



Orthodox Church of the Holy Annunciation

163 Park Road, Woolloongabba, Q 4102

ABN 22 033 162 922

www.holyannunciation.net

Pledging Programme

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to explain the Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church Pledging Programme and how it will work.

Aim: The aim of the Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church Pledging Programme is to provide financial and/or other material support on an ongoing, regular and predictable basis to the parish so that the parish can be properly maintained and made safe so far as is reasonably practicable, and so that the parish can pay its bills on a timely basis.

Basic Outline:

- 1) Parish members and friends of the parish are asked to make a pledge of regular, fixed amounts of their own choosing.
- 2) Direct deposits can be made to the parish bank account:
BSB: 064132
Account: 904659
Name: Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church
Reference: <your surname>
- 3) Cash or cheque pledges can be given to the Parish Treasurer in envelopes with the words "Pledge - <your surname> - <date>". Cheques should be made out to "Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church".
- 4) The Treasurer is responsible for banking the pledges.
- 5) Non-financial pledges (e.g. labour or materials) would be accounted for through the Warden/Maintenance Manager
- 6) Pledges are to be recorded by the Treasurer in a Pledge Register. Additionally, the names of pledgers will be commemorated at each Liturgy during the Proskomedia (Preparatory service). Additionally, once a year, on a specific Sunday after Liturgy, a General Molieben (prayer service) will be held at which the Clergy will raise prayers for the health and salvation of the benefactors making pledges
- 7) Monetary pledges will be placed into general revenue, and therefore will be subject to the same transparent accounting procedures and the same rigorous independent auditing and reporting process to which all parish funds are currently subjected
- 8) Pledging is open to everyone, whether they be parish members or friends of the parish
- 9) The amounts pledged by individuals will be treated confidentially by the Treasurer/Auditor and other office bearers, and when presented to the Annual General Meeting, individuals' names will not be listed next to the pledge amounts in the financial records
- 10) Pledging does not replace Membership Fees (which are still required under the legal Rules of Association in order to vote at General Meetings)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Why do we need a pledging system?

Answer: Because we need to have regular, predictable income for the upkeep of the parish and because good stewardship of the parish by its members is the right thing to do. It is also spiritually beneficial for us to give sacrifice of a portion of our material possessions for the benefit of others and of the Temple.

Q2. Is pledging mandatory?

Answer: No it is not. But without it, our parish will close. We invite everyone in the parish and regular attendees to make and follow up on a pledge.

Q3. Is there a minimum pledge amount?

Answer: No, there is no minimum amount. Even the smallest regular support is welcomed.

Q4. Are pledges tax deductible?

Answer: Not at the moment because our parish is not registered as a Deductible Gifts Recipient. However, some people may be able to legally offset their pledge against their gross income via their employer (as a fringe benefit) in order to reduce their taxable income (i.e. salary sacrificing). The rules about this should be clarified with your employer and accountant if you seek to enact such an arrangement.

Q5. What can I expect in return for my pledge donations?

Answer: Pledges are donations for the proper upkeep, general running, bill-paying, missionary activity and maintenance of our Church. You can expect that we will properly account for you donation and that we will spend the money wisely for purposes that it was intended. You can also expect that we will pray for the health and well-being those who make pledge donations.

Q6. Why are pledge donations subject to Diocesan Levies?

Answer: All monetary revenue received by the parish is subject to a nominal, small Diocesan Levy. Just as we parish members are obliged to look after our parish, by the same token it is an obligation on every parish in the Diocese to contribute to the upkeep and wellbeing of the Diocese. Having a well-tended Diocese brings flow-on benefits to all of the parishes in the Diocese, as it means that they are able to function effectively.

Q7. What if my circumstances change and I can't afford my pledge?

Answer: Simply resubmit your pledge at a rate that you can afford.

Q8. How long can I pledge for?

Answer: The nature of a pledge is that it is a regular, predictable donation over the long-term. Typically this indicates a permanent arrangement or one that runs over at least a year or several years. Again, circumstances of individuals can vary (see Q7.)

Q9. Does pledging entitle me to vote at Annual General Meetings or Extraordinary General Meetings of the parish, or to be elected to the Parish Council?

Answer: No. Pledging does not replace the normal membership dues and requirements for regular Communion which apply under the Rules of Association to those wishing to be members of the parish (and therefore have the right to vote at AGMs, EGMs and be elected). This is because the Rules of Association are the legal document (registered with Qld Office of Fair Trading) by which the parish governance must be run. These rules can only be changed by an overwhelming majority of votes of a General Meeting of the parish members and the definition of membership may be altered in the future.

Q10. If I pledge, does it entitle me to receive things for free? For example, can I have candles or prophanas for free?

Answer: No, pledging does not affect any other existing arrangement in relation to parish property or items provided by the parish for sale or use by the parishioners. It is in addition to the pre-existing arrangement.

Q11. How can I pledge?

Answer: Fill out the attached form and give it to the Parish Treasurer, then make the necessary arrangements to fulfil your pledge.

Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church Pledge Form
(Please return the completed for to the Parish Treasurer)

Christian Name(s): _____ Surname: _____

Please tick the kind of pledge(s) you wish to give:

Financial

I/we pledge to give \$ _____ per **week / fortnight / month** by (choose one) via:

Direct Deposit to Parish Bank Account (see Page 1 of this form for details)

OR

Cash/cheque to Treasurer

Material

I/we pledge to provide the following items as discussed with the warden / maintenance manager : *(please list)*

Labour

I pledge to provide my physical assistance to perform maintenance/renewal/cleaning work on a regular basis as agreed with the parish warden/maintenance manager.

I understand that fulfilling my pledge on a reliable basis is important for stewardship of the parish, and I volunteer to fulfil my pledge faithfully, in the spirit of love for the Lord our God, not for pride or expectation of material returns.

I understand that I can vary my pledge at any time by resubmitting this form.

Signed: _____

Date: ___/___/20___