

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We are very familiar with the Beatitudes. We often hear this passage read at weddings and funerals, but we seldom stop to think how radical it is. It marks the beginning of the long sermon that Jesus gives that we call the “sermon on the mount”. We are going to listen to that sermon over the next few weeks and we will discover there that Jesus calls his disciples to a very demanding way of living. Before Jesus asks those things of us, he presents us with the vision of what we will become. Unless we catch that vision then we will not be able to accept what Jesus calls us to do. Jesus calls us “blessed”. We are blessed because we have been chosen by God to come to know Jesus and to be part of the kingdom that he has come to establish. If we do not understand how blessed we are then what Jesus calls us to do will seem like a burden that we cannot endure. If we catch the vision of how blessed we are then we will want to do what Jesus puts before us, no matter how difficult it may be.

Listening to the beatitudes on a day when we are asked to renew our commitment to support the life and ministry of the Parish seems timely. Unless we see our giving as an expression of our faith and our dependence upon God, then I do not think that it makes much sense. Of course we contribute to the life of our parish in many different ways. Many of us volunteer our time and share

our gifts in ways that very few would notice. Every parish is built upon the generosity and the commitment of their members.

Why are we being asked to renew our financial commitment to our parish now? One reason is that we have not done in this way in the time that I have been parish priest. Another is that we have many new families who have joined us in recent years. These families need to be invited to support us. The urgency to renew our giving comes from the need to take out a loan to buy a house to accommodate our new Parish Priest while continuing to use the Parish House as a centre for ministry. We have to present a five year budget to the Archdiocese showing that we can afford to service the loan we are asking for. We cannot do that without increasing our present income and cutting some of our expenditure. But with the increased support of everyone, we can do it.

You are asked to fill out the cards that are now being distributed. See this as an invitation to be more fully involved in the life of our parish. See it as an expression of your faith in the God who provides all that we have.

You are asked to choose the way that you give. Either by a direct debit from your bank account, by way of the Archdiocesan Giving App that you can download onto

your phone, or by using weekly envelopes. If you choose direct debit, we will email the Parish Bank Account details to you. If you choose the Giving app, the Diocesan finance Office will regularly report your giving to us. If you choose envelopes, they will be prepared and be ready for you next week.

Please fill out the card even if you already give regularly or if you are a new giver. Thank you.