



Our Lady of Pentecost

Balwyn, Camberwell, Deepdene, Surrey Hills and Wattle Park

BUILDING HOPE FOR OUR FUTURE BELONG, PRAY, SERVE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the benefit of a Parish Renewal Program?

We are a new parish - Our Lady of Pentecost! We have an opportunity to respond to the challenge of Pope Francis to be a welcoming place, where we are “animated by a missionary spirit, where faith is communicated, and charity is seen”. This is a time for us to reflect on the importance of the new parish in our lives, both as individuals and as a community. We must work together to achieve this vision and to do this we need to draw on both human and financial resources to build on the efforts of those who have come before us, in order to become an even more outward looking church which welcomes all.

Why should I volunteer? How does my time help the church?

2024 was a year of renewal and vitality. As we start 2025 and look around the parish these past few weeks has made it clear that our worship ministries, music ministries, participation ministries and outreach ministries are all growing and vibrant.

Volunteering is a most rewarding experience. Not only does it help you to build relationships with other members of our community, but it also gives you a chance to make the welcome in our community more rewarding for others, as well as providing for involvement in outreach opportunities.

We all have different obligations, varied skills and talents and different interests, but we all share a common responsibility to be active members of our Parish. We are asking for your involvement in our different parish groups which are the expression of our missionary activities and our outreach to those in need.

How many roles and ministries are there in the parish?

Ministry is a general term for any parish group, or regular activity. We have many ministries in our parish for which you may sign up for or enquire about. Visit our parish website to learn more.

What if I sign up for a ministry, but later find I am not very interested?

If you find that the role you volunteered for is not what you thought it was going to be or that it no longer fits into your schedule, you are able to change your mind. There are plenty of ministries to choose from.

Why should I pledge to the parish? Why do you need my pledge?

Each of us has a different story about why we come to Our Lady of Pentecost Parish, why we keep coming back, and how the Holy Spirit nourishes us at Our Lady of Pentecost. Your story is your answer to why you support Our Lady of Pentecost Parish and why it matters to you that we remain open, fully staffed, and full of active ministries. Your pledge is essential to our Church and is inspired by the journey told by your story.

How is my giving to the parish used?

Our parish relies on the generosity of our parishioners to fulfil its mission, pay staff, maintain our buildings, operating costs such as utilities, insurances, parish programs, and to service the growth of Diocesan services.

How will my pledge be collected?

You will be invited to complete a pledge card at Mass, and these will be processed by the Parish Office.

There will be a link in our weekly e-newsletter to complete an online pledge, or you may pledge using the link on our website.

Credit card and direct debit payments are highly encouraged. Electronic payments reduce costs and save resources, preserving our funding for the mission of our parish and our services and programs.

What are the methods available for me to contribute to the Church?

There are a number of ways to contribute your pledge to the parish:

- A weekly envelope – this is a dual envelope; each side clearly marked for “Stewardship Offering” and the other “Presbytery Offering”. Envelopes may be placed in the collection basket at any Mass at any of our five churches.
- Direct Debit or Credit Card - we are able to set up your giving with regular donations of weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly, bi-annual or annual contributions. Alternatively, you may like to create your own recurrent payment via internet banking. Please contact the Parish Office for banking details and reference numbers to be quoted for your transaction.

How do I support the priests of our parish?

Our priests are supported by the gifts received in the collection plate. All monies in the giving envelope marked “Presbytery” and all loose cash in the collection plate goes towards the support of our priests by providing them with a stipend, monies for food, household expenses, petrol etc. You are not required to make a pledge to the Presbytery.

If you would like to make an electronic contribution to the Presbytery, you may do so by creating your own recurrent payment via internet banking. Please contact the Parish Office for banking details.

Alternately, there are EFTPOS terminals located at three of our churches:

- Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Deepdene
- Our Lady of Victories Basilica, Camberwell
- Our Holy Redeemer Church, Surrey Hills

These terminals may be used with any contactless credit or debit card, telephone, watch or similar tap to pay device. Your transactions are accepted as a donation to the priests using these specially marked machines.

Are my contributions tax deductible?

With the transfer of the governance of schools into the new entity – Melbourne Catholic Schools Limited – the Parish no longer has a School Building and Maintenance Fund into which contributions may be made, as such no part of your contribution to the church is tax deductible.

What if I cannot fulfil my financial pledge?

Everyone understands that personal financial circumstances can unexpectedly change. When you pledge, you are saying you plan to give the promised amount, to the best of your ability. But something might happen that alters your ability to fulfill that promise. If you feel it necessary to change your pledge amount during the year, you are always free to do this. All we ask is that you contact us to adjust your pledge accordingly.

We welcome your involvement

We are always looking for new initiatives and the renewal of current activities providing opportunities and reasons for people to become engaged and to welcome new people to our community. Please forward your suggestions to the Parish Office.