

There can be no doubting that historically the Catholic people of MHOC have been very generous in their support of the Archdiocesan clergy and the works of the Church. I sincerely thank all for your support.

The COVID pandemic has had an enormous financial impact, especially on financing clergy support. At the same time, we still note that in recent years the gap between contributions and the increase in insurance, utilities and maintenance has widened. The most recognisable trends in Church giving at MHOC are:

- *Most new parishioners do not join our Planned Giving program. Why?*
- *We have many Catholic students in our schools, yet too many parents who send their children to their parish schools do not contribute anything to the upkeep and ministry of their Church.*
- *We will **not** be able to meet our future maintenance expenses and maintain our local and Archdiocesan responsibilities unless there is an increase in Offerings. This must come from the 'next generation'.*
- *There is too strong a consumer attitude. We need a **contributor** attitude.*

Obviously, the amount of each person's contribution depends on their individual circumstances. No one can be expected to give more than is reasonable.

Our Parish passes two Collection bags during weekend masses. The first one is to support all the clergy of our Archdiocese and the second one supports your parish church.

The four Collection Stations have Tap'n'Go machines. Just tap your Debit or Credit Card. Planned Giving envelopes and all other offerings can be placed in the collection bags during weekend mass or handed into the parish office. There is also a secure mailbox by the office door in the wall.



We also use the Qkr! App as you can easily donate to support the Archdiocesan clergy, the parish and Archdiocesan missions.

To set up Direct Debit or monthly Credit Card donations please contact the Parish Office or download forms from the parish website www.mhoc.org.au - or contact us at wodensouth@cq.org.au or 6286 1908.

- Consider offering one hours wages a week. If a McDonald's worker donated one hour (approx. \$10) a week, we could possibly meet our loan repayments or pay the cost of training a seminarian for a year.
- Consider bequeathing something to your church from your Estate.

Contact the Parish Office, Finance Council or talk to Fr Emil to find out more.

This information leaflet has been prepared by Fr Emil in consultation with members of the Archdiocesan Financial Services, the Archdiocesan Clergy Foundation, MHOC Finance Council and Parish Council. — Updated February 2024



MARY, HELP OF
CHRISTIANS PARISH
SOUTH WODEN, ACT

WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE MONEY AT MASS IN THIS ELECTRONIC AGE?



Your financial offerings enable your parish to progress its Mission:

“All the Church, all the Gospel, all the people, all the time”

Our future needs include.....

...managing the parish with less income due to COVID19, our loan repayments (\$2305 monthly), a local security system, ongoing church and parish maintenance including potential solar energy, parish office administration support, refugee support, adult education resources, and support for our youth ministry... in conjunction with Archdiocese needs as they arise.

Why do we give money at Mass?

What is the money used for?

Is it wisely managed?

Who has control over spending the money?

Archdiocesan Clergy Support –the First Collection

This money is used to support all the clergy of the Archdiocese. Christmas and Easter Offerings (Dues), plus the donations given for weddings and baptisms are added to this support. These monies are deposited in the parish Central Presbytery Fund. This account is managed by the Parish Priest and overseen by our Archdiocesan Financial Services.

From this account:

- *Each priest is paid an amount for personal expenses (stipend/wage) (\$19,000 pa) This figure is pre-tax, pre-super. \$2,090 Superannuation.*
- *Domestic needs of the presbytery are met eg. cleaners, food expenses etc (maximum of \$12,000 pa).*
- *20% is paid to the Archdiocese each year to meet its expenses (stipends for the Archbishop, Chancellor, Vicar General and seminarian.*
- *5% is paid each year to the Archdiocesan Clergy Retirement Foundation. This Fund primarily supports our own sick and retired bishops and priests..*
- *\$500 comes from each incardinated Archdiocesan priest and is paid to the Remuneration Fund for Long Service Leave, and the Ecclesiastical Education Fund.*

In so-called wealthier parishes, surplus in this account is forwarded to the Archdiocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund. These Funds support priests locally and nationally from less financial parishes. Thus, ALL priests in our Archdiocese, whether in large or small parishes, wealthier or poorer areas, receive a uniform amount of \$19,000 pa. He can buy the personal things he needs. He can save for a reasonable holiday each year. No priest should become wealthy because he is in a wealthy parish. No priest should be impoverished because he cares for a financially struggling community.

Of the 51 parishes/missions in the Archdiocese, 24 receive remuneration support. The Foundation and Remuneration Funds are managed by an elected board of priests, and lay persons appointed by the Archbishop.

Parish Support –the Second Collection

This money consists of Planned Giving envelopes, Direct Debit, Credit Card, one off donations and loose (cash) money. Please note that as of the 2021/2022 financial year contributions are no longer tax deductible..

It is primarily used for:

- *All Parish running costs, any loans, administration, insurance including public liability, electricity, phone, stationery, printing, liturgical needs, the general maintenance and upkeep of the church, presbytery and parish property.*
- *Remuneration for parish staff including our Youth Minister*
- *Priest's car expenses (\$9,600pa).*
- *Canberra Schools' Building levy.*
- *Canberra Hospital's Chaplaincy contribution*
- *5% annual Archdiocesan levy the Australian and NSW Bishops' Conferences, The Apostolic Nunciature (Vatican) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Catholic Council.*

The management of these funds is the responsibility of the parish priest, but administered by the Archdiocesan Financial Services, Catholic Development Fund in Canberra and in consultation with our Parish Finance Committee. These funds are audited through the Archdiocesan Financial Services Office annually.

Special Annual Collections

Missions — Pontifical Missions: Propagation of the Faith (late July): World Mission Sunday (October). Supports national and international mission work

Project Compassion — Caritas Australia (Lent): Supports national and international aid work

Good Friday — Holy Places: Administered by Franciscan Commissariat

Father's Day — Archdiocesan collection for our retired priests

Seafarers Appeal — Apostleship of the Sea Sunday

Good Shepherd Sunday — Education of seminarians (\$30k+ each pa)

Archbishop's Christmas Appeal — Christmas Bowl Appeal plus nominated causes that the Archbishop determines each year.

"Christ's faithful have the obligation to provide for the needs of the Church, so that the Church has available to it those things which are necessary for divine worship, for apostolic and charitable work and for the worthy support of its ministers".

(Canon 222 of the Code of Canon Law)