

Stewardship: Planned Giving

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7).

Jesus is the model of self-giving because he gave his life on the cross for the salvation of the world. When we give of ourselves sacrificially we imitate Jesus. We are called to give in many ways. One of the ways we give is by financially supporting the work of the Church.

What is the work of the Church?

The work of the Church is nothing other than to continue the work of Jesus – that is, to call to repentance and to proclaim the Gospel.

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19).

The parish is the frontline of this divine mission. Together, both priest and parishioner, are responsible for the use of their time, resources and money which we relate to as stewards, for the growth of God's Kingdom.

How does the Kingdom of God grow at St Bernadette's? What does this parish spend its money on?

The parish invests in music, youth and young adult programs, catechism material, training and formation of leaders and teachers. Creating a beautiful and comfortable worship environment is also an important investment. In the Walmer Township, money is spent on outreach efforts. Other parts of the budget see to the maintenance and upkeep of our facilities which are used without charge by the St Vincent de Paul Society to care for those who have the greatest need; the St Philip Neri Collegium for the education of priests; the Sewing Club to provide skills to help others find work. Finally, there are important administration and salary costs to keep the parish running.

For a more detailed view of how money is spent, please join us at our annual Financial Presentation in the classroom above the hall at a date to be advised in the new year (2018).

The world tells us to seek success, power and money;
God tells us to seek humility, service and love

- Pope Francis -



How should I give?

- **Planned Giving:** designate money in your budget
- **Priority Giving:** give to God first before other expenses
- **Percentage Giving:** give a percentage, not a rand amount
- **Progressive Giving:** increase the percentage as and when you can until you reach 10% of your net income.

In the Scriptures Jesus reinforces the practice of tithing (giving a tenth of your income): “*You should tithe yes, but do not neglect the more important things*” (Mt 23:23); and he praises the widow who is poor in money but rich in generosity (Lk 21:1-4).

If you can't afford to budget 10% of your income then select a smaller percentage and increase it as and when you can – this is Progressive Giving.

Will others know how much I give?

How much you give is known only to those who administer the accounts. It is never a topic of discussion.

How do I support the Oratory?

The Oratory and parish are separate financial entities. The relationship between the parish and the Oratory is akin to a marriage in the sense that the strength of one is important to the other. When the Oratory first arrived in November 2002 many parishioners saw an answer to prayer and assisted with costs for the education of the younger members. At present, money invested in the Oratory's **Friends of the Oratory** account is used for ongoing education of the Oratorians and in preparation for future seminarians.

If you would like to support the Oratory over and above your contribution to the parish you can make use the following account details:

Friends of the Oratory, FNB Money Market, Walmer Branch Code: 211-417, A/c 62177534544.

I'd also like to support St Vincent de Paul

Feeding the hungry is one of the five Corporal Works Of Mercy (c.f. CCC 2447). Every Christian is called to practise these Works of Mercy. The SVP and other charities are institutions that seek to champion this work.

If you wish to contribute to the SVP you can make use of the following account details:

St Bernadette's Conference of the Society of St Vincent De Paul; FNB Walmer; Branch Code: 211217; Current Account No.: 54591740675; Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ (For international Donors only)



Can I leave money to the parish in my will?

Such a practice is commendable and the Church benefits greatly from this thoughtfulness. It's important to know that all money received by the parish through planned giving, donations and bequests are taxed by the chancery (Bishop's office).

This provides the Bishop with much needed financial support for running the diocese and supporting parishes that are not yet self-sustaining.

To join *Planned Giving* as means of financial stewardship please consider a monthly contribution to the church account via EFT.

*St Bernadette's Catholic Church
Standard Bank
Rink Street branch (050417)
Account number: 080281141
Swift: SBZAZAJJ*

Reference: PG, Surname, Initials.
Send notification of payment to
parish@pe-oratory.org.za

For those wishing to use the *Planned Giving* boxes, please contact the parish office.

Finally, thank you in the Lord for your generosity and service that corresponds to our love for God.