

PLANNED GIVING CAMPAIGN

What does Our Lady of Lourdes mean to you?

During the coming week, we ask that you think hard about what Our Lady of Lourdes means to you. Is it:

- A spiritual home for you?
- The place where you join in the mass and receive the sacraments?
- A meeting place for you with the parish family?
- A vital source of help and support in times of trouble or distress?

If Our Lady of Lourdes ranks among the important things in your life, please consider whether your contributions to its upkeep and continued existence also rate as a priority among your outgoings.

If that is the case, then decide, after prayer and reflection, what is a fair amount for you to contribute each week or month. Remember this is not written in stone - the amount can be adjusted or cancelled at any time.

How much should I contribute?

Each of us has to consider our personal circumstances in making this decision. Conscience and common sense should determine what you can afford to contribute regularly to the parish. Only you can decide this.

But I am already in the Planned Giving scheme?

We started Planned Giving in this parish in 2006. Since then, the annual Offertory has broadly remained at the same level. This is now our second campaign and the reasons for running it now include the fact that parishioners and their circumstances change, the decreased purchasing power of the monies committed in 2006, and the very high costs of projected future repair and improvement works.

So we are asking everyone to think (again) about what they contribute and to fill in a new promise card. Please give it serious thought.

*What return shall I make to the Lord
for all He has given to me?
(Ps. 116:12)*

7 October 2011



Dear Parishioners

What do you make of Our Lady of Lourdes church? I hope you find it welcoming and feel that it is your space, a place of prayer in which you feel at home. But it is also a monument to the vision and dedication of our predecessors half a century ago. They scrimped and saved and took the risk of building what we have today. And in their struggle to pay for this noble, open structure they also built a fine community.

As we prepare for our church's Golden Jubilee (2014-15), there are many aspects of our building requiring attention: heating, wiring and lighting are all life-expired, and the total spend needed is well beyond current means. But this appeal isn't just about bricks and mortar - which are only ever a means to an end. It's about maintaining the vitality of our community and recommitting to our faith in a world very different from the early 1960s: what testimony to the Gospel will we leave to the next generation?

I know this is a difficult time to be seeking funds for anything. I'm very aware both of parishioners' generosity and of the hidden financial struggles of many. But I hope that you will wish to join in this affirmation of the future of our community as we approach our Golden Jubilee. Please consider prayerfully how you can respond. I promise you that your money will be spent wisely and to good effect. And I promise to continue to serve you faithfully as your pastor.

Wishing you every blessing

Fr. Rob

PARISH PRIEST