



THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL 2026

Speaker script

1. MAKE THE APPEAL

Most of you will be familiar with our Bishop's Annual Appeal, which is being promoted across the diocese during September. The special collection will take place this weekend.

This year's appeal supports two important ministries: **the retirement and health of our clergy, and the sound and holistic formation of our seminarians.**

As you are probably aware, the proceeds from the first collection held weekly in our parish, are used to provide support for our 'active' clergy only. Care of our retired clergy, is funded by Bishop Brian, and with your support, partly through this appeal.

Perhaps name a retired priest that is known to the parish community.

Proceeds raised through the appeal help provide accommodation, transport, healthcare and other practical support for our diocesan clergy.

You may also like to refer to some of the key figures shown on the appeal poster.

This appeal reminds me that whilst our clergy have chosen and enjoyed their vocation, unlike us, retirement looks very different for a priest. And, they don't have a spouse, children or grandchildren to accompany them to appointments, help when they are unwell or simply be there day to day. As a diocesan family, we have an opportunity to care for those who have spent their lives caring for us.

The appeal also supports the formation of our seminarians.

Perhaps name a seminarian that is known to the parish community.

Funds raised help provide for their accommodation, travel, healthcare, studies and other needs throughout their formation.

Let's give thanks for the men currently preparing for priesthood in our diocese, and for the generosity that makes their formation possible.

2. MAKE A CALL FOR ACTION

I invite you to consider supporting the Bishop's Annual Appeal today.

Donations made online, via envelope, or over the phone are tax deductible. You can:

- donate **online** at dow.org.au/giving
- **call (02) 4222 2400** to make a donation over the phone.

You can also make a donation via:

- the **Donation Point Tap device** in the church foyer or parish office
- or through today's **special collection.**

Thank you for your generosity, your prayers, and for helping our diocesan family care for those who have served and those preparing to serve.