

Finances in Catholic Parish of Hastings (CPH)

CPH, with its buildings and the rest of its patrimony, handed on from previous generations, belongs to its parishioners. As parish priest I am obliged to act in the interest of the parish so that it may accomplish its mission, given by Christ to the Apostles, in communion with the Diocese of Palmerston North and the Universal Church. As a result, we are all stewards of the goods of the parish which are deployed for spiritual purposes.

In the Bible we read: “They (the people) shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed; all shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you.” (Dt 16: 16-17) also: “All who believed were together and had all things in common.” (Acts 2: 44)

Canon 222 §2 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law states: “They (the Christian faithful) are obliged to assist with the needs of the Church so that the Church has what is necessary for divine worship, for the works of the apostolate and of charity, and for the decent support of ministers.”

When you look at the pie chart attached to this document you will see how these needs are catered for as a percentage of the money received through the giving of parishioners. Furthermore, on the Charities Commission website parishioners can see in detail where the money is spent and for what purpose: [Charities Services | Home](#) with the registration number cc53108

There is a range of options when it comes to donating money to CPH:

1. Putting cash in the basket at the collection on Sunday
2. Putting money in planned giving envelopes which are also placed in the basket
3. Starting an automatic payment to the parish for a fixed sum on a regular basis
4. One off donation
5. Re-donating tax rebates for charitable donations to CPH
6. Community fund raising activities
7. Making provision for CPH in your will

Options 2-5 are preferable because the donor can have his or her gift recorded and is eligible to have a tax rebate from the NZ government. This is 33.3% of the total given.

From (date) there will be another option. That is:

- Donating through tap and go payment at the entrance to Sacred Heart church

Initially, this method will be available at Sacred Heart church. If it proves successful it can be widened to other CPH churches. The main advantage is that those who do not carry cash can still give an amount of their choosing even when they are not on planned giving or are visiting from another parish and still wish to contribute.

Given the call on the purses of parishioners the Finance Committee is hesitant to appear demanding. Nevertheless, inflation has its impact on CPH as much as anyone. Sometimes parishioners set up an automatic payment but fail over time to update it. Others, since they do not carry cash, find it difficult to contribute on a casual basis.

The important thing is that every parishioner/family gives something on a regular basis. Existing givers need to increase their offering to keep up with inflation and those of lesser means need to offer what they can through the tap and go or in the plate. Sometimes we can think of a price of a coffee or similar. In this way we would not only meet our obligations but also look forward to expanding the church buildings in the future to meet anticipated demand. This is especially the case when we consider that the churches are four fifths full now even before our pastoral renewal strategy has been inaugurated.

I would like to thank all parishioners for their generosity. Many visitors or non-Catholics are able to visit the churches and enjoy its services thanks to the openness of those who give and do not count the cost. Please look not only to contribute financially to the parish but also to volunteering for ministries and roles in the parish that lead us to an even greater harvest for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Catholic Parish of Hastings

Approximate Expenditure of Cash Income (including bequest funds)

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|
| Parish building costs | 19.5% | Parish building maintenance, rates, insurance, power, security etc |
| Parish Apostolate | 19.0% | Hosts, candles, wine, youth etc |
| Clergy Trust Fund | 27.0% | Costs of Parish support paid to Clergy Trust fund |
| Parish Administration | 27.0% | Office wages, photocopying & printing costs, computer expenses, telephone costs, postage, stationery, bank fees etc etc |
| Diocesan costs | 7.5% | Parish share of Diocesan costs including lay pastoral work and diocese |
| | <u>100.0%</u> | |

Approximate Expenditure of Cash Income

