



MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

I am very happy to say the first priority of our parish is to bring the message of the Gospel to all we encounter.

Our parish is committed to proclaim the Gospel totally and faithfully, so to witness to the hope that gives us our purpose in life. Our endeavour to reach others through all our parish groups and in particular through – the Alpha program, RCIA, Cells of Evangelisation, Youth Ministry, Passionate family groups and our newly formed welcoming committee, are the examples of our desire to bring the mystery of Christ's love to other people.

At this time our financial obligations do not allow us to inaugurate any new works, such as new meeting spaces to accommodate a greater demand, because we are obliged to meet the financial commitments we have embarked upon in the recent years. This is a time of consolidation and careful conservation so we are better resourced to plan for our future. It is imperative we maintain and utilise our parish resources properly, adequately and carefully. This may not sound spectacular to some, but unless we are faithful to our common cause of supporting our parish, our ability to be a vibrant community will decline.

I am sure we all want our parish to grow and it will, provided we give real and genuine support to its financial needs.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Anthony Girolami
Parish Priest



OUR PARISH TEAM

- Fr Anthony Girolami – Parish Priest
- Fr Anthony Cruz – Assistant Priest
- Bernice Quinn & Rachel Ma – Parish Admin
- Mark Basile – Principal, St Francis of Assisi 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, 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 196 Baptisms, 175 First Holy Communions, 173 Confirmations and 6 weddings and farewelled 51 parishioners
- We welcome over 2,000 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 – 1,136 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:

- Developing a sense of discipleship among parishioners
- Established an annual parish retreat
- Expanded our pastoral care to the elderly and sick with ministry to the 7 Nursing Homes and 4 Retirement Villages in our area
- Established a dedicated maintenance program for all parish buildings and facilities
- Continued to meet loan repayments on our significant Church restoration

We have prioritised the following for the next three years:

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

- Introduce Adult Faith Education Programs – The Eucharist, Our Lord's Hands, Touching the Fringe of His Cloak
- Develop the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

PASTORAL CARE & OUTREACH

- Develop the newly formed Welcoming Group – to support & engage with new parishioners
- Initiate the Engage Program
- Extend the Alpha Program into adjoining Catholic Secondary Schools

BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

- Install air-conditioning in the Parish Hall
- Renovate the 'nook' meeting room in the Parish House



STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD

Present Envelope Number (if known)

RETURN TO:

St Francis of Assisi Parish
290 Childs Rd
MILL PARK VIC 3082
By Sunday 3 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 MasterCard VISA

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

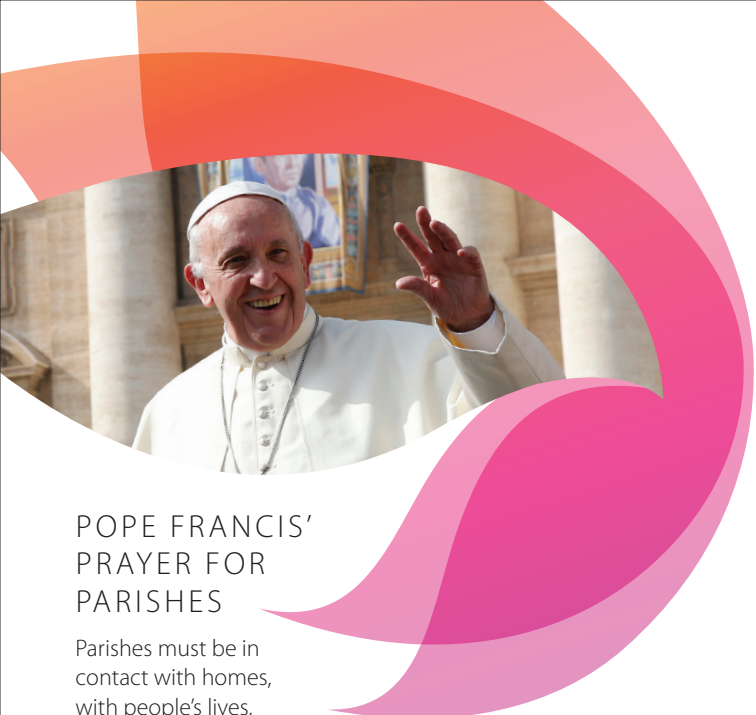
Envelopes

(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



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



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

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

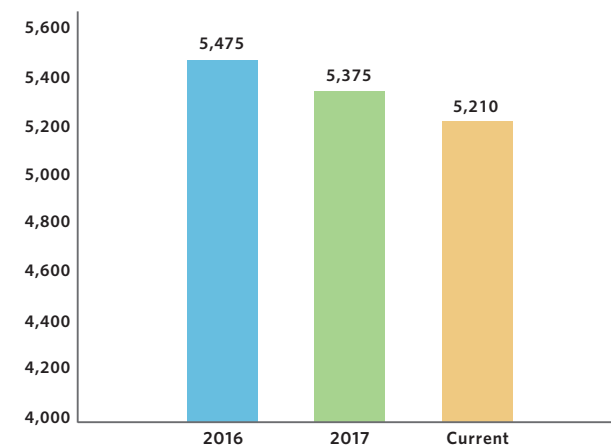
COMMUNITY

- 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 Stewardship Program

OUR WEEKLY FINANCES



- Stewardship Income has declined in recent times
- We need to increase income to meet existing commitments and make a reality the priorities outlined in this brochure
- With your support we can meet our challenge – by welcoming new contributors and reviewing our individual levels of support

OUR STEWARDSHIP INCOME CHALLENGE

To increase Stewardship Income from \$5,210 per week to a min. \$6,750 per week

“

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



“

From everyone to whom much has been given, even more will be demanded.

– LUKE 15:1-2

YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

WHERE WILL MY CONTRIBUTIONS GO?

- Your Stewardship 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 our own priests, 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 programs we can run, 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 Francis of Assisi 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 Anthony or the Parish Office

PARISH.LIFE.

FAITH COMMUNITY FUTURE



St Francis of Assisi Parish

Mill Park

Stewardship 2018