Stewardship Prayer

My church is composed of people like me.
I help make it what it is.
It will be friendly, if I am.
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.
It will do great work, if I work.
It will make generous gifts to many causes,
if I am a generous giver.
It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship,
if I invite and bring them.
It will be a church
of loyalty and love,
of fearlessness and faith,
and a church with a noble spirit,
if I, who make it what it is,
am filled with these same things.
Therefore, with the help of God,
I shall dedicate myself
to the task
of being all the things
that I want my church to be.

Open your hearts to the love God instils in them. God loves you tenderly. What he gives you is not to be kept under lock and key, but to be shared. The more you save the less you will be able to give. The less you have, the more you will now how to share. Let us ask God, when it comes to ask God for something, to help us to be generous.

Mother Teresa—*In My Own Words*

To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything he has given us – and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God's good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference.

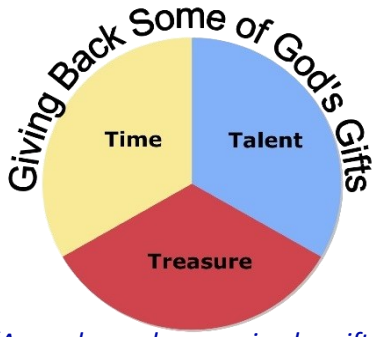
Thomas Merton

Parishes of Saggart - Rathcoole - Brittas & Newcastle

TIME • TALENT • TREASURE

Stewardship

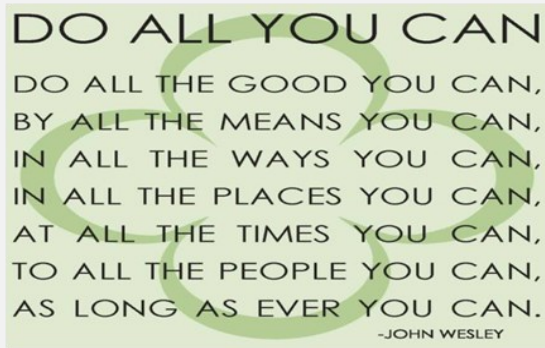
A WAY OF LIVING



"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace"
1 peter 4:10

What is Stewardship?

- Stewardship is having the wisdom to understand that everything we have is a gift from God of which we are to be the absolute best caretakers.
- Stewardship is a way of life, honouring God in everything we do with all His gifts. Living life God-centred rather than self-centred–thinking of Him first before our own wants.
- Stewardship is having the courage to give back out of love, a portion of every gift that has been entrusted to us by God.
- Stewardship is living life with the understanding that someday God will ask each and everyone of us what we did with all of His varied gifts.
- Stewardship is a lifelong faith journey that brings us ever closer to Jesus Christ: following the path He so perfectly laid out for us through His life example.



SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

In everything you do, put God first and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success.
Proverbs 3: 6

On the road to becoming a fully-committed Catholic Christian, the first step is prayer. Surprisingly, praying regularly can be a difficult goal to achieve. But just as we manage our money and time to make our lives run more smoothly, making a personal commitment to spend time and attention in thoughtful prayer is critical to nurturing our spiritual health.

Action Steps:

- Make Mass a priority each week
- Spend time each day, in prayer and/or reading scripture
- Pray daily at meals as a family
- Say the rosary
- Thank God for your gifts and all of our abundance

First, effort must be made to attend Mass regularly. Prayer throughout the week connects us to the lessons we learn from the Sunday Gospels and enhances the grace we receive through the Eucharist. Wholehearted commitment to prayer enriches and guides our Stewardship efforts and strengthens the mind and soul.

Practicing stewardship is about giving back to God some of our abundance. We do this by sharing our Time, Talent, and Treasure:

- ***with family***
- ***at work***
- ***at play***
- ***everywhere in our lives***

TIME

But let our people, too, learn to devote themselves to good works, to supply urgent needs, so that they may not be unproductive
Titus 3: 14

Managing time allows us to alleviate stress, stay on target with goals, and plan for the future. Planning our time to include prayer and service within our parish and outside community frees us. It rejuvenates us emotionally and spiritually, and strengthens our relationships with God and others. Stop and think of God first as you use time each day, and then don't just spend it, invest it. Take a small step by investing your time in a service opportunity. It is a wonderful way to begin to reap the benefits of practicing Stewardship, and to teach your children about practicing their faith.

Action Steps:

- Schedule prayer into your life daily
- Check the bulletin or parish website for service opportunities
- Use a calendar to coordinate family schedules, planning time in prayer and service together
- Look at where and what you spend your time on
- Commit to giving more of your time in service to others

TALENT

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.
1 Peter 4:10

Stewardship is practical spirituality. It is all we do after we pray and say "I believe." Often, the hardest part of actively practicing our faith is knowing how to begin.

To share our talents, we must first take inventory of our abilities and interests. Just as God sent the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide the Apostles, we have the opportunity to receive and nurture the gifts of the Spirit through prayerful discernment and practice of our realizations.

Action Steps:

- Pray to the Holy Spirit to guide your discernment process
- Re-commit yourself to volunteer activities
- Choose a new ministry to join
- Aim to spend a set amount of time in service to family, church & community
- Choose activities that you enjoy

Talents come in a wide range: musical or artistic ability, management skills to organize projects, patience and temperament to work with children, seniors, the infirm and others, or the generosity of spirit to share time and fellowship while strengthening relationships in the community.

There are many ways to share your experiences, skills and wisdom at St. Edna and the community at large. Check the bulletin or parish website to learn of ways you can put your faith into action.

TREASURE

It is possible to give away and become richer! It is also possible to hold on too tightly and lose everything.
Proverbs 11: 24

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus speaks often about money and possessions because this is most often what gets us stressed and bound-up in our lives. Thoughtful stewardship of these possessions is how we get freed-up.

Action Steps:

- Resolve to give a gift proportionate to your income or assets
- Commit to a specific gift each week or month
- How much to give? Give until it feels good!
- Use your offertory envelopes or Parish Pay

Just as careful management of our time makes our lives more healthful, so, too, does planned giving. Make no mistake, though: prayerful, thoughtful Stewardship of your treasure is NOT about the needs of the parish, but rather about your need to give and share.

Throughout scripture we are instructed to give God our first fruits of the harvest. Often, charitable giving is not a budgeted item (a first fruit), but rather, an afterthought. By planning our giving with intent and purpose we can better manage our budgets and free ourselves through this powerful expression of God's place in our lives. As noted in Matthew 6: 21, *Where your treasure is, there also lies your heart.*

Our stewardship practice should embrace all aspects of our life, family, church, and community.

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