



Our Lady and All Saints Church
Lancaster Lane
Parbold
Lancashire WN8 7HS
23 November 2020

Dear Parishioner,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we enter a new liturgical year, it is a good time for each of us to reflect on:

WHAT DOES MY PARISH MEAN TO ME?

Some parishioners might say that our parish has been marking time for the past three years or so. It has been an unsettling time, with different priests coming and going, the handover of pastoral care from Ampleforth Abbey to the Archdiocese and, of course, Covid 19. We have come through all of this. Covid 19 is still with us but it will pass. It is time to stop and to think about how in the future we can re-create the vibrant parish we had in years gone by.

We have a beautiful Church and beautiful grounds, a welcoming Church, one that is easy to pray in. It was first dedicated in 1884 and has a rich history as the spiritual centre in the lives of many parishioners past and present. The current parishioners are, like those who have gone before, the stewards of the parish, responsible for its care and with a duty to pass it on to future generations in as good or better condition than when they received it.

What each person decides to contribute to that stewardship is personal to them. Some offer their time, using their skills to benefit the parish; others make a monetary contribution. For many, it will be a combination of both.

About half of all the parish's costs go on the care of the fabric of the Church and its grounds. Most of the day to day maintenance is done by parishioners giving freely of their time, but there is also a five year programme of planned maintenance and repair, much of which is safety related. Expenditure is very carefully managed.

The biggest element of parish income is from the Offerings people give each week or month, but these have fallen dramatically over the past three years, from £42,000 in 2018, £35,000 in 2019 to £32,000 in 2020. That is a fall of about £200 per week between 2018 and 2020.

As a result the parish shortfall has gone from £1,300 in 2018 to £7,400 in 2020 and is predicted to be £13,000 in 2021 if nothing changes. This is not a financial crisis, yet, but the Government will not help us, the Vatican will not help us and the Archdiocese will not help us. It is for the parish to pay its way.

There are relatively few parishioners making offerings by standing order, which is the easiest way to give, and few of those have increased their offering with inflation: the number of offerings through gift aided envelopes has dropped dramatically.

I would ask each of you to review what you give to the parish. No commitment is asked for nor do we want anyone to feel that they are being asked to contribute more than they can afford. But what you give should be more than a token. The late Cardinal Basil Hume once suggested that a person in work could think about offering to his parish his first hour's pay each week. You may think that is about right, or too high, or too low, but it is a starting point for your thoughts.

With every good wish and blessing,

Fr LRJ Daley
Parish Priest

on behalf of the Parish Financial Advisory Group

Like any household, our parish has to cover day to day running costs, pay for building costs and repairs, and maintain our carpark and grounds.

This is how we have operated over the last three years: (numbers rounded to the nearest 100)

| Income | 1 Oct 2017 to 30 Sept 2018 | 1 Oct 2018 to 30 Sept 2019 | 1 Oct 2019 to 30 Sept 2020 |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Offertories | 41,800 | 35,100 | 32,000 |
| Other income (inc cemetery fees, 200 Club, one-off donations) | 14,100 | 18,300 | 18,600 |
| Total | 55,900 | 53,400 | 50,600 |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Premises (heating, lighting, insurance, grounds, maintenance) | 29,100 | 30,100 | 26,800 |
| Assessment Funds | 8,900 | 9,300 | 5,400 |
| Other expenditure (church expenses, clergy, employment, school, admin) | 19,100 | 20,900 | 25,900 |
| Total | 57,200 | 60,200 | 58,100 |
| Deficit | 1,300 | 6,800 | 7,500 |

Thanks to good management and your support, our buildings and grounds are in good condition. However, without an increase in offertories this is becoming less and less affordable.

Did you know that of the 200 active parishioners (900 registered), 55 contribute by standing order or gift aid envelope and about 4% of donations are given in loose plate (not gift aided).

Standing order is the best way to support our parish. This provides a secure and regular income that is easy to gift aid and costs less time and money to process than envelope and loose plate.

All you need to do is review what you give:

Does my financial contribution to the parish reconcile my means with its needs?

Do I give regularly using a standing order or weekly envelopes?

Do I use gift aid if I pay UK tax, to ensure the parish gets the most out of my contributions?

Then if you would like to start a new contribution, or increase your regular offering, please complete and return the attached planned giving and gift aid form on the reverse to the parish office.

Any queries, please contact the parish office on (01257) 463248 or email parbold@hotmail.com.

***Thank you for ensuring we maintain our parish.
Whatever you give, we are grateful.***