

The **Living Our Faith** campaign has been underway throughout the Diocese since early 2009. The time has now arrived for our parish to participate in this important initiative and over the course of the next few weeks you will be hear in greater detail how we are to play our full part.

What is ‘Living Our Faith’ all about?

Living Our Faith is an important effort to ensure the future viability of the Diocese of Portsmouth by addressing the growing demands that the offertory cannot meet on an annual basis. **Living Our Faith** will provide long-term funding for educating seminarians, supporting clergy, pastoral ministries, youth programmes, promoting vocations, lay ministries and strengthening the individual parishes and pastoral area programmes throughout the Diocese. It is essential that these needs be met in the near-term in order to respond to the future growth in our area.

Following detailed consultation, £9m was identified by the Diocese as the minimum sum necessary to achieve the identified goals.

Every parish in the Diocese has been allocated a financial target based on a percentage of average offertory collections over the past three years; for our parish the figure is £75,000 to be subscribed over a five-year period.

How is “Living Our Faith” to be implemented in our parish?

In setting out to achieve their allocated targets, parishes have adopted different approaches. One approach has been to seek an individual pledge from each parishioner. Having discussed this very fully with the **Living Our Faith** team we preferred a rather different solution which we felt was more appropriate for our parish i.e. a Parish Pledge.

What exactly is a Parish Pledge?

A Parish Pledge is a commitment by the parish as a whole to take all necessary steps to meet the allocated financial target. It was felt that this was a fairer and more inclusive way of answering the call of our Bishop as articulated in the **Living Our Faith** initiative. The parish assumes primary responsibility for the payment of the £75,000 figure over the five-year term.

How will the Parish Pledge be financed?

Adopting this course has enabled us to keep our request for increased Giving to a minimum. The figure we are asking parishioners to consider is an increase in present Giving of £2.30 a week (£10 per month). This additional sum, when coupled with the attendant tax relief, will provide us with the necessary support to meet this financial obligation. To assist in this ,we will be seeking new gift aid donors. So, if you are a taxpayer but do not gift aid at present, **please** consider joining the scheme thus providing the parish with the added benefit of the tax already paid on your donation.

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