

A decorative banner at the top of the page. It features a blue ribbon on the left with the text 'ST PAUL'S' in gold, and a green ribbon on the right with the text 'ST CLARE'S' in gold. The ribbons are intertwined and have a 3D effect. Below the ribbons, the text 'Bulletin Highlights' is written in a black, cursive font.

ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

Bulletin Highlights

Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year C

21st July 2019

Planned Giving Envelopes

A big number of our parishioners are committed to the financial livelihood of the parish through the planned giving programme. This commitment is greatly needed and appreciated. Thank You.

Rather unfortunately, there are many parishes around the world that are slipping slowly and surely towards insolvency. In the United States, there are published examples of where parishes are not only suppressed (that is, to be absorbed into another parish) but sold off altogether, with the church included.

In one particular instance, a local parish celebrated a final Sunday Mass. The next morning a small fleet of furniture removalist trucks arrived. Professional personnel stripped the church bare and removed all the statues, furnishings and other sacred items. Some parishioners reported the experience as being seriously impersonal and quite distressing.

It is already apparent that smaller parishes across our own nation including, of course, our own diocese also struggle. But even medium-size parishes can struggle financially. In the case of our own parish, we're going ok but planned giving income has been in decline in recent years. This is why it's so necessary to have a proper programme of financial renewal every five years. Our next such programme is scheduled for 2021.

Many parish expenses are largely hidden. Our own parish pays tax to the diocese of about \$40,000 annually. Insurance costs are about \$25,000. There are about half a dozen casual and part-time employees. Costs for (a) energy, (b) telecommunications and (c) printing, postage & stationery are all big-ticket items. Consider this one example: Last Sunday, as with this Sunday, the 16 air-conditioning units in the church were switched on at 7:30 AM. With the exception of about 30 minutes between Masses, they were kept on until baptisms were completed at 12:30 PM. That's a substantial cost.

In a recent conversation with a parishioner from a far-away diocese, a Vigil was celebrated in quite a large church. The parishioner explained that it was noticeably cold and the church was without any form of heating. Not surprisingly, there were only about 50 people at Mass.

A parish can only ever be as good as the collective dedication of all its parishioners. Fortunately, in our own parish we have lots of dedicated people.

Among the many contributors, about half make their offerings electronically and the other half by envelopes. The planned giving envelopes are available at the back of the church for those who like to contribute in this way. Whatever the manner chosen, thanks to all who support the considerable financial needs of the parish.



Mid-week Masses

Wednesday St Clare's Mass at 8:00 AM; Exposition at 7:30 AM.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday: St Paul's Mass at 9:00 AM; Exposition at 8:30 AM.

Confessions on **Saturday** as usual from 9:30 AM.

At St Paul's on Tuesday and Wednesday, there will be a Holy Communion Service.



Catechist Needed

Our dedicated catechists have a great need for two more teachers to share their faith with the children at Spring Farm Public school on a Monday for 30 minutes from 2.10pm. This is a wonderful ministry that has over the years resulted in many children experiencing enormous assistance in being introduced to the catholic faith. For those interested, on-line training is available, and lessons & support are freely given. If able to assist please contact Elizabeth in the office during the usual hours.