RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND ANNUAL COLLECTION

Supplies of special envelopes, leaflets and posters to promote the Collection were sent out to all Parish Priests in late November/early December. Please do all you can to ensure that the collection is a success and the maximum amount possible is raised.

It would be helpful if Parishioners could be given the opportunity to give to this very important collection for a few weekends after the collection is initially held. That way any parishioners who have been unable to get to Mass due to illness, bad weather etc… have the chance to make a donation.

Please note that a reply envelope addressed to the Director of Planned Giving & Gift Aid has been included with the letter to Parish Priests concerning the collection. The reply envelope is to be used to send:

i) the Cheque from the Parish in respect of the proceeds of the collection (made payable to “Retired Priests’ Fund”);
ii) **ALL Special Envelopes received in the collection (NOTE: this instruction differs to previous years – DO NOT PASS THE SPECIAL ENVELOPES TO THE PARISH GIFT AID ORGANISER – send them to me in the reply envelope);**
iii) any Cheques received in the collection made payable to the “Retired Priests’ Fund”;
iv) any completed Standing Order and Gift Aid Declaration forms received in favour of the Fund.

A copy of the letter sent to Parish Priests has been forwarded to all Parish Gift Aid Organisers. Please can I ask that Parish Gift Aid Organisers assist with arrangements for the Collection e.g. finding additional volunteers to hand out the special envelopes/leaflets, taking the Collection, counting and recording the proceeds etc…

Thank you for all your help.

BULK BUYING SCHEME FOR 2020/21 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Hopefully by now a good number of you will have received your boxes of Offertory envelopes for 2020/21 from the manufacturer.

If not, please be patient as your envelopes are being sent out by the manufacturers and should be with you before the end of this month.

LABELS AND LISTINGS FOR OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2020/21

Parish Organisers who requested labels to put on the lids of their boxes of Offertory Envelopes for 2020/21 will hopefully have already received labels and listings in the post.

If you have not done so already, please could you send in the reply slip (or send an e-mail) to confirm receipt. If you have not received the labels and listings, please get in touch.
GIFT AID & SMALL CHARITABLE DONATIONS GRANT - 2018/19

As a result of the efforts of all of you who assist in our Parishes, Schools and Organisations, the Gift Aid claim for 2018/19 made to HMR&C currently totals just over £690,000.

Thanks to everybody who has made this possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tax Year</th>
<th>Gift Aid</th>
<th>Small Charitable Donations Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>£706,000</td>
<td>£174,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>£691,000</td>
<td>£182,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall the total claimed for 2018/19 was slightly lower than in 2017/18. However, the claim for the Small Charitable Donations Grant has risen over the previous year.

I wish to thank all Parish Gift Aid Organisers and those involved in the counting, recording and banking of the Offertory collection in Parishes that enables Gift Aid and the Small Charitable Donations Grant to be claimed.

ORDER FORM FOR SUPPLIES – 2020/21

An updated Order Form for Supplies for requirements for 2020/21 has been sent to all Organisers with this Newsletter.

It would be very helpful if you could let me know your requirements for the recording of envelopes for 2020/21 using the Order Form (or alternatively e-mail your request) as soon as possible.

The options available remain unchanged, and are as follows:

a) Individual Recording Sheet;

b) Computer Ledger;

c) Printed sheets for hand written records.

OFFERTORY GIVING & GIFT AID POSTERS

Supplies of these Posters are available, as in previous years.

They are designed to be displayed on noticeboards etc… and are useful in encouraging Parishioners to use Offertory Envelopes or Standing Order and to Gift Aid their Offertory giving in the lead up to the start of the new tax year.

If you would like some of the posters for your Parish, please complete the Order Form for Supplies enclosed, or e-mail your request.

ANNUAL CONFIRMATION OF TAX STATUS

This is the annual exercise that should be undertaken before the end of the tax year in April (if it has not already been carried out) to check that Gift Aid donors are still paying sufficient Income Tax to reclaim Gift Aid.

Please can I ask Parish Gift Aid Organisers to help with this exercise. The simplest and easiest way to do this is by including a note in the weekly Parish Newsletter, and a standard article for inclusion in Parish Newsletters is available.

In addition, the standard article also contains wording to remind Gift Aid donors to notify the Parish if their home address has changed in the past year.

If you would like a copy of the standard article, please get in touch.
More of those Signs seen outside Churches…

Adam & Eve – the first couple not to read those Apple terms and conditions

Sin bad Jesus good – see inside for details

Beep your car horn if you love Jesus – text whilst driving if you want to meet him

“Just love everyone – I’ll sort them out later” - God

Forgive your enemies – it messes with their heads

God expects spiritual fruit – not religious nuts

With all this rain we need an ark. But fear not – we noah guy

How do we make holy water – boil the hell out of it

What’s missing from Ch__ch? u r

Thou shalt not lie – or use alternative facts

Having trouble sleeping? Try one of our sermons

Sin is a short word – with a long sentence!

God’s last name isn’t “Damn”

Don’t make me come down there - God

Under the same management for 2,000 years!

Come as you are – you can change inside!

7 days without prayer makes one weak

You have one new friend request – from Jesus

Do you spend your time with Gods book or Face book?