



# St Francis of Assisi Parish



## St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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February 24

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## FINAL FUNDRAISING APPEAL LETTER

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Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

It is possible that 2024 will be my final year as your Parish Priest, your spiritual and pastoral Father. I have been blessed with many precious friendships and wonderful opportunities these past five years at St. Francis of Assisi. As a Catholic faith community we have achieved much and built solid foundations for the expansion of Church activities and prayerful worship.

The commencement and completion of a new multi-function/purpose Parish Centre was an essential project that I had been advised about and given responsibility for overseeing by the Archdiocese of Perth. Nothing is accomplished without unity in the Church. We are building this together.

**This letter is a FINAL appeal to all Parishioners and people of goodwill to PLEASE make a financial contribution towards the Parish Centre.** For those many families and individual benefactors who have already donated or have given by way of monthly instalments; my heartfelt thanks and deepest gratitude for your loving commitment to our Parish family. Whatever your monetary offering has been, it is greatly appreciated and immensely valued.

The second phase of our Parish fundraising started in October 2022 and in that time we have raised over \$185,000.00 which is a remarkably generous effort. Monthly totals have been published and updated in the Parish Bulletin and information links provided on the website. Aside from personal donations many Church ministries and Parishioners have worked tirelessly and selflessly to organise and promote events such as international food festivals, Christmas raffles, plant sales, cake stalls, morning teas, BBQ's, etc.

We are now at the "ROOF COVER" stage of the construction and are in a position to pay for all the work completed. However, the final two payments of the building are "LOCK UP" and "PRACTICAL COMPLETION" which will include unforeseen variables to the original signed contract cost. Internal items are a further expense. We are not in a position to finance these payments without recourse to a loan from the Catholic Development Fund. Given the current economic climate and uncertainty around interest rates this has been something we have been trying to avoid; but all accounts have to be paid.

This is an open, honest and transparent appraisal of where we are at the moment with the finances of the new Parish Centre. Our fundraising target of \$300,000.00 has not changed. Budget planning for this amount was based on an estimate of \$2,000.00 per family. Over this 16 month fundraising period a few extremely generous donors, together with a great effort from fundraisers ... only **40%** of our active Parishioners have actually made a contribution towards this project, which will benefit all and will be used by *everybody*.

**So, I am appealing once more for those families and Parishioners who as yet have NOT made a contribution to PLEASE consider helping your Parish community.** As has been said a number of times, I would like you to view this facility as an extension of your family home because that is exactly what it is. It is for your benefit, your future use and your families' spiritual growth.

Enclosed you will find a few of our fundraising flyers which I would like you to complete and return to the Parish Fundraising Box if you haven't already made a commitment. Please share them with family, friends and work associates as any contribution will be humbly received. Your **immediate donation** will help us cross the finish line which is now in sight!

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Fr. Joseph Rathnaraj*  
**Parish Priest**