

St John Bosco Financial Appeal 16 / 17 November 2024

Thank you Father for allowing me to address our Parish.

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Jim Hill. I am a Member of the SJB Finance Committee and hold the position of Honorary Accountant. I have been a member of the Parish for over forty years.

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your generous contributions towards keeping our Church the centre of a thriving community.

Here comes the "but"

We appreciate that the costs for individual families have been rising considerably over the past few years.

You won't be surprised to hear that the costs of maintaining our Church and Parish Life have also been rising in a similar manner.

Your Finance Committee are proud that we have exercised good financial control to limit our costs.

We will be publishing the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 shortly.

In round terms, our Income and Expenditure are in the region of £88k resulting in maintaining our reserves of around £40k.

In the last Financial Year we have spent around £20k on mandatory expenses and one-off maintenance costs.

We are facing future challenges of ever increasing expenditure regarding Church maintenance and utility costs.

We are appealing to you today on three counts:

1. Increase your weekly / monthly contribution;
2. Set up a standing order from your bank account for your contributions;
3. If you are a tax payer, set up a Gift Aid Form.

Possibly, like me, you haven't increased your contribution for some time.

Inflation over the past two years has exceeded 15%. Have you increased your contribution over this period by 15%? I know I haven't but now intend to.

The average weekly donation is in the region of £5.25 per week per person. Let's see if we can increase this to at least £6.00 per week per person.

Setting up a standing order guarantees Parish Income even when you are away. It is easy to set up a monthly standing order with your bank.

Clearly, there are other methods to donate including the cash baskets at the Offertory, the Dona Machine for Credit and Debit Cards in the Church porch and our website. All are very valid but standing orders give us certainty. Also, with a Standing Order, 100% of your donation comes to the Parish. With the Dona Machine and Website there is a 1.7% and 4.8% deduction respectively from the card provider.

Gift Aid costs you nothing. If you are a taxpayer, and most people in work or on a pension are, by signing a Gift Aid Form, the Parish will benefit from a tax rebate from the Government of 25p for every £1 you donate. You are likely to be paying tax if your income (salary, pension, bank interest) is greater than around £13k.

I am sure, like me, you value our Parish and want it to continue to thrive. Let's see if we can work together to put SJB on an even better financial footing.

I will be outside of Church after Mass if you wish to discuss any matter with me and specifically, if you wish to sign a Gift Aid Form.

Thank you for listening and thank you Father for allowing me a few minutes to put forward our appeal.

Covenant Bank Account: 309304 00964906