



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE SACRED HEART FAMILY,

Our parish has a long history, dating back to 1914! Over the years our parish has grown as we welcomed new families from many different parts of the world.

The riches we enjoy as a parish have come about as a result of the generosity of the many parishioners who have worshipped here ahead of us. As time went on, many families have moved to other parts of the city and new families moved in. Now it is our turn to show our gratitude for what we have inherited and to see the parish not only maintained but continue to grow as a Community Alive in Christ.

This brochure is to help introduce you to the Stewardship Program that will be shortly getting underway in our Parish. In coming weeks there will be speakers, videos, materials and a special Parish Forum.

The Stewardship Program will provide us with a wonderful opportunity to reflect, as individuals, and together as a parish community, on what it means to be part of our Sacred Heart family.

I invite and encourage you to be involved in the Stewardship Program and contribute to its success by being involved as the Program unfolds – at Sunday Masses and by following us on our parish website and Facebook.

We continue to strive to grow in the love of God, sustained by the Word as a parish richer in faith and richer in life!

Your brother in Christ,

Jan Sweda SVD

Fr Jan Szweda SVD
Parish Priest, Sacred Heart Community, Preston

OUR PARISH TEAM

- Fr Jan Sweda SVD – Parish Priest
- Cristina Agius – Parish Secretary
- Judeline Wadhvani – Sacramental Coordinator
- Mark Tierney – Principal of Sacred Heart Primary School

WHO WE ARE

- We are a faith-filled community that strives to be welcoming, inclusive and hospitable
- 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 52 Baptisms, 15 First Holy Communions, 3 Confirmations, 9 Weddings and farewelled 40 parishioners
- We welcome over 500 parishioners each week to Mass and the Sacraments
- We have an RCIA Program to welcome adults into the Catholic faith, Baptismal Preparation and opportunities for adult faith education
- We continue to provide a wonderful academic and faith education for our parish children – 120 children enrolled in 2018 – and note that a \$1 million renovation of our school was completed in 2017
- We provide pastoral care and outreach to the disadvantaged, sick and elderly through our support ministries

OUR FUTURE

We have a rich history and owe much to the legacy of so many wonderful parishioners who have provided us with a beautiful church and presbytery, and an excellent parish school. But today we are a different community and many of these facilities are in need of major repairs and renovations. This is our challenge. We have prioritised these works as follows:

CHURCH FACILITIES

Stage One

Church Renovations

- Roof – significant repairs to eliminate water leaks, with replacement of all metal parts – budgeted at \$150,000
- External – clean and repaint walls
- Lighting – replace original lighting with LED
- Audio System – upgrade this essential equipment - existing system does not work effectively with our digital TV's
- To commence October 2018 – scheduled completion in December
- Completing all works together will maximise use of the scaffolding required for the roof repairs – providing excellent savings
- Parish has \$130,000 in designated account for these works – your generous support has given us a great start!

Stage Two

Presbytery renovations

- Significant works required to the 100 years old presbytery
- The veranda and roof need major attention and the kitchen needs replacing

Stage Three (let's dream a little)

Parish/Community Hall

- It would be wonderful to have a Parish Hall adjacent to our church, presbytery and school
- Our existing Hall is not close to these key areas
- The Hall would be a great facility for parish celebrations and meetings, as well as generating income through commercial hiring

PASTORAL CARE & FAITH DEVELOPMENT

New

- employ a Pastoral Coordinator (part time)
- commence a Children's Liturgy at our 10.30am Mass
- develop an Altar Servers Program
- revive a coordinated program of activities for our senior parishioners, incl. outings and other social gatherings

Continue to encourage and develop

- Our popular Bible Study Program – another scheduled for November/December 2018
- Lay Formation for our volunteer liturgical groups
- Links with our school families, bringing them closer into the broader life of the parish
- More parishioners to be involved in our parish groups and ministries

Present Envelope Number (if known)

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD

Please Use Black 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: ____/____/____

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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)

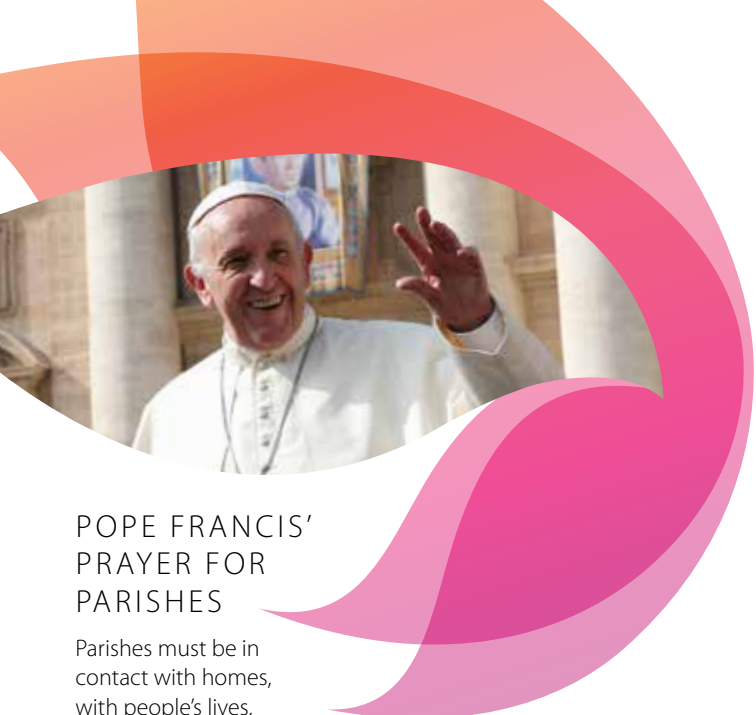
My Pledge will be: \$ _____

Every: ☐ week ☐ month ☐ quarter ☐ half-year ☐ year

Produced by the PARISH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

RETURN TO:
Sacred Heart Community
322 Bell St
Preston VIC 3072

By Sunday
11 November 2018



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.

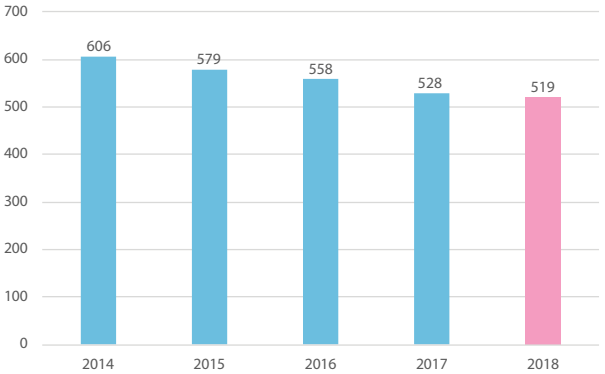


The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

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



- Overall Parish Income is in decline. Whilst income from rentals and other efforts is reasonably static, Stewardship Income has declined 13% in the last 3 years
- We must increase our pledged Stewardship Income to pay for our essential Church renovations – our available reserves will not be enough
- With YOUR support we can turn this around!

OUR STEWARDSHIP INCOME CHALLENGE

To increase Stewardship Income from \$520per week to a min. \$1,000 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 and outreach
 - Please don't forget your support of the Presbytery collection which will help support Father Jan, 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 Sacred Heart Community or the Archdiocese of Melbourne in your Will?
- Your bequest could be a lasting legacy to our parish community
- For information please contact Fr Jan or the Parish Office

PARISH.LIFE.



FAITH
COMMUNITY
FUTURE

Sacred Heart Community
Preston
Stewardship 2018