



## INTRODUCING DONATION POINT TOUCH DEVICES

In an environment where cash is in a steep decline, St Mary MacKillop Parish, Western Border has decided to install Donation Point (Tap) devices in all our parish churches with the aim of maintaining continued levels of donations to the Priests Support Collections (Presbytery or First Collection).

The graph below taken from the RBA website highlights the rapid decline of cash transactions leading up to 2019. This decline has been further enhanced during the COVID-19 times by the recent reluctance of retailers to accept cash payments as well as a higher uptake of Tap and Go technology by our older generations.

The Donation Point devices have been sourced through the Ballarat Catholic Development Fund and are as simple to use as plugging into power. The value of the donation can be set by the Parish at any time and in our instance, we have set this at \$5 per tap. If someone wants to donate more then they simply tap their card more than once.

While the donation point devices come at a financial cost, we have had no hesitation in investing in eight units to date to ensure we stay ahead of the cash decline curve. We decided to allocate these devices to the Priests Support Collection due to it being currently entirely made up of cash donations. We have also focused heavily on moving our parishioner's stewardship (Planned Giving) donations to direct debit and credit card. This then keeps the two collections clearly separate. I would highly recommend that other Parishes take a good look at the Donation Point devices along side other giving technology that might become available!

*John Hockey – Parish Manager*

If you are interested or would like more information please contact Sharyn at the Catholic Development Fund on 5337 7127. The office also holds a tap & go device that can be hired out for events or you are welcome to trial it in your church if you wanted to try before you buy!

