

## ST MARY'S NORTHCOTE FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

Covid had an even greater effect on the parish in 2021 than 2020 – the church building and services were either closed or severely restricted on 172 days in 2021 compared with only 78 days in 2020. That 172 days is almost half of the year! This had a significant effect on all aspects of parish life although our finances held up well with amazing parish support.

Total revenue was up 5% on last year. With the church being closed or restricted for so many days obviously our mass collections were down but this was compensated by an increase in our pledge envelopes, automatic bank payments and even the Tap n Go donation screens at the church doors were up on last year. This is a tremendous effort under difficult conditions and we thank parishioners for their great generosity and support. The covid restrictions on church attendance has highlighted the importance of electronic/auto payments and a particular thank you goes to parishioners using auto bank payments. This has now become far and away our biggest source of income and has the welcome advantage of making life easier for our administrative and office staff.

The parish every year also receives some very generous personal monetary donations which we here gratefully recognise. Also a special thanks to those parishioners giving much needed food and other household goods to De Paul House. We also thank those parishioners who directly gave assistance to needy parishioners.

We also received this year a large bequest from a deceased parishioner's estate. Such bequest's enable us in our charitable works and we encourage parishioners to consider a bequest to the parish/church in their wills.

A special thank you to the old St Mary's Tennis Club for a \$22,000 donation as it winds up its affairs. This money will enable the purchase of an electronic keyboard plus the upgrading of the church sound/video system for live streaming of services.

Parish operating expenses were kept to only 2% up on last year. However in this covid affected year we did have a larger than usual call for financial assistance in the parish plus we made a one off substantial donation to the church building fund at the new St Luke's parish in Flatbush where our previous parish priest, Fr Craig Dunford, is now based.

The parish continues to support the Central/South American Catholic children's charity, NPH [Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos 'Our Little Brothers and Sisters']. We currently support 4 children.

The parish rental house on the driveway down to the presbytery was this year leased to De Paul House to be used in their social housing programme. De Paul House are grateful due to growing demand and we are pleased to help in this good work.

We hope that 2022 will see a return to the old normal life of the parish.

***"...your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God."*** Acts 10:31

David Gibbs, Chairman

For the Finance Committee – Rod Bray, Michelle Jarvis, Warren Valladares and Frs Lio & Marchellino