



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

From the very beginning of His public ministry, Our Lord gathered communities around Him. He said that whenever even two or three met in His name He would be with them. The same is true today when we come together as the Parish community here.

The Church has always been this living community that preaches the Gospel and celebrates the sacraments to make visible Christ's presence in our world. It also must sustain itself to achieve these ends. This can only be done through the shared contributions of our Parish community of faith. Each Parish is also responsible for funding its own activities and property. We must balance our books so as to ensure our long-term future and facilitate continuing the mission given by Jesus Christ to the first apostles. I'm very grateful for the support that so many people give to our Parish, and their continued participation in the life of our community.

In the light of the many pastoral activities taking place here in the Parish as well as the challenges presented to us by the upkeep of our church building, may I invite you please in the weeks ahead to reflect on how you can contribute your Time, Talents (your skills, help and participation) and Treasure (through your regular offertory contribution). Thank you, as always, for your generosity!

Rev Antony Arockiam

If you have any questions, please ask a volunteer after Mass or contact:

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WEEK 1

BRANDON AND MILDENHALL CATHOLIC PARISH



FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE

"...like good stewards responsible for all these varied graces of God, put it at the service of others"

- 1 Peter 4:10

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
Registered Charity Number 278742



“...since everything has come from you and we have given you only what you bestowed in the first place”

I Chronicles 29:14

All we have comes from God, so we are His Stewards

Whether it is the gift of our faith, our friends and family, our skills, possessions, or the gift of life itself!

So how do I respond? Do I give thanks to God and honour Him through how I use these gifts? Regularly reflecting on my blessings and renewing my commitment to the Faith through my giving is therefore an important part of my personal spiritual growth and discipleship.

Whenever we give, we grow each time we:

- ✓ Joyfully recall that all we have comes from God;
- ✓ Declare our trust in His provision and care;
- ✓ Take one step forward in our personal faith journey;
- ✓ Share in the joy of giving and seeing the amazing fruits it brings.

Time, Talents, Treasure

Each one of us is blessed with a unique portion of time, talents and treasure that God wants us to use and share with others for His glory. Our Parish would not function without the generosity of our parishioners giving their time and talents and sharing their financial blessings when they can.



“Each one should give as much as he has decided on his own initiative, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

What does my Parish mean to me?

Alongside volunteering and participation in the Parish activities, the Parish relies on offertory collections to maintain and grow our mission. We receive no funding from the Government, The Vatican nor the Diocese.

As Stewards of this Parish, we are each responsible for the upkeep of our Parish, with a duty to pass it on to future generations in even better condition than when we received it.

What you decide to give is personal to you. Traditionally, communities of the faithful tithed, giving 10% of their income. Some like to break this down into ‘5 and 5’:

- 5 hours of service to Parish ministry (sharing your time and talent)
- 5% of their income.

Some thoughts about offertory contributions:

- Our Parish is entirely self-funding.
- For us to continue as a standalone Parish we need to be able to pay our way.
- The Parish is dependent on the generosity of Parishioners.
- What you decide to give is personal to you.
- The amount should suit your circumstances and be meaningful to you.
- Perhaps you have been in the habit of giving the same amount for a long time. Now might be a good time to review what you give.

Next week’s Faithful Stewards Newsletter will give more information about how the Parish is doing financially.



The late Cardinal Basil Hume suggested we consider offering our first hour’s pay to God each week.