

2025 PARISH SUPPORT PROGRAM **FAQ'S**

This FAQ sheet is designed to answer the most common questions regarding the new 2025 Parish Support Program for parish school families.

What is the Together. initiative?

Together. is an initiative of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne to promote the important partnership between our parish schools and our broader parish communities – working together for the best Catholic education for our children.

What is the Parish Support Program

The **Parish Support Program** is a special way for our parish school families to financially support our parish – recognising that a vibrant, vital and viable parish is essential for strong parish schools and the ongoing faith education of our children.

Is this something new?

Financial support of parish by school families has been needed and encouraged in many parishes over the years. **Together.** and the **Parish Support Program** are new initiatives in 2025 that bring a heightened awareness to this support.

Don't part of my school fees support the parish?

No, they don't – this is a common misconception of many parents. School income comes from school fees, and Australian and Victorian Government support. Parish income comes from parishioners – largely through direct contributions to Thanksgiving. The **Parish Support Program** is an ideal alternative to Thanksgiving for our school families.

What do my contributions help pay for?

All contributions go directly to the parish – to support the essential works of the parish, and the maintenance and care of our churches and parish facilities. These contributions are necessary to enable the parish to work with our parish schools to support our children on their faith journey.

How do our parish schools and parish community work together for the benefit of our children?

They work together in many ways – in and out of the classroom:

- It starts with a close working relationship between our Principals and Parish Priest
- Providing an education underpinned by our shared faith and values
- Religious education classes as part of each year level
- Laying strong faith foundations through our Sacramental Program – First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation
- Celebrating our faith at school and class Masses, and major events, e.g. Easter and Christmas
- Involvement in parish wide activities that are living examples of our faith –e.g. Project Compassion and other pastoral care and outreach initiatives

How does the Parish Support Program work?

Our school families are asked to support the parish with a **voluntary contribution of \$65 for Term 4 of 2025**. This is equivalent to **just one cup of coffee per week** and is an amount that we believe balances the needs of families with those of our parish. Your contribution can be made **direct to the Parish Office by Friday 21 November**.

What if I have some queries?

Please feel free to contact the Parish Office. We are happy to discuss any queries you may have.

Fr Michael Gallacher
Parish Priest

Angie Mastoras
Principal
St Roch's Primary School