

PLEDGE CARD

Name í í í í í í í í í í í í .

Address í í í í í í í í í í í í
í í í í í í í í í í í í

Phone í í í í í í í í í í í í ..

Email í í í í í í í í í í í í í

My Thanksgiving pledge will be \$_____

weekly fortnightly monthly

Please send me thanksgiving envelopes

Credit Card Authorisation

Visa Mastercard

Card Number: í .. / í .. / í .. / í ..

Expiry Date í í .. / í í í

Name on Card í í í í í í í í í ..

Signature í í í í í í í í í í í ..

Direct Debit (*we'll send you forms*)

VOLUNTEER PLEDGE

I am available to consider any requests for assistance with parish maintenance e.g. trades, catering, cleaning, and/or ministry e.g. musicians, reading, visiting those in need. My area(s) of expertise are:

Parish Office: 03 9531 6120

eskw@eskwparish.org

www.elwoodstkildawestparish.org

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

Many regular churchgoers commit via our envelope collection at mass each weekend. Just fill out the pledge card attached and we'll provide you with envelopes. You may prefer to make a one-off donation by credit card, in which case, details can be submitted on the same pledge card. For those wishing to make a direct money transfer, please contact the presbytery for our bank details.

We are fortunate that several of our parishioners have remembered us in their wills. If you would like to do the same, a bequest would be greatly appreciated. You can talk to your solicitor or the parish priest about how to do this.

WHAT CAN YOU AFFORD?

Perhaps a little more than last year! It might help us bridge the financial gap that we are experiencing. Really, it's whatever you can go without; such as one less beer on a Friday night or one less coffee. The gain for us is a periodical commitment that we can rely on to support our parish and help enrich our community.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Earlier this year, we had a working bee to help clean the churches. We now have some sparkling windows, but others need the attention and skill that only a professional can provide. This costs money. Within our community we may have people whose talents might be available occasionally; and not just as cleaners. Do you have carpentry skills; are you a plumber; can you tune pianos? The Sacred Heart Mission relies on volunteers: the parish could also benefit by utilising the skills of our talented people. Even if we can access people at -mate's rates, this would help our bottom line. Isn't this what a community is all about?

The Catholic Parish of Sacred Heart & St Columba



Who will pledge their support?

THANKSGIVING 2016
Our Parish. Our Community

Dear Parishioners,

Each weekend, as I celebrate mass with you at our two beautiful churches, I realise and appreciate the commitment you have made - and continue to make - in order to maintain our pastoral activities in Elwood and West St. Kilda. It goes without saying that we proudly incorporate our Sacred Heart Mission and excellent St Columba's Primary School as part of our parish community. We also work with St Vincent de Paul to address the needs of the disadvantaged. We have various groups active in religious instruction, planning, fundraising and social events. It's a lot to do and challenging to achieve with our current resources.

Sadly, the days when our churches were full every week are long gone: the support of fewer people is our reality. You are the hands and feet of Christ in our parish community. Whilst we receive rent from Sacred Heart Mission and contributions from the School, there is no financial support from the Archdiocese of Melbourne. We have to pay our own way.

There is so much we need to do and so much we want to do. Unfortunately we have a significant shortfall every year and without recent bequests would be unable to meet our extensive maintenance needs. We are eating into our capital, obtained by selling our Cowderoy St. property in 2000. Our goal is to provide a stable financial future.

I urge you to get behind the Thanksgiving 2016 program and consider increasing your pledge, even by a small amount. There is also the opportunity for you to contribute in kind. If everyone makes this commitment, I am sure we can improve our resources and grow our community.



John Petruelis
Parish Priest



WHAT DO OUR CHURCHES AND SCHOOL MEAN TO YOU?

Sacred Heart Church has been a prominent St. Kilda landmark since 1884. Its connection to Sacred Heart Mission is well known. St. Columba's Church and Primary School have served the Elwood community and beyond for over ninety years.

The school can boast impressive credentials in relation to their past pupils, who have moved on to contribute to the wider community. As we move on in life, we sometimes tend to undervalue the primary school experience but it is so relevant and not just for the students. This is where parents form lifelong relationships with other parents and their children provide those cherished moments that are never erased by time. We are indebted to those present and past parents who have been part of our Thanksgiving program and we hope they will maintain their support at a time when we need every dollar we can find.

Right now, we have around 300 parishioners who regularly attend mass. With the number of baptisms scheduled and a growing desire for children across our parish to be supported in their faith journey, we want to continue to provide a generous open welcome. We always look to support new residents and visitors and to actively demonstrate our mission of walking together in a spirit of compassion, justice and hope.

Our parish has a proud heritage: you are ALL part of it.

THE PIE THAT IS GIVING US FINANCIAL INDIGESTION

The pie chart below shows how the parish yearly expenses were spent in 2014. What you don't see is that our income was \$222,514 and expenditure was \$271,593. So, we're operating at a loss. If we were a business, we would eventually be shut down. This is not an option. That's why we need everyone to invest in our parish and support Thanksgiving 2016. You can help to boost our income and assist us to reduce costs wherever possible.

<i>Salaries</i>	42.28%
<i>Insurance</i>	11.49%
<i>Archdiocesan Levy</i>	9.81%
<i>Telecommunications & Utilities</i>	9.30%
<i>General Expenses & Admin</i>	8.36%
<i>Church Requisites</i>	7.89%
<i>Building & Grounds</i>	5.90%
<i>Hospitality & Pastoral Expenses</i>	5.76%

