



**ST MARY'S PARISH** - ABN 986 691 3095

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1 April 2022

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary's and St. Mary's School Community

**RE: Ongoing need for financial support to uphold Parish Pastoral Support and Services**

The Finance Committee is looking to provide a community update with respect to the financial well-being of the St. Mary's Parish.

The previous update was provided by Father Steven Rigo in November, 2021 who advised a substantial decrease in income of the past almost two years had culminated in reduced work hours for our Parish staff and cut backs to the services they were providing. We were faced with a grim reality of the need to prepare ourselves for a time when we would not be able to continue employing our staff indefinitely

At that time, we became aware that some parishioners became very upset that such a decision was taken and expressed that they would have wanted to know how desperate our situation was so that this could be avoided. Also, many parishioners engaged with generous contributions to enable us to continue in limited capacity through the summer period which was truly appreciated.

This is our latest update to keep everybody informed with respect to the Parish Financial resources to support the Parish operations and community.

The Parish income has significantly decreased over the past 2 years with continual lockdowns and reduced opportunities for major fundraising activities. Despite this, we managed our way through 2021 with reduced Parish services and achieved a small overall surplus in revenue of approximately 15K, which was on the back of 25K Government grant contributions which no longer exist.

The Parish Finance Committee wants to let you know that whilst it may seem Parish operations are returning, our participation rate at mass is still well down and may never return to what we have known in the past. As such, it is no time to be complacent. We have substantial commitments to meet in 2022, including repayment of the gathering space loan (approx. 75K per year) which has 3 years to conclude and even now we are still not in a position to reinstate Parish staff to full duties.

We have undertaken some initiatives already including introduction of pay wave facilities at mass for those parishioners looking to make contributions in a different way, and we will also be running a sacrificial giving program later in the year when our numbers have reached a steady

state. We will also be looking toward promoting a bereavement giving campaign in the near future for those wishing to leave a legacy for the future prosperity of the Parish.

For now, we value and appreciate the generosity of Parishioners and the St Mary's School community. There are many ways you can make an immediate impact for our Parish services, including:

- Sacrificial giving envelopes, or contribution at mass including option for pay wave giving,
- Prompt payment of Family Parish Levy, or
- Voluntary contribution / donation

Your generous and ongoing contributions to support the Parish, its personnel and the programs we support are duly welcomed and appreciated so that we can continue our mission and strive "to be a Vibrant Christian Community Engaging with the world".

With gratitude for your support,



Paul Girolami  
Chair, Parish Finance Committee



Fr. Steven Rigo  
(Parish Priest)