Parish Support Programme

St Monica’s in 1873

1857 - the original St. Monica’s Church

St Monica’s Today

St Monica’s Footscray
Corner Whitehall and Wingfield Streets
Phone: 9689 4277
Website: @google
Dear Parishioners

Our Parish is very important in the lives of all of us. It is here that we have the opportunity to gather each week to worship our God in the celebration of the Eucharist, to be inspired in our Christian and Catholic lives by listening to and reflecting on the Word of God, and to be strengthened by the grace of God for the week ahead. Each year the Parish gives us the opportunity to celebrate the great feasts of Christmas and Easter.

What we gain from the Parish goes beyond the walls of the church. As a faith community we offer friendship and support to one another in many ways through the week.

Families celebrate happy events in our churches - the Baptism of a newly born child, First Eucharists and Confirmations, the joy of Marriage. We also gather in times of grief as we remember a loved family member or a friend who has died.

Our Parish of St Monica started in a tent on the banks of the Saltwater Creek (the Maribyrnong River) around 1854. Priests came from St Francis church in the city and afterwards from Williamstown to say Mass.

A small one-room “church school” was built on the corner of Wingfield and Moreland Street in 1857. The Church was commenced in 1873 and finished in 1885. We became a parish separate from Williamstown in 1890. The presbytery was commenced in 1893 and finished in 1899. St Monica’s is a wonderful parish community, the “great-great-grandfather/mother” parish in the West.

We have inherited a great historical parish; we have a sacred duty to maintain it so that it can be passed on to the generations that follow.

I invite and encourage everyone, especially those who have just moved into the parish, or just started working, to get involved. Have your say, it is YOUR parish, and make a difference to the community.

To all past contributors, I say THANKS; to new parishioners, I say COME AND JOIN US - be part of the parish family.

Every blessing.

Parish Priest

SAINT MONICA’S SCHOOL
(ESTABLISHED 1854)

From a financial point of view, the parish primary school is self-supporting. It costs around $1.5 million to run the school each year. Most of the money comes from Commonwealth and State Government Grants – (“your taxes at work”)! Parents make significant contributions too by paying school fees and levies for materials.

Ten percent of the “Thanksgiving Offering” envelope contributions are used to pay the insurance on the school buildings so that portion only is tax deductible.

It is appropriate to gratefully acknowledge the $2 million received from the Commonwealth Government under the Building the Education Revolution (BER) programme launched during the Global Financial Crisis.

This BER money was used in 2010-11 to build four new classrooms and completely renovate the rest of the school buildings - inside and out. Some of the buildings date back to 1908 (Hopkins Street) and 1933 (Wingfield Street).

Indeed some of the older parishioners attended school in the above building (built in 1890 and demolished in 1994).

The sisters of St Joseph including St Mary MacKillop herself taught at St Monica’s from 1894 until 1975.
THANK YOU TO
- all who have made it possible since 1854!
- Priests, sisters, teachers and staff
- Parishioners, committees, volunteers, workers
- Those who support(ed) the parish financially and with their time and talents.
- Special thanks at this time to the 75 CONTRIBUTORS who support the Parish financially through the Thanksgiving Envelopes
- Without you we could not survive and reach out.

FUTURE CHALLENGES
- Repair/Repaint Church interior walls
- Rewire light fittings in the Church
- Provide Audio-Visual/PowerPoint projector
- Repaint Presbytery (2013)

As well as this “wish list” we have to meet all the usual “household” expenses - pay our telephone, gas and light bills, carry out regular maintenance - pay our insurance ($13,000 per year) - meet our commitments to pay our share for the provision of Diocesan service - $70 per week.

In addition like all “home owners” we pay off our loans on the school ($57,000) church and presbytery ($85,000).

CURRENT FINANCES (2011)
- Average weekly income: $1,300
- Average weekly expenses: $1,750
- So to coin a phrase “We are going out backwards”

We need:
More people giving
and
People giving more.

Everyone is capable of supporting parish finances. All are invited.

If a child sees a parent putting their envelope regularly on the plate, it helps to make them feel part of the parish community and increases their sense of belonging and ownership.

The young man or woman who is earning a casual, part time, or full wage or receiving a Centrelink allowance, is able to contribute to Thanksgiving.

Pensioners and those receiving other forms of social security are also able to contribute (some of our most generous supporters are pensioners).

The amount that is given is different from one person to another but everyone needs to reassess their giving and not compare themselves with others. This is the time to really think about what you can give and still live comfortably yourself and support St Monica’s as suggested in the table below:

### CURRENT FINANCES (2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Income</th>
<th>Weekly Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,300</td>
<td>$1,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Everyone is capable of supporting parish finances. All are invited.

### NEW CONTRIBUTORS

#### Please complete details and post to: St. Monica’s Parish, 2 Wingfield St. Footscray 3011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please Print:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Code:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **My Pledge will be:**
  - $_________ weekly
  - $_________ fortnightly
  - $_________ monthly

### PLEASE ONLY TICK ONE:

- **EITHER:**
  - [ ] Please send me offering envelopes
  - [ ] Please debit my credit card

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name on Card:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Card Number:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expiry Date:</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **Weekly Income:**
  - 2.5% P.W.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly</th>
<th>One Hour</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$750.00</td>
<td>19.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>12.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$375 (Pensioner)</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Each MONTH for a term of:***
  - [ ] years, expiring on ___

- **With the Sum of $_______**

- **Signature:**

I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS AUTHORITY MAY BE CANCELLED IN WRITING AT MY OPTION.
PRIESTS COLLECTION

In St Monica’s Parish the weekly presbytery (the first) collection averages $700.00

How is the Priest’s Collection money used?

1. 5% goes to support the Archbishop and Regional bishops $35.00
2. 12.5% goes to the Priests’ Remuneration Fund to assist priests in needy parishes and to pay for Hospital Insurance cover for all priests $87.50
3. 12.5% goes for the support of retired priests $87.50
4. To pay for priest’s weekly car leasing and running costs $220.00
5. To pay for food, housekeeping and domestic staff $270.00
6. When all these are paid, (if there was any money left!) the priest then receives his stipend - “living allowance” - at a level approved by the Archbishop - $342.00 per week

Because Fr Beasley receives the age pension ($375 per week) he does not receive any “stipend” from the parish.

However, if the parish priest was under 65, there would not be enough money in the Priest’s Collection to support him, then,

EITHER The Priests’ Remuneration Fund (see 2 above) would have to provide all or part of his “stipend” ---- OR the collection would have to increase to around $1,000 per week.

FROM HIS STIPEND - “LIVING ALLOWANCE” - A PRIEST PAYS FOR:

- Contributions to the Parish Thanksgiving Envelopes
- The support of Charities
- Clothing and personal expenses
- Books and reference material
- Retreat and seminar expenses
- Holidays and recreation

It is very important to note that money contributed by parishioners in the Thanksgiving Envelope (Church Collection) cannot be used for the support of priests.

An audited Statement of Parish Finances is prepared each year in March for the Archbishop. Copies are available. Our collections are displayed each week in the front porch.

BEQUEST: If you have no dependents have you considered providing for the parish in your will? Your bequest will be put to good use. More information available from the Parish Priest - or your lawyer.

Special thanks to Ileana Innocencio and Mai Nguyen who produced this brochure.