



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Church is the physical embodiment of Christ here on earth. Each one of us, as St. Teresa of Avila tells us, are Christ's hands, feet, eyes and ears within the world. We are called, through our one baptism to take an active role in the parish that is ours. Unlike a Cruise ship, where some people serve, and many are served, the Church should be more like a battle ship...with each and every one of us ready on deck to do our bit...ready for action...and ready to serve.

This parish, like the whole of the Church, needs to be a living community that preaches the Gospel and celebrates every milestone throughout our lives. We need to be the visible presence of Christ in our world.

Without the generosity of people like yourself and your family, the parish simply wouldn't operate. We would have no one to greet and steward people at Mass, we would have no clean church or altar linen, no music, no beautifully arranged flowers, no tea and coffee after Mass...the list of opportunities to serve is wide and varied. Furthermore, without your financial generosity we would simply not be able to continue our work as we receive no funding from the Diocese or other agencies. In light of all we do and all we share within our pastoral activities, we would like to invite you in the weeks ahead to reflect, through praying together in Church as well as at home, to re-examine our Time, Talents and Treasures and how we can all share them with this wonderful parish.

Thank you, as always, for your immense generosity!

Rev Peter Raj and Rev Paul Spellman

If you have any questions, please ask a volunteer after Mass or contact:

Parish Priest: Rev Peter Raj

Assistant Priest: Rev Paul Spellman

Address: St Mary, 322 Woodbridge Rd, Ipswich, IP4 4BD

Tel: 01473 728115

Email: stewardship@st-mary.org.uk

Website: www.st-mary.org.uk

WEEK 1

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WOODBRIDGE ROAD, IPSWICH
CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY & ST. MICHAEL, KESGRAVE



Simon Knott

FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE

"...like good stewards responsible for all these varied graces of God, put it at the service of others"

- 1 Peter 4:10

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA

Registered Charity Number 278742

“...since everything has come from you and we have given you only what you bestowed in the first place” I Chronicles 29:14

All we have comes from God, so we are God’s Stewards;

Whether it is the gift of our faith, our friends and family, our skills, possessions, or the gift of life itself! **So how do I respond? Do I give thanks to God and honour Him through how I use these gifts?** By regularly reflecting on the blessings we have received and reviewing our commitment to the Faith we should re-examine how we share our Time, Talents and Treasures; this should be an important part of our personal spiritual growth and discipleship.

Whenever we give, of our Time, our Talents and our Treasure we grow each time we:

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

Time, Treasure, Talents

Each one of us is blessed with a unique portion of time, treasure and talents that God wants us to use and share with others for His glory. Our Parish would not function without the generosity of our parishioners giving their time and talents and sharing their financial blessings.

What does my Parish mean to me?

Time & Talents

What does it take to prepare for a Sunday Mass?

Welcomed – *welcomers/stewards/newsletter*

Are you able to give time to welcome people, to steward at Mass and to hand out newsletters?



“Each one of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these varied graces of God, put it at the service of others.” 1 Peter 4:10

What does my Parish mean to me? Time & Talents

Sacristans – preparing the altar (linen, altar breads, candles, wine...) - Are you able to give time helping to wash the altar linen, to prepare the altar and make sure things are ready for Mass?



Music, Flowers, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Children’s Liturgy – Are you able to give time helping to arrange flowers for the Church or work with our Children’s Liturgy?



Collection, counting – Are you able to give time helping to count the collection?



Transport for elderly/housebound - Are you able to give time bringing an older member of our community to Mass?



Repository – Are you able to give time working in the repository to help out the rest of the community?



Teas & Coffees afterwards – Are you able to give time making and serving tea and coffee to the rest of our community?



Treasures – Alongside volunteering, our Parish relies on offertory collections to maintain and grow our mission. What you decide to give is personal to you. 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%
£10	£20,800	£8	£12	£20
£15	£31,200	£12	£18	£30
£20	£41,600	£16	£24	£40
£25	£52,000	£20	£30	£50
£30	£62,400	£24	£36	£60