



Service and Support Program

Living the spirit of our parish



shscparish.org.au

A word from John



As we journey together in service and support of our church and community, I am reminded of the meaning of the word church, which is 'to be called out of'. We are called out of ourselves to serve and open up God's reign of a loving inclusive community for all.

All our resources, buildings, personnel, and the various groups that make up our parish are about living the spirit.

As I look back at what we have achieved in our community, I am grateful for the many ways our parish community continue to be called out in service to those in need. Whether that is through service in our school, Sacred Heart Mission, or the many parish groups who serve those experiencing disadvantage in very practical ways, like our St Vincent de Paul and Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project.

The monies we have received through our collections, donations and bequests have been used to invest in the spirit of outreach and care as well as the practicalities of supporting this work. If a church is not growing in mission it is dying.

I thank you for your continued support, contribution and service of our parish community as we continue to walk together in a spirit of compassion, justice and hope.

Fr John Petrus
Parish Priest



What is Service

In the words of St Paul, we are many parts but of one body with gifts to share in care of one another. In our parish which encompasses our school and Mission, it is sharing those gifts, in service and support, in care and compassion for the betterment of our community at large.

Service Challenge

Our service challenge to you, is to share your gifts with others – no strings attached. Simply find a way to support our parish community, volunteer, get involved in one of the many groups, reach out to others to do the same. We share these gifts, as to serve one another is to serve God.

Our Achievements

We are thankful for what your support in recent years has helped us achieve:

- Ongoing pastoral care and support of our school
- Hospital visits
- Bereavement support
- Funeral support (particular for our homeless and Mission community)
- Improvement of our liturgical spaces, including opening up the sanctuary space at Sacred Heart Church and providing altar extensions with ramps in both churches
- A major electrical system replacement at St Columba for the safety and security of the church
- Installation of our new Mary McKillop Chapels in both churches
- The day-to-day running and support of the parish
- Establishment of working groups and committees to support initiatives around our parish.

Our Goals

To engage people in service as a means of strengthening relationships and thus building a future for our community.

To increase financial support from \$71,000 to \$90,000 through our parish collections, pledges, school levy and fundraising.

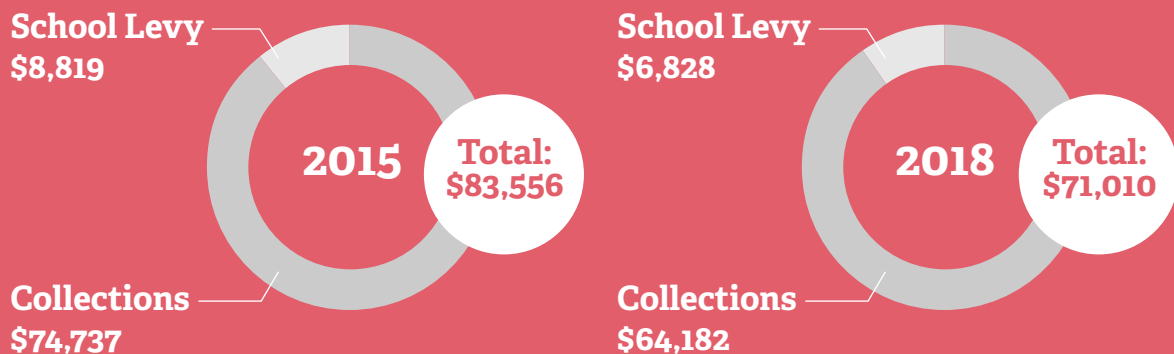


Why \$90,000? The reality of the day to day running of the parish is much greater, in fact excluding building maintenance and insurance, which is partly funded by the rent we receive from Sacred Heart Mission for use of our buildings. The annual running cost is around \$240,000, which includes all our sacrament, pastoral and other services as well general supplies and administration. The Target is simply reflecting an achievable increase for 2019/20.

Our Finances

Looking at the figures comparing 2015 with 2018 you can see the breakdown of income sources.

These figures exclude bequests, which is the only source of income that enables us to take on proactive initiatives right now.



From 2015 to 2018 we have seen a decrease in our financial support (thanksgiving) income and school levy, which school families voluntarily pay. It is only due to rental income on properties occupied by the Mission that we are able to cover basic maintenance, with occasional bequests allowing us to deliver on the growing list of parish and community support needs. A downward trend in income when costs continue to rise year on year is a trend that we can help turn around through your service or financial support.

Your Pledge

Every year we ask you to think about your financial pledge to support the parish. We know some can only give of their talents and time in service, others are able to financially contribute to our regular support program. We are grateful for both.

What do I give?

This is always the hardest question to answer. As a starting point, consider what is left after paying the essentials in your life, like your mortgage and bills and what you spend on entertainment, like movies, coffee and dining out. Ask yourself, "What is my pledge to the parish, compared to these activities?", Then decide what might be an appropriate pledge weekly or monthly.

Ways to give

- 1. Direct debit payment:** Fill in the thanksgiving pledge card attached and return it to the parish office.
- 2. Credit Card:** You can set this up online via our new website or download the Tithe.ly app from either the Apple or Google Play Store. Then, search for 'Catholic Parish of Sacred Heart and St Columba'
- 3. Envelopes, which you add to the collection each week:** Contact the parish office to join the envelope system.
- 4. Cash in the weekly collection:** We have now started a tap and go, which is set at \$5, just tap your credit card during collection. If you want to give more, just tap as many times as you like.

Some people also make a regular direct debit payment and add a little extra in cash each week to collections. This is a good way to feel you contribute each week and have an ongoing financial commitment for when you are not around. It is entirely up to you.

What is each collection for?

There are two collections during Mass:

- First collection: pastoral support and various ministries
- Second collection: parish priest living expenses and stipend

Willing the parish on!

- Have you considered Sacred Heart and St Columba Parish in your will?
- Your bequest will be put to good use. You can leave a specific amount for general use or as in many cases an amount for a specific project.
- Please talk to Fr John or the parish office to learn more.

Many of our major projects have been funded by the generosity of our parishioners over the years through bequests, such as a new roof for St Columba or the Asumpta Fund which supports people in immediate crisis.

Contact

E: eskw@eskwparish.org

P: (03) 9531 6120

W: shscparish.org.au

Your Support Pledge Card

Present Envelope Number (if known)



Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ My age group is: under 30 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70+

Envelopes (Available from the parish office)

My Support Pledge will be: \$ _____

every: week month quarter half-year year

or... Direct Debit from a nominated bank account (Forms available from the parish office)

My Support Pledge will be: \$ _____

every: week month quarter half-year year

or... Credit Card

(To set up regular credit card giving, visit our website shscparish.org.au or download the [Tithe.ly](#) App and set it up from there.

How to use the Tithe.ly App

First, download the Tithe.ly app from either the Apple or Google Play Store.

Then, search for [Catholic Parish of Sacred Heart and St Columba](#).
Once you've found us, simply click 'Give' to start.