SAINT PHILIP HOWARD PARISH

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Standing Orders and Gift Aid

Standing Orders are the way in which you make your Offertory donations securely and regularly without the need to find cash every week. They also mean that the Church can plan on a regular source of income.

Gift Aid – if you pay tax, then Gift Aid enables the Church to claim back the tax on the money that you give. For every £100 you give, we can currently get back an additional £25. This is all totally legal. Basically the Church does not pay Tax. If you pay tax, then any money that you give to the Church will already have been taxed at source – you can see that on your pay slip. We can get back the tax you have paid on the money that you give.

Standing Orders

It used to be traditional to put money in the Offertory plate every Sunday; however, it is now far more common to make your donations by Standing Order. This means that you do not have to grub around for money in the middle of Mass, you merely pass the offertory plate or bag past you. You will know that, like many others, like me, you have made your contribution. Not only made it, but thought about it – rather than just giving the change that you happen to have in your pocket.

Standing Orders are very simple, and importantly they leave YOU in control. You can increase them, decrease them or stop altogether at your will. You are GIVING the money in a Standing Order, and this is very different to Direct Debits, where a company TAKES the money from you.

So there is no risk in a Standing Order, you set it up and do with it what you will. There is a form in this pack. Please fill it in and return it in the envelope provided.

Gift Aid

Most of us pay tax. This tax goes to the Government to help run the country. However the Church is exempt from Tax, because we help the Government in other ways. Because the Church is exempt, we are able to claim back the tax on any money which is freely given to the Church.

However, to enable us to do this, you have to fill in a form – and please check first that you do actually pay tax (see your payslip, or the payslip of the tax-payer in the family). Once you have filled in the form, we will record every payment that you make (by standing order or by cheque) and we will reclaim the tax that you paid on the money that you give.

Provided that you do pay tax, simply fill in the Gift Aid Declaration, date it and sign it and return both copies to me. There is nothing more to be done, I will do the rest.

Please do consider both a Standing Order and Gift Aid. Both make Parish Finances much easier, and make our financial planning a lot simpler. I enclose an envelope for your confidential reply.

Prasanth Francis
Treasurer and Gift Aid Officer for St Philip Howard Parish