

# ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish of Wapping, Archdiocese of Westminster

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## Week One



## Our Call to Stewardship

*“Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” (1 Peter 4:10)*

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This parish is part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trust. Charity No. 233699.

***“...all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.”***

(1 Chronicles 29:14)

## **All we have are gifts entrusted to us by God**

Everything we have comes from God: the gift of faith, our friends and family, our skills, our wealth and possessions, peace and the gift of life itself! Everything comes from God and belongs, ultimately, to him.

What God gives us is not exclusive to ourselves, but is entrusted to our care as stewards. We have the task of making these gifts fruitful and communicating their benefits to others.

**So how do I respond? Do I give thanks to God and honour him by my use of his gifts?**

Regularly reflecting on my blessings and how I use them, including my charitable giving, is an important part of my personal spiritual growth and discipleship.

## **Each time we give, we:**

- ✓ Joyfully recall that all we have comes from God;
- ✓ Declare our trust in his providence and care;
- ✓ Take one step forward in our personal faith journey;
- ✓ Experience the joy of giving and see the amazing fruits it brings.

## **Time, treasure, talents**

Each one of us is blessed with a unique portion of time, treasure and talents. God wants us to use and share these with others. Our parish would not function without the generosity of our parishioners volunteering their time and talents and sharing their financial blessings.

***“...give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”***

(2 Corinthians 9:7)



## What does my parish mean to me?

Alongside volunteering, our parish relies on offertory collections to maintain and grow our mission. We do not receive funding from the government, the Vatican or the diocese.

As stewards of this parish, we are each responsible for its upkeep, with a duty to pass it on to future generations in even better condition than we first received it.

What you give is personal and your decision alone. Traditionally, communities of the faithful tithed, giving 10% of their income. Some like to break this down into '5 and 5':

- 5 hours of volunteering a month.
- 5% of their income.

Whatever you decide, the amount should suit your circumstances and be meaningful to you. The table below can help you to work out percentages if you wish.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME		WEEKLY GIVING GUIDE		
Hourly Wage	Annual Salary	2%	3%	5%
£7.83	£14,250	£5.50	£8.22	£13.70
£10	£18,000	£7	£10	£17
£20	£36,000	£14	£21	£35
£25	£45,000	£17	£26	£44
£30	£55,000	£21	£32	£53
£38	£70,000	£27	£40	£67

*The late Cardinal Basil Hume suggested we consider offering our first hour's pay to God each week.*



Dear brothers and sisters,

After the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, the apostles were sent out. In each town they visited, they proclaimed the Good News, baptised new disciples of Jesus and ordained a bishop or priest, creating a new Christian community in that place. The same is true today: this parish of St Patrick is the community of the disciples of Jesus established here in Wapping.

As Christ's disciples, and as his living body, we have a mission: to pray, to preach the Gospel, to celebrate the sacraments, to care for those in need and to support each other in Christian fellowship. Christ is present in Wapping in and through our parish.



We have to be able to sustain ourselves to undertake this mission. We cannot depend on others, such as the diocese, for financial support. Each parish must balance its books so as to ensure its long-term future and continue its mission.

Every few years it is necessary for us to consider our financial situation and appeal for help. While we try to run the parish frugally, we are struggling to face rising costs associated with the aging fabric of our buildings, increased utility costs and the same inflationary increases you no doubt experience yourselves.

Over the next couple of weeks, I will encourage you to reflect on your regular offertory contribution. Talking about money is always difficult, especially in a challenging economic climate. I want to be clear that I do not want this fundraising to affect your full participation at St Patrick's. If you are giving as much as you can afford, I am not asking for more. Please reflect on your regular offering.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to me, or ask one of the members of our parish Finance Committee available after Mass.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity,

Fr Andrew Connick, Parish Priest.