

GOD GIVES IT ALL
AND THEN CALLS US TO **SHARE**

Everything we have and all we are is a gift from God. Life itself is God's gift to us. Our family, our friends, the time we have and our talents have been given to us. Our ability to use these gifts to earn an income is also God's gift.

Our Stewardship challenge is to develop and then share our gifts with others - with no strings attached. We share these gifts out of our love for God and in gratitude to Him.

"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6:23

"The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach."

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 28



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OF MELBOURNE

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PARISHES - THE **HEARTBEAT** OF THE CHURCH



OUR
PARISH
COMMUNITY

celebrates faith
values engagement
supports generously

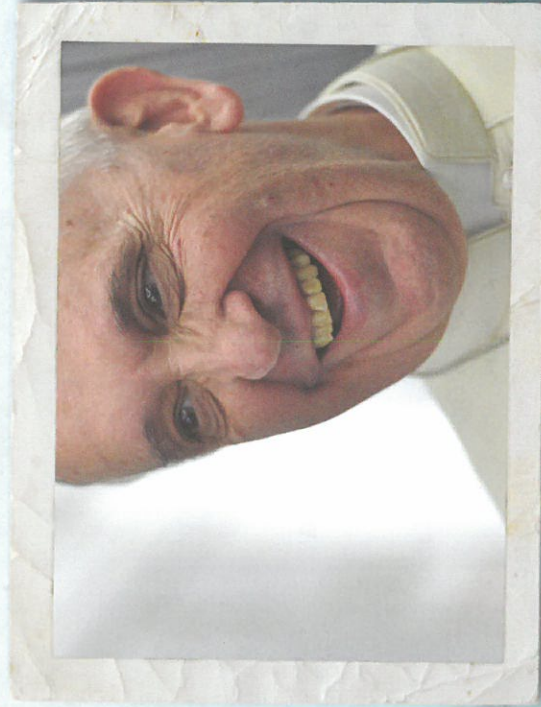


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Sunraysia Catholic Parishes

A message from Fr Michael

My dear friends,

This weekend we commence a special program – a Parish Stewardship Program. We undertake the Program recognising that “Parishes are the Heartbeat of the Church.”

Over the next few weeks we will ask ourselves what it means to be a part of our parish community here at Sunraysia Parishes. We will reflect on the three key areas that identify our parish as a special community of faith:

Firstly, that we are a parish which **celebrates faith**. We know the importance of gathering as a community to celebrate the Eucharist at Mass. We know that it is the foundation of who we are as a Catholic community. But importantly, we don't merely *attend* Mass, we *celebrate* our faith. As Pope Francis says, “.....it is a beautiful thing to do.”

Secondly, that we are a parish that **values engagement**. We recognise the importance of being involved in parish groups and ministries. We encourage parishioners to be involved in the many opportunities available to nurture, grow and live our faith – as listed in the Program Time & Talent sheet.

Thirdly, we are a parish that **supports generously**. We firmly believe in the need to plan and budget for our personal financial commitment to our parish – giving us the resources to sustain our parish today and to grow and respond to Pope Francis' call to Mission.

I encourage your active involvement in the Program – read the materials, listen to our speakers and discuss the issues with your family and friends. I also invite you to attend the key meeting of the Program – the Parish Information Meeting.

Let us all use this Program as a wonderful opportunity to grow our community of faith in our parish.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Michael McStinnan

Parish Priest

Parish Stewardship Program 2017

A message from the chairman

Dear fellow parishioners,

I am honoured that Father Michael has asked me to be the chairman of our Stewardship Program. Together with my fellow members of the Program Leadership Team, I have met with Tony Biviano from the Parish Development Office of the Melbourne Archdiocese who will be guiding us through the Program.

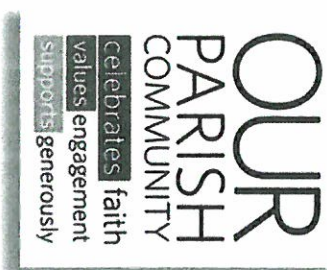
We have all been impressed with the message and structure of the Program and believe it will provide a wonderful opportunity to reflect, discuss and reaffirm what it means to be a parishioner here.

We are confident that with your support and involvement the Program can bring great benefits for us all as individuals as well as for our entire parish community. I endorse the Program and encourage your active participation. Throughout the course of the Program, please do not hesitate to contact me at the parish office on 5021-2872 with any queries you may have.

Warm Regards,

Ross Tanguie

Chairperson



REMINDERS

INFORMATION MEETINGS

DATES: Mildura 1 August; Red Cliffs 2 August; &

3 August in Merbein

TIME: 7:00 PM

VENUES: Mildura – Holland Room – Mercy Camp

Red Cliffs – Red Cliffs Church

Merbein – Merbein Church "

Everyone is invited!

PARISH BROCHURE

Please collect your individually addressed envelope with the brochure and Time & Talent sheet