

# Understanding Parish collection

## Supporting Our Parishes

Our parishes and migrant chaplaincies create a strong positive presence in our communities, and enjoy essential Partners in our Catholic Schools. Our Catholic identity finds fluent expression through them.

The Catholic Church has a strong tradition of giving that follows in the footsteps of St. Paul who spoke about caring for one another; it has established and supported many worthwhile charities throughout its long history.

This culture of charity continues on, but a parish can only sustain itself and these charitable works with help of its parishioners whose generosity makes great things possible.

We ask you to consider this when thinking about your charitable commitments to your parish. A Church is not merely building but people who breathe life into it.

*“Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, Will give stone? - Mathew 7:9*

## The First Collection

Money collected from the first collection support the Needs of Priests of the Parish and the Sydney Archdiocese.

- The priests’ monthly salary (Stipend).
- Upkeep of the presbytery, e.g. food, utilities, cleaner, housekeeper etc.
- A small percentage to cover the expenses of the Archbishop especially in caring for elderly Priests.

Income from other sources includes Easter and Christmas offerings (via envelope contributions made at these times).

Wedding and baptism donations are also added into first collection.

## Surplus from the First Collection

Any surplus is placed into the Central Fund; and deficit is reimbursed to the parish, to ensure that all Parish Priests and Assistant Priests receive sufficient funds to cover their living expenses. In that way, a priest who ministers in a financially struggling community is assured of equal care.

Additionally, the Central Fund supports:

- Migrant Chaplains.
- Priest's undertaking postgraduate studies.
- Priest's in remote mission areas here and overseas.
- Priest's health care costs.
- Permanent deacons' health fund costs and ministry expenses.

## The Second Collection

Money from second collection supports the maintenance of the parish building and pastoral programs. The parish must work within its own budget and is unable to draw funds for expenses from any source other than its own parish income. Loans for church works are permitted as long as they can be serviced.

**Some of the expenses covered are:**

- Parish running costs e.g. administration, insurance, Utilities, general maintenance and upkeep of the Church, Presbytery and parish property.
- Parish staff salaries including superannuation.
- Priests' car and car expenses.
- Charitable works Fund shortfall.

The collection combines income from planned giving envelopes and cash on plates.

## Special Collections

- The Charitable Works Funds (CWF) Supports: Catholic Care, CCD (ministry expenses for catechists in state schools), Ephpheta centre, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Seminaries and Chaplaincies etc.
- The Priests' Retirement Foundation, supports sick and retired priests.
- The Holy Place annual collection is for the church in the Holy Land.
- Peter's Pence (Holy Father's Appeal) is a collection for Intention of the Holy Father.
- Project Compassion Appeal held during Lent supports the Charitable Works Caritas Australia in developing countries.
- Catholic Mission's focus is on the Church's worldwide missionary activities.

- The Society of St Vincent de Paul Winter and Christmas Appeals provide assistance to society's needy and disadvantaged persons.

## Thank you

Your generosity in supporting the priests and good works of the Church is gratefully acknowledged. Each person's capacity to give is different and depends on individual circumstances and you are not expected to give anything more than is reasonable.

However, your contribution not only benefits this parish but also smaller parishes throughout the Sydney Archdiocese. May God bless you.