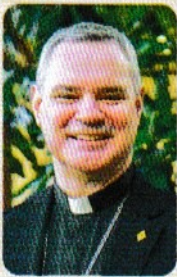




MATT 4:19

THE ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2024



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
As the first disciples responded to Jesus' invitation to "Come, follow me" and with him grow the early Church, so too are we called to continue this vital and life-giving work today.

To do this, we have this year streamlined our approach to fundraising by moving to just one annual campaign for the purposes of the Archdiocese.

Your contribution to this campaign supports the vital ministries that serve all in our Archdiocese and helps build the community of faith in the future. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Yours in Christ,



Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE

THE ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2024

This annual campaign, for the purposes of the Archdiocese, is a chance to thank those who have served God's people in the past and encourage those preparing to do so in the future.

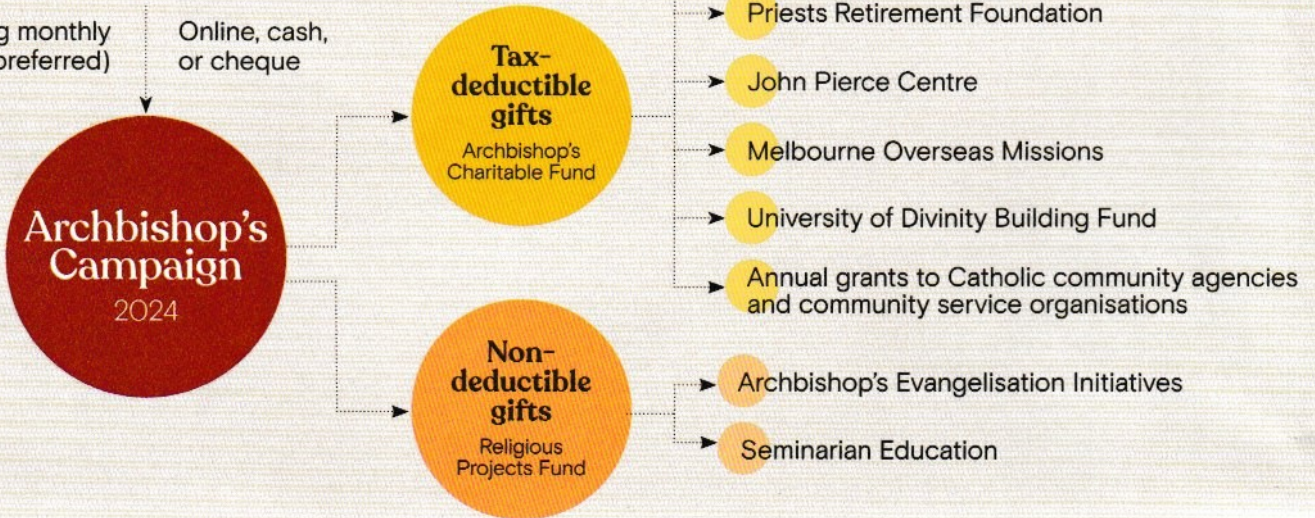
Please give generously.



One major collection for the Archdiocese of Melbourne

Recurring monthly gift (preferred)

Online, cash, or cheque



'A father looks after his kids'

Reflecting on his 36 years serving St Peter Chanel Parish in Deer Park, and on his much longer journey as a priest, Fr Karmel Borg says, 'It was a great gift from God to me; I didn't want to retire.'

Born in Malta, one of twelve kids, Fr Karmel was ordained to the priesthood in 1960, serving in many parishes and supporting the needs of God's people for over 67 years.

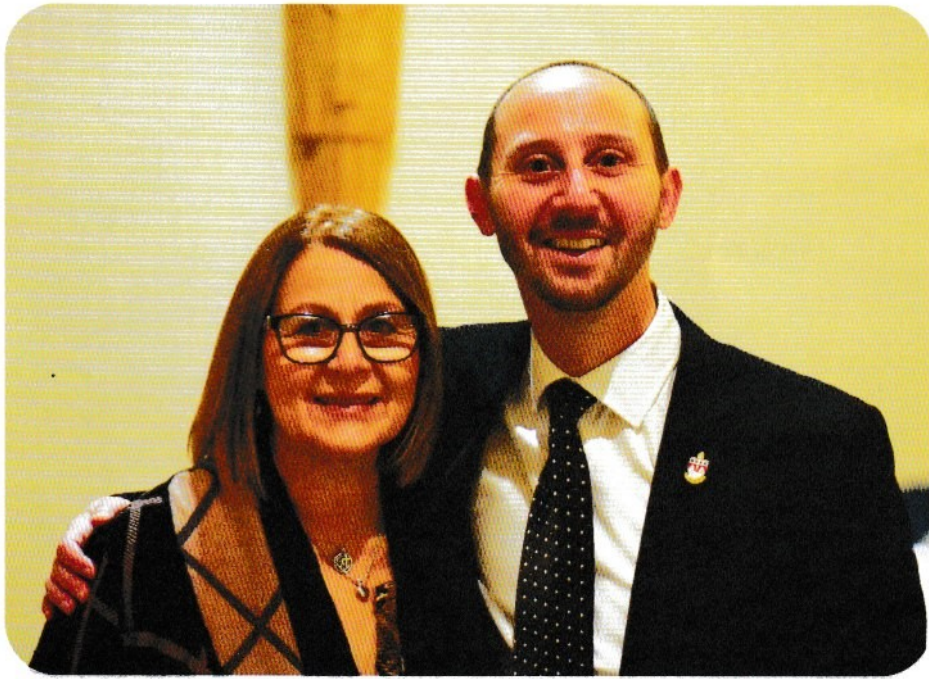
When he arrived at Deer Park, the parish consisted of a school and two steel huts, one for the church and one for the nuns. Many of the parishioners, mostly migrants, struggled financially and couldn't give much to the parish.

But Fr Karmel worked tirelessly to build the parish and support the community. Despite the challenges, he believes it was worth it.



'A lot of people need to be loved. They walk through life and they seem to never have had the good fortune to find someone who feels they are worthwhile,' Fr Karmel says.

'They call us "Father"; he says of the people he's served. 'A father looks after his kids.'



A mother's joy at her son's vocation

Maddalena Vespa needs more than one adjective to convey the joy she felt six years ago on learning that her son John would be training for the priesthood. She offers 'glad' and 'pleased' before settling on 'so, so happy'.

The youngest of Maddalena's four children, John 'was always very good with people', she says. As he got older, Maddalena was pleased to see him grow in his relationship with God. 'I could see he was very faithful'.

Maddalena first learnt about John's vocation during a family holiday in Rome. 'We were actually at St Peter's Basilica in front of La Pietà', she recalls, describing the 'very emotional' moment when he said, 'Mum, I just would like to tell you that I've applied to enter the seminary next year.' 'It was an amazing experience,' Maddalena says.

John is now in his sixth year of formation, and 'God willing, he will be ordained as a deacon later this year.'

Her prayer is that her youngest son will continue to find happiness as he 'enters more fully into the vocation that our Lord is calling him to'.



Learning how 'to be a father'

In high school, fifth-year seminarian Rhys Lowther asked himself: 'Is there meaning to life? What is my place in the world?' As he started going to Mass and becoming more involved in the life of the Church, he sensed that God 'was preparing me for something' and 'asking me to serve him as a priest'.

Currently doing his pastoral year at St Peter's Parish Epping, he says, 'The people of God are teaching me what it is to be a father.'

Keeping the Deaf community connected

For 23 years, Chrissy Camello has travelled from the outer suburbs to attend monthly Mass at the John Pierce Centre (JPC) in Prahran. It's a long trip, but 'worth it', she says.

Chrissy, who grew up in the Philippines, works as a baker and has three 'beautiful daughters'. The JPC connects her to the Deaf community, and to events, services and workshops.



Designed especially for the Deaf community, the centre 'is a big, open space so that we can easily communicate with each other

in Auslan,' she explains. 'I feel comfortable being with other Deaf people because we have a shared lived experience. We understand each other, and we can communicate freely.'

Mass is provided in Auslan, and the centre also hosts baptisms, weddings, funerals and other sacraments.

'Just last year, one of my daughters was able to come for classes and gain her first Holy Communion,' she says. 'The JPC is always there to support me when I need [it].'

TO MAKE A GIFT

Scan the QR code or go to:

melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

Alternatively, complete a pledge card.



Thank you for your generosity and support



THE ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

Come, follow me.

MATT 4:19

ENQUIRIES

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9926 5686