

## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM - REQUEST FOR WEEKLY ENVELOPES

Thank you for asking about weekly giving envelopes. This leaflet will explain how they work and hopefully answer questions you might have.

Planned giving is just what it says: we plan in advance how much we will give each week. The weekly envelope which people put on the offering plate is one of the ways we can plan our giving.

So how does it work?

### *Giving by weekly envelopes*

Each year we give you a box of church giving envelopes, one envelope for each week of the year. You decide what to give, pop it into the envelope each week and put it on the plate.

It is that simple but it makes a real difference:

- our envelopes help us to think about and then to give what is right for us; no more giving from what is in our pockets or purses at the time
- our envelopes help us to be regular givers; no more forgetting in the Sunday rush or not giving at all when we don't get to church

*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income 1 Cor 16:2*

## SOME QUESTIONS PEOPLE OFTEN ASK ...

### *Will anyone know what I give each week?*

All weekly giving envelopes are numbered, not named. No one who counts our offerings will know who uses that envelope number. This information is only known by the Parish Priest and Finance Manager.

### *Can I stop taking envelopes?*

No problem. Your situation might change; you might move away or start to give by Direct debit. Simply contact the Parish Office and your name will be taken off the list and you won't receive envelopes next year.

### *I'm not in church every week – so what I do?*

Lots of people ask this question! If you cannot be in church for a week or longer simply put your usual gift in that week's envelope and when you next come bring the envelopes for the weeks you have missed. It is no problem if you put several envelopes on the plate on one Sunday.

### *A Direct Debit works for me, can I do that?*

Certainly; if it is best for you then you can give by Direct Debit. In fact it really helps us if you do. A Direct Debit form is available if you prefer to plan your giving this way.

### *Does planned giving make a real difference?*

The short answer is, absolutely! Our church needs generous, regular giving to sustain our life and ministry; we Christians need to give generously to thank God for all he has given to us. Planned giving helps us to do both of these things.

### *How much should I give?*

That is a question only you can answer. There is helpful guidance in our leaflet and some thoughts just below but it is your decision. There is no minimum charge, no subscription fee. But taking weekly envelopes to give regularly is an important decision which helps you and our church.

We give to our church for various reasons:

- so as a church we can pay our bills so that our church is here for us and for our children
- to help us as a church continue our work of worship, care, service and witness
- To thank God for his love and his gifts to us

So, to help us think about how much to give we can ask ourselves two questions. Firstly, is what I give realistic, given the needs of my church? Secondly, does how much I give reflect what God has given to me and is it in tune with my lifestyle?

These are tough questions for all of us! Each year we invite all church members to review our giving. So make a start by giving regularly and let your giving grow from there.

***Should I only give to the Church? I like to support many charities***

Charities do amazing work and we hope that we all can give to Christian and to other charities as well as giving to our church.

But our church should have a special place in our giving. We come here to worship, grow in our faith, share in its activities and enjoy the people. We are part of the wider family of churches in our Archdiocese and we help support each other in ministry costs through our parish share. So we think that giving to the local church should be the first call on our giving, just as our weekly worship should be a first call on our time.

So, thank you for asking about weekly envelopes. And thank you for your support for the ministry here, not only in financial terms but through your time, skills, care and your prayers. Your contribution makes a difference and we thank God for you.

**For more information, complete the form below or speak to our Parish Priest or phone the Parish Office on 5465 3131**



**NAME:** .....

**STREET ADDRESS:**.....

**SUBURB:** .....**POSTCODE:**.....

**PHONE:** ..... **EMAIL:** .....

I / We would like to give via Direct Debit. *[Forms attached]- Preferred Option*

I / We require a set of weekly envelopes to use for Planned Giving

**Please return this form or information by either:**

Email: [gatton@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:gatton@bne.catholic.net.au)

Post: PO Box 6 GATTON QLD 4343

Person: 37 John Street South, LAIDLEY QLD 4341 or place on collection plate during Mass