

# PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM



St John  
the Evangelist

CATHOLIC PARISH CAMPBELLTOWN

FAITH  
ENGAGEMENT  
COMMITMENT

# DEAR FRIENDS

Welcome to our Parish Renewal Program!

We are blessed to be part of such a wonderful parish and pride ourselves on being a welcoming and caring community – one enriched by the diversity and contributions of our people. This has never been more evident nor more appreciated than throughout these last two years of COVID-19, when this great spirit kept the heart of our parish beating.

As we resume a more normal parish life, our Renewal Program provides us with a wonderful opportunity – as individuals and as a community – to reflect on the importance of St John's Parish as we appreciate the past, engage in the present and plan for the future.

What are our expectations of the parish? What are the parish expectations of us as members of our faith community? Are we content to be 'inward looking' doing just enough to maintain the status quo – or do we take up the challenge from Pope Francis to be a missionary, outward-looking church that provides a warm welcome and home to all?

To do so we must make a new commitment to our role in parish life – to ensure we provide the human and financial resources for evangelisation, vibrant liturgy, quality pastoral care and outreach to the needy, as well as honouring our rich history through the significant renovation of St John's Church.

Our Renewal Program – the first in many, many years – provides the opportunity to make this commitment. We invite you to be engaged in the Program and ask that through it every parishioner renews their personal commitment to coming together to celebrate Mass, to

serve our community through our parish groups and ministries, and to meaningful financial support.

I invite us all to take up the challenge – and thank you in advance for your strong, on-going support.



**Fr John Ho**  
Parish Priest

# OUR FUTURE

## THE WEEKEND EXPERIENCE

The 'Weekend Experience' refers to everything that happens when we come together at weekend Mass. We want it to remain the highpoint of our faith celebrations and we need to do everything possible to make it so. This is not just about our regulars and is particularly important for visitors and potential parishioners who we would like to become a part of our St John's Parish family. We have identified three areas key to the Weekend Experience:

- *Vibrant Liturgy* – reflective homilies, proficient Readers and Special Ministers, and quality music, which has the power to lift the spirit and speak to the soul
- *Good use of Technology* – presentations that add to our involvement and which are particularly beneficial to those unfamiliar with the structure and flow of the Mass
- *Warm Welcome* – we proudly state that we are a welcoming and caring community. We need to ensure that everything we do at the weekend reaffirms this commitment. How do we greet each other? How do we make newcomers feel at home? Would a first-time visitor to St John's be eager to return a second time?

To ensure the continued quality of our Weekend Experience at St John's we need your support and involvement in four key ministries:

- *Welcome Ministry* – grow the involvement in this important Ministry at each weekend Mass – greeting attendees with a smile, distributing newsletters, introducing newcomers, assisting with finding spare seats at our major events at Christmas & Easter etc.
- *Music Ministry* – we will continue prioritising quality music at all weekend Masses. Do you have skills to

## EXTENSIVE INTERNAL RENOVATION

- Sanctuary area
- Adoration Chapel
- Air conditioning, new sound and lighting
- Renewed floorboards and carpet

## REDESIGN OF FRONT ENTRANCE AREA

- Renewed main entrance foyer
- Unified, accessible entry and landscaping

contribute? Do you sing well, play keyboards, guitar or another instrument? If so, we would welcome your involvement in this vital ministry

- *Technology* – be part of the Nerds team – assist with displaying the PowerPoint presentations that accompany each Mass and training can be provided!
- *Readers/Extraordinary Ministers* – more volunteers are needed for these important ministries that are central to our weekly celebrations

## **HISTORIC ST JOHN'S**

Ours is a rich history – one of the oldest in NSW. Fr John Therry celebrated the first Mass at Campbelltown in 1822 in humble surroundings. However, it was not long before more permanent structures were provided – 1834 saw the first Mass at St John's on the Hill. The growing population soon outgrew the building and in 1887 the current St John's Church in Cordeaux Street was officially opened by Cardinal Moran. Extensions were completed in 1964 adding new porches, transepts and stained glass. And now, 135 years from its opening, it is time to renovate St John's to welcome a new era of the celebration of our faith in Campbelltown.

## **PROFESSIONAL PARISH STAFF**

We are fortunate to have such excellent parish staff. Marilyn and Michelle, our experienced Parish Secretaries, provide great support to Fr John, Fr Feleki, Fr Richard and the leadership teams. As we look to the future and further develop our parish as a place of mission, the importance of professional staff to assist our priests will continue to grow.





## PASTORAL CARE

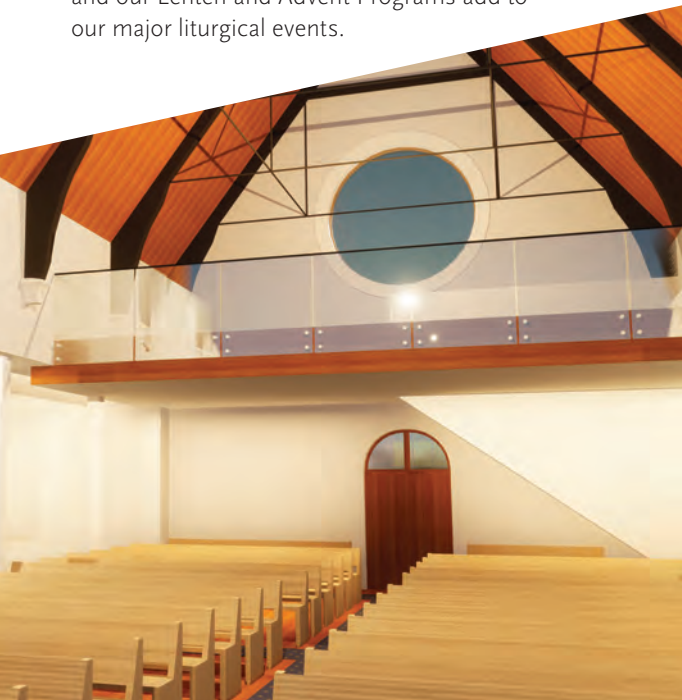
Perhaps one of our most important ministries and one that remains a clear priority, is our outreach to older parishioners. We already have a wonderful team who provide pastoral care to those who are housebound or in Aged Care. This is such important work – keeping these parishioners connected to our St John's family through Holy Communion and pastoral support. Our aim is to grow this ministry even further – and to do so we need more volunteers. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated by all! We offer a monthly Mass at IRT Aged Care, and a Healing Mass every other month. We are also blessed with an active St Vincent de Paul Society in the parish.





## **FAITH FORMATION**

We want to grow these opportunities and in particular – after a COVID-19 enforced break – recommence the Alpha Program in July. Alpha is proving successful in encouraging people to faith in Jesus in parishes around Australia and works well with our RCIA Program which initiates adults into the church. Faith Circles brings parishioners together to share scripture and our Lenten and Advent Programs add to our major liturgical events.



## OUR FINANCIAL REALITY

Our income has continued to decline over the last decade, in particular Planned Giving income, which has seen a 40% decline over the last 8 years, of which 25% has been in the last 2 years. If we are prudently to fund the essential works of the parish – including the significant commitments to renovate extensively St John's Church – we need to increase pledged Planned Giving income. This can be done with your support.

## HOW DO WE FUND THESE VITAL PRIORITIES?

- Planned Giving income is our major source of revenue
- Whilst donations are always helpful – we really need all parish families to make an on-going pledge commitment to the Planned Giving Program
- We prefer a monthly direct debit or credit card deduction – but the traditional cash envelopes remain available

## HOW MUCH SHOULD I PLEDGE?

- We simply ask that you contribute to the very best of your ability. How do you use your discretionary income? Is parish support a financial priority for you?
- We unashamedly ask those with the greatest capacity to contribute the most
- We reserve special thanks for those on restricted incomes – your continued support is greatly appreciated



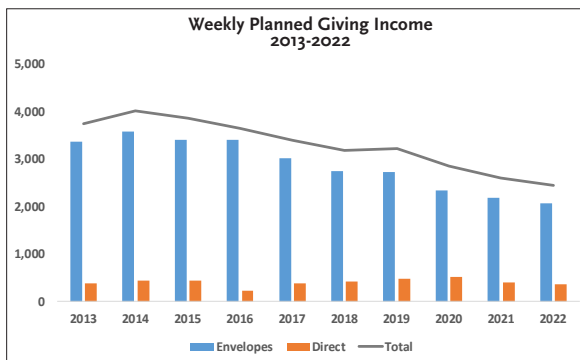
# OUR FINANCIALS

## OUR OVERALL POSITION

- We must turn around the decline in Planned Giving
- Other Income includes Job Keeper in 2020/2021

## INCOME

ITEM	2019	2020	2021
Planned Giving	168,000	149,000	135,000
Loose on plate	58,000	23,000	29,000
Interest Received	109,000	110,000	2,000
Rental	21,000	23,000	37,000
After School Care	22,000	17,000	20,000
Donations	14,000	13,000	23,000
Other	38,000	96,000	60,000
Total	430,000	431,000	306,000



## WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

Our **BIG** challenge in this Program is to increase

**PLEDGED PLANNED GIVING INCOME**

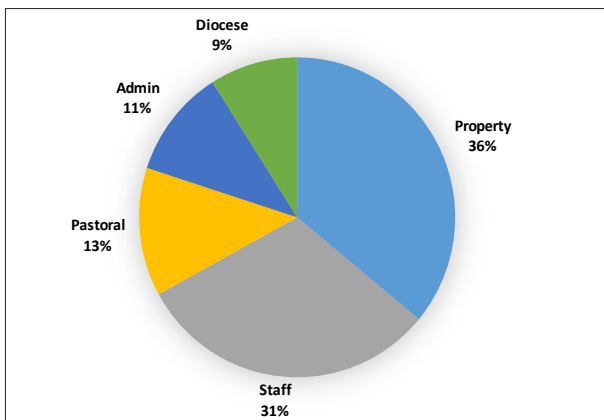
***from \$2,400 to min of \$3,500 per week***





## EXPENDITURE

ITEM	2019	2020	2021
Staff	87,000	95,000	59,000
Administration	33,000	20,000	18,000
Property	101,000	113,000	149,000
Pastoral	36,000	35,000	30,000
Diocesan Levy	25,000	16,000	1,000*
<b>Total</b>	<b>282,000</b>	<b>279,000</b>	<b>257,000</b>



## KEY EXPENDITURE ITEMS

ITEM	2019	2020	2021
Staff	87,000	95,000	59,000
Repairs and Maintenance	64,000	51,000	58,000
Insurances	5,000	29,000	39,000
Vehicle	20,000	22,000	22,000
Rates and Council Charges	8,000	17,000	20,000
Heat, Light and Power	7,000	5,000	13,000
Diocesan Levy	25,000	16,000	1,000*

\*Levy held over due to COVID-19



**PARISH FIRST**  
BUILDING BETTER PARISHES

Produced by Parish First P/L based on information supplied by  
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