



## **St. Jude's Parish, Scoresby**

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24 September 2021

Dear Parishioner,

I write to you with a parish update as we enter the final months of 2021.

### **The challenges of COVID-19**

The COVID emergency and extended lockdowns have not enabled us to come together to worship for so long. This has placed a great strain on us all. It has challenged the way we celebrate our faith and operate as a parish community. The loss of personal contact – being able to celebrate Mass together, undertake our Sacramental Programs and have weddings and funerals without restricted numbers has been keenly felt. However, we are all optimistic that with high vaccinations rates and the roadmap announced at the weekend by the Premier, we will be able to resume life as a worshipping community in November with hopes for a wonderful Christmas together.

### **We have continued to connect**

I am very proud of how we have embraced new ways to live and express our faith – affirming our community is much more than the buildings in which we gather. I am particularly proud of how we have looked out for each other – supporting each other through our prayers, pastoral care and provision of services. For all this I simply say THANK YOU!

### **Parish Renewal Program deferred**

The constant lockdowns have also forced the deferral of our Parish Renewal Program until early 2022 – when we have resumed life as a worshipping community. We have had no other choice. However, this decision has presented us with some very real financial and administrative challenges.

### **Our financial reality**

Whilst we await the resumption of the Renewal Program in early 2022, we must address these issues the best way we can. They are twofold:

- Our income has continued to decline in both the Church (Stewardship) and Presbytery accounts
- The multiple deferrals of the Renewal Program have led to an unavailability of new envelopes for weekly Stewardship contributions

### **Direct Contributions are the answer**

To help address these issues I urge you to consider making your contributions online. The details are as follows:

#### Church Account

Account Name St Jude's Church Account (Stewardship)

BSB 083347

Account No. 649410864

Reference Field: Envelope (recording) number & Surname. Please contact the parish office on 9763-7302 or email [Scoresby.finance@cam.org.au](mailto:Scoresby.finance@cam.org.au) to confirm your Envelope number.

#### Presbytery Account

Account Name St Jude's Presbytery Account (for the Parish Priest)

BSB 083347

Account No. 648765671

You could also make a cheque to either account, i.e. St Jude's Church Account, or St Jude's Presbytery Account – or one cheque mentioning your preferred split between the two.

However, if you wish to continue contributing via cash it would be appreciated if you could use a plain white envelope clearly labelling it with your name, envelope number and amount given and pop it through the chute at the parish office.

#### **Special comment on Presbytery contributions**

This is a somewhat delicate matter to raise, and we would not be doing so unless the matter was urgent. It is indeed urgent. **The Presbytery account has declined to such a degree that for the first time in the history of the parish we have had to call on the Priest's Remuneration Fund - emergency support for parishes that cannot adequately provide for their priests. The current level of our support is 40% of the Priest's stipend.** This is not a situation in which we want to find ourselves and it must be addressed. To do so we need your assistance. We ask that you take this on board and if able, make a regular contribution through one of the above ways to help address this grave situation. We thank you in advance for your support.

We all look forward to the day when we can worship together again. As always, please know that you and your family are in my prayers.

God bless,



Fr Mark  
Parish Priest