrounds, ages and talents. All of us enjoy the fruits of the strong faith, hard work and generosity of the first generation of parishioners who began to build up our parish from almost nothing in the years after World War II. Today we have a magnificent church and a state of the art school complex, enhanced now by our splendid new hall.

However the true heart of St Oliver's is the faith we share and live out when we gather to worship our God. Imagine how poor our lives would be without so many moments in our beautiful church: weekend Mass and children's liturgy; the celebration of our children's baptisms, first communions and confirmations; gathering to support each other as we farewell our friends and loved ones who have died; special class Masses and school liturgies, and personal prayer at any hour throughout the day.

In today's world, any parish faces big challenges. How will we live as a vibrant community of faith, proud followers of Jesus Christ in his body the Church? How will we continue to make our parish a source of life and meaning for ourselves and our families? Will we generously reach out to those most in need, as Pope Francis begs us to?

We can only meet these challenges with the support of your prayer and your pastoral and financial involvement. That is why we are engaged in a renewal of our Thanksgiving program. Please be as generous as you can in your personal and financial contributions.

Let's pray that our life as a parish community will be renewed by the Holy Spirit empowering us to live as true witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely

Fr Paul Connell
Parish Priest

OUR PARISH TEAM

- Fr Paul Connell – Parish Priest
- Tricia Lee – Parish Secretary
- Lenyce Willason – Pastoral Associate
- Alan Sweeney – Principal, St Oliver's Parish Primary School

WHO WE ARE

- "Go Make Disciples" – three simple words that guide us in everything we do, acting as a template for all parish activity
- We are a community that strives to be welcoming, inclusive and hospitable
- We are blessed with a wonderful heritage and strive to honour it by all that we do
- We invite everyone to join in and contribute to building our parish family. We are all enriched by sharing our faith, energy and talents with and for one another

REASONS FOR CELEBRATION

- Last year we celebrated more than 30 Baptisms, 53 First Holy Communions and 56 Confirmations and farewelled 45 parishioners
- We welcome over 400 parishioners each week to Mass and the Sacraments
- We have an RCIA Program to welcome adults into the Catholic faith, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Baptismal Preparation and God Start and opportunities for adult faith education
- We continue to provide a wonderful academic and faith education for our parish children – 340 children in 2018
- We provide pastoral care and outreach to the disadvantaged, sick and elderly through our support ministries



OUR FUTURE

We have achieved a great deal in recent times:

- Repaired & renovated the side wall & endangered stained glass as well as repairing & renovating the toilets in St Oliver's Church
- Opened new Hall in the school grounds
- Continued pastoral care to the sick, housebound & disadvantaged, with support for the elderly through our regular drop-in program
- Children's liturgy & sacramental programs, preparation of parents for their children's baptisms
- Adult faith initiatives through our Christian meditation & charismatic prayer groups

We have prioritised the following for the next three years:

CHURCH & FACILITIES

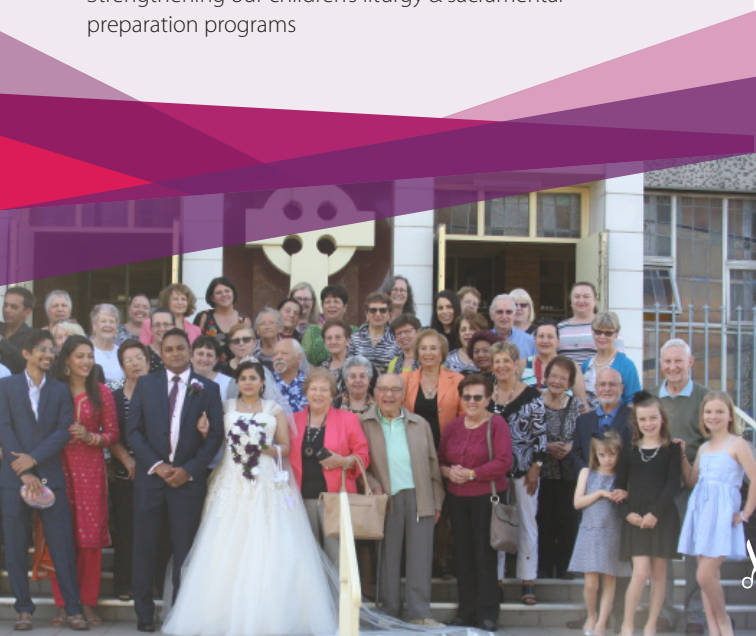
- Ongoing care & maintenance of St Oliver's church & presbytery
- Refurbishment of our Parish Centre

PASTORAL CARE & OUTREACH

- Pastoral care & support of our people is always a key priority
- Continued strong commitment to Catholic education & the engagement of our school families in the wider life of our parish
- Valuing the contributions of parishioners make to enhance parish life by their involvement in parish groups & ministries

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

- Continuing to prioritize the celebration of the liturgy as the heart of our parish community
- Formation & education for our liturgical ministers
- Strengthening our children's liturgy & sacramental preparation programs



THANKSGIVING PLEDGE CARD

Present Envelope Number (if known)

RETURN TO:

St Oliver Plunkett Parish
1 Landells Rd (PO Box 668)
Pascoe Vale VIC 3044
By Sunday 17 June 2018

Please Use Block Letters

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

My age group is: under 30 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70+

Credit Card

Please debit my Credit Card with the sum of: \$

Every: month quarter half-year year

Name on Card: _____

Please only tick one



Expiry Date: ___/___/___

I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS AUTHORITY MAY BE CANCELLED IN WRITING AT MY OPTION

Signature: _____

Date: ___/___/___

Direct Debit from a nominated bank account

(Forms available from the Parish Office)

My Pledge will be: \$ _____

Every: fortnight month quarter half-year year

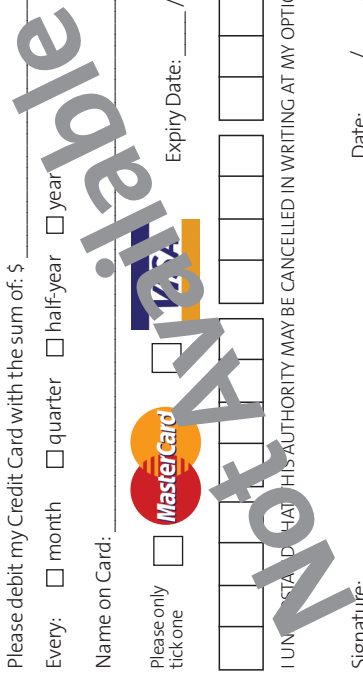
Envelopes

(Available from the Parish Office)

My Pledge will be: \$ _____

Every: week month quarter half-year year

Produced by the PARISH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE





POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PARISHES

Parishes must be in contact with homes, with people's lives, with the life of society.

They have to be houses where the door is always open so as to go forth toward others.

And it is important that this going-forth follows a clear proposal of faith.

The doors must be opened so that Jesus can go out with all the joy of his message.

Let us pray for our parishes, that they not be simple offices, but that animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.

POPE FRANCIS – September 2017



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Produced by the Parish Development Office of the Archdiocese of Melbourne based on information supplied by the Parish.

The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

FAITH

- Come together to celebrate the Eucharist
- Commit to learning and growing in faith

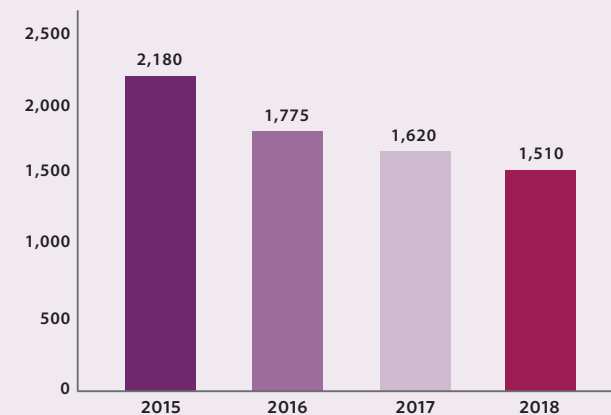
COMMUNITY

- Help grow our sense of community
- Be involved in at least one parish ministry

FUTURE

- Support our parish generously
- Make your meaningful financial pledge to the Thanksgiving Program

OUR WEEKLY FINANCES



- Thanksgiving Income has declined 26% in the last 2 years, with a further 7% to 30 April 2018
- This decline must be addressed – so we can continue to meet our parish commitments and priorities
- We have set a real challenge – but with your support we can do so – by welcoming new contributors and reviewing our individual levels of support

OUR THANKSGIVING INCOME CHALLENGE

To increase Thanksgiving Income from \$1,510 per week to a min. \$2,100 per week

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The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it. – MICHELANGELO

YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

WHERE WILL MY CONTRIBUTIONS GO?

- *Your Thanksgiving Pledge* will help meet basic operating needs – insurance, utility bills, staff wages etc.
- It will help maintain our church and parish facilities
- It will support programs of faith education, pastoral care & outreach
- Please don't forget your support of the Presbytery collection which will help support Fr Paul, as well as other priests of the Archdiocese in less fortunate circumstances, and contribute to care for the growing number of retired priests

WHO SHOULD GIVE AND HOW MUCH?

- Every parish family – no one is excluded
- There is no set amount because everyone is different
- Give generously in proportion to what you have received
- Those that have less give less – those that have more give more

WHY SHOULD I GIVE?

- Out of gratitude for our many blessings
- The more the parish receives, the more we can do, the more outreach we can provide
- The more we can be a parish "... animated by a missionary spirit, a place where faith is communicated and charity is seen" – Pope Francis

YOUR LASTING LEGACY

- Have you considered St Oliver's Parish or the Archdiocese of Melbourne in your Will?
- Your bequest could be a lasting legacy to our parish community
- For information please contact Fr Paul or the Parish Office

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From everyone to whom much has been given, even more will be demanded. – LUKE 15:1-2



PARISH.LIFE.

FAITH COMMUNITY FUTURE

St Oliver
Plunkett Parish
Pascoe Vale
Thanksgiving 2018