

St Anselm Catholic Church

St Anselm's Rectory, The Green, Southall UB2 4BE

Charity number 233699

September 23rd 2012

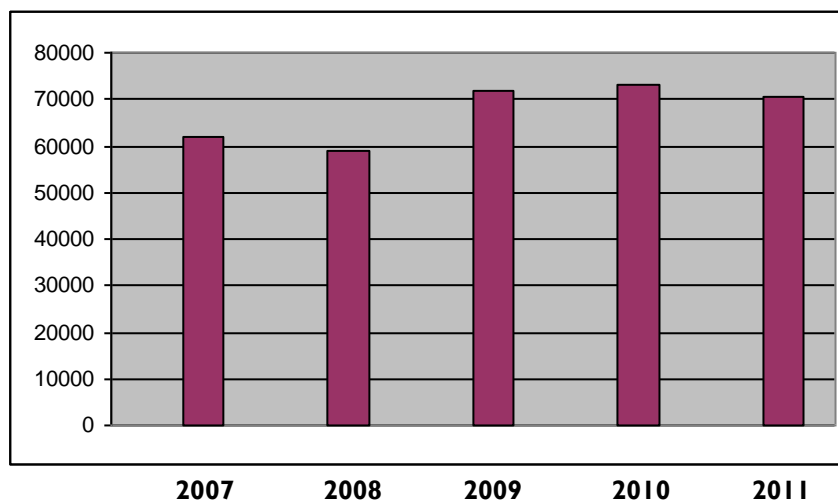
Dear Parishioner

As you may know, most parishes in this Diocese run a "planned giving campaign" every three or four years. This is a time when everyone is asked to think about whether they are giving the right amount to their parish, which is important as parishes do not receive any direct financial support. They are required to raise enough money to cover their costs themselves.

Our last planned giving campaign was back in January 2009 and, as you may recall if you were around at the time, we had to take action as we had not brought in enough money to cover our costs for the previous five years. There was a wonderful response to the campaign and, as a result, we made ends meet for the following two years.

However, I am sorry to have to report that we had a shortfall last year. The main reason for this was that we had to spend over £16,000 on repairs to the building but a further factor was a drop in our weekly collections – which went down by more than £2500 over the year.

Parish Collection 2007 to 2011



What makes the situation even more worrying is that the parish will soon have to undertake some major building work. For example, while the roof of the church has been regularly repaired over many years it is now coming to the end of its useful life and the parish must plan for a new roof within the next two years. The church floor also requires attention while the church and presbytery are both in urgent need of maintenance and redecoration. I am afraid that the Parish Centre needs a complete makeover to make it fit for purpose!

So there is much to be done and we will need to increase our weekly collections if we are to keep our parish in good financial health. *The Parish Finance Committee and I have therefore decided that the time has come to run another planned giving campaign.*

Can you help?

Talking about money when times are so hard is extremely difficult and I would like to say loudly and clearly that I do not want anyone to give more than they can afford, particularly if you have been directly affected by the recession or if you are living on a small pension.

But what this means is that we will need the help of those of you who are still in a reasonably strong financial position.....perhaps because you are in a secure job or because your financial commitments have gone down over the last year or so. I have therefore enclosed a leaflet on planned giving which sets out some of the issues.

What Next?

We will be focusing on this topic over the next couple of weekends and what I would like everyone to do is to fill in a form telling us what you feel able to give, as this will enable us to plan on a realistic basis. You can, of course, do this at any time (using the form in the leaflet) but there will be an opportunity to complete a parish pledge card during the Mass on October 7th.

Could I stress that you can simply write down what you give now if that is all you can afford. But if you can contribute a bit more, it will make a real difference and there will be absolutely no problem about changing the amount that you give if, for example, your circumstances change. All I can ask is that you do what you can and, if this happens, I have no doubt that the parish will raise the money that it needs.

With thanks for whatever support you are able to give and every blessing.

Yours sincerely



Father Gerard Mitchell S.J.

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What happened to the parish finances last year?

*These were the average weekly income and expenditure figures in 2011
(excluding restricted donations and money raised for and given to other charities)*

<u>Weekly Income.</u>	<u>£</u>		<u>Weekly Expenses.</u>	<u>£</u>
Weekly collections	£1045		Council tax and insurance	£100
Standing orders	£175		Gas, electricity, water, etc	£185
Gift Aid	£135		Repairs, maintenance and new equipment	£380
Parish Centre	£30		Parish Centre	£30
Parish Activities	£110		Parish Activities	£145
Christmas & Easter offerings and sundry income	£195		Clergy costs (including supply priests, travel and housekeeping)	£385
Donations for specific items	£225		Administration and staff costs	£550
Repository, papers and candles	£285		Repository, papers and candles	£140
Catechetics	£15		Catechetics and liturgical costs	£185
Rental income	£70		Grants, donations, parish activities & miscellaneous costs	£90
Sundry income	£20		Contribution to the work of the Diocese	£400
<u>Weekly income</u>	£2305		<u>Weekly expenses</u>	£2590

BUILDING REPAIRS
During 2011 the parish
spent over £16,000
on building repairs
including the following:

Repairs to Hall Roof **£4,239**

Repairing Cracks in the
Belfry & Restoring Church
Bell **£2,164**

Service & Upgrade
of Church Boilers **£3,537**

Installation of Security
Cameras **£4,052**

Health & Safety Matters £1,237
£15,229