

North Parish Annual Community Gathering Minutes - Sunday 3 March

This meeting was held at the St Joseph's Pastoral Centre from 2pm - 4pm with all parishioners invited to attend to hear updates from Fr Rick, Judith Woodnutt (Pastoral update), the Finance Committee Chair (Graeme Wilson) and the Building Committee Chair (Robert de Roo).

- Fr Rick opened the meeting in prayer & introduced the new leadership team
 - The following section outlines the questions and comments made by parishioners, and the action points arising (if any)

Pastoral Update:

- Judith shared an update on pastoral activities in the parish
- Also shared an update from the schools ministry on behalf of Maria
- Also shared an update from youth & young adult ministry on behalf of Hannah

<i>Questions Relating to Pastoral Update</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>Action/Solution</i>
What are we as a parish doing to engage with the two secondary schools within our parish, St Bede's & Marian?	Our parish priests, school coordinator and the youth coordinator all work with the staff and students of both St Bede's & Marian College. The priests also serve Villa Maria College for Masses and Reconciliation. We have parishioners who attend all Catholic Secondary Schools in Christchurch	N/A
How many practising and non-practising Catholics are in the parish area?	Our weekend Mass count from last year August 2023 was 1400	N/A

<p>There was a school Mass at the St Joseph's pastoral centre on a Friday morning. Do the primary school students still get to regularly attend Mass?</p>	<p>Yes, Fr Kevin goes weekly to St Albans, Fr Alister to St Patrick's, Fr Rick to Christ the King and Fr Edwin to St Joseph's. Parishioners are invited to attend Mass at St Albans Catholic and St Patricks and we are hoping that this will be the case with the other two primary schools in our parish.</p>	<p>Fr Alister spoke about the welfare of the four priests that we have. He is responsible for the Mass schedule in the parish. There is a huge demand on the four of them with four primary schools, the high schools, community Masses and their other commitments in the parish.</p> <p>Hospital chaplaincy also needs to be considered. Fr Alister is committed each Wednesday in the hospital.</p> <p>We have two priests who have a day off on a Monday, one on a Tuesday and another on a Friday, therefore we only have two days a week where we have all four priests operational in the parish.</p>
<p><u>Finance Committee Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Graeme Wilson shared an update from the Finance Committee (presentation to be made available on parish website) ● Introduced the members of the finance committee ● Next steps: to start the selling of assets - therefore the aim is to follow the canonical steps for deconstruction of St Matthews Church. 		
<p><i>Questions relating to Finance Update</i></p>	<p><i>Response</i></p>	<p><i>Action/Solution</i></p>
<p>There has been an extended period of turbulent change for parishioners, so what are the timelines moving forward for the building of the new church?</p>	<p>Robert to speak to this in the building committee presentation.</p>	

	This will be spoken to in the time frame and project plan. We have been waiting on other processes and change, change of Bishop.	
Was there an insurance pay out for St Joseph's Catholic Church?	Yes, there was an insurance payout for St Joseph's Parish Church, the money for that all went through to the Diocese. We no longer have access to that money, but are hopeful that we will have some funds made available to us at time of new build. This figure is unknown at this point in time.	
Is it wise to deconstruct St Matthews Church if we have no plan on how we are going to fund the new build?	Robert would be able to speak in more detail	
<p><u>Building Committee Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Robert de Roo shared an update from the Building Committee (presentation to be made available on parish website) ● There has been a frustration as there have been lots of stopping and starting with the building committee work, which has been due to change of Bishops, covid and other issues (Canonical challenge) ● Reset at the end of last year with the adding of some new members – introduced the building committee members <p><u>Timeframe:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next weekend there will be an extended session of briefing the architect of the work done to date ● This will lead to developing a site plan - define location of Church & other buildings. Engaging with all of the parish schools. ● This will lead to the developing of the conceptual design ● Share initial conceptual design with the wider community 		

Status of existing buildings:

- St Matthew's Church - following the guidelines of canon law - there needs to be a request to the Bishop to deconstruct/demolish the church at the St Matthew's site. The Bishop will then evaluate the request - along with the council of priests, diocesan finance committee and college of consultors.
- If the Bishop accepts the application then will issue a decree - there is a 10 day process, and if there are any objections within 30 days
- 10 Canonical Days means 10 days. There is no cost for the Canonical process with the Bishop

Questions Relating to Building Committee Update	Response	Action/Solution
Where are the women of the team?	Melonie is on the team as secretary, and we did have another female however she resigned from the team.	We have only established a core committee at this stage, it is not the final make up. It will evolve as we develop the different aspects towards building the new church. We are conscious of the need to represent the whole parish community accurately. There will be sub-committees that will sit alongside the main committee as we move forward e.g fundraising etc.
Why is there only a plan to deconstruct St Matthew's if CTK is also unable to be used?	It's about the timeline of selling off assets.	
Are you able to tell us who the preferred architect is?	Yes, Ignite, a national company. The original architect chosen a number of years ago was Icon, they were invited to meet with us and they declined.	
What's the budget for the conceptual design/objectives for 2024?	\$50,000 -Parishioners wanted this breakdown of the budget to be published	Publish breakdown of this budget

<p>Will we be engaging a full-time project manager?</p>	<p>We are working with the project managers at the Diocese. Our current committee is very experienced to manage to date. Of course, later in the stage we will need to bring more specialist fields on board.</p>	
<p>Suggestion of adding 'embracing' for the word conceptual design of the church - not just a linear structure of the church</p>		
<p>What are the costs for the application process with the Diocese/Bishop for deconstructing St Matthew's?</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>Is there any point in deconstructing St Matthews right now if it'll take another 5-10 years before we build the new Church?</p>	<p>This year's priority for the building committee is to assess the finances for building the new church and part of that is to assess the timeline of which buildings need to be sold first, which will give a clearer understanding of how long it'll take to build the new church.</p>	
<p>Do reinstatement costs need to be presented to the Bishop for his consideration, and are these costs made available to parishioners?</p>	<p>Yes to both</p>	
<p>How are the parish going to house their community over the next five years if we deconstruct our churches?</p>	<p>This is to be considered but we are managing our numbers currently.</p>	

<p>Question regarding whether or not we can submit suggestions to the Bishop about the decision to change the location of the new cathedral? Is this actually up for discussion or not?</p>	<p>Is this actually up for discussion or not? Ideally the Bishop wants to have one church for each of the five parishes within the city, but he knows that there may not be a reality</p>	
<p>Statement - A parishioner said that she has been waiting for over 13 years for progress, we are all getting older, lets get on with building a new church.</p>		
<p>Has the Diocese considered the distance that the people will have to travel to attend Mass?</p>	<p>Statement from a parishioner - There will be no Catholic Church between Moorhouse Avenue and the Papanui site! (Deidre Dalton)</p>	
<p>Statement - The Bishop has said that he would prefer one parish church in each Parish, but that is not final as they have heard that South Parish is considering having more than one church.</p>		
<p>A question about resourcing consents, building consents, geo tech reports etc. how come there isn't a timeline for these things? -</p>	<p>Again, the building committee is working with the finance committee of the selling of assets which will give a clearer idea of a tangible timeline</p>	
<p>Overall there is a frustration because this process keeps going on but there has not been much in the way of action - people are fed up.</p>		

<p>It is a complex process, but overall people are ready to move on and build the new Church</p>		
<p>Has consideration been made for transport/carparking at the Papanui site?</p>	<p>Yes, we are confident that we will be able to provide sufficient carparking on site, but consideration needs to be made to other growth in the area with Food Stuffs/Pak n Save site.</p>	
<p>St Bede's chapel, what is our agreement with the school for costs?</p>	<p>We are paying \$200 a week for general wear and tear. We do not currently have the cost of heating/cooling Christ the King Church.</p>	
<p>Is the land on the St Joseph's site good enough to build on in terms of earthquake damage, has there been geotechnical testing done?</p>	<p>Yes, work was done originally and the church would not be placed back on its original position on site.</p> <p>Be comforted that Geotechnical reports have been done on the site. The ground is no worse than any other TC3 site. There was minimal damage to the original St Joseph's church considering the age of the building and that it was not reinforced.</p>	

<p>Cost for renovation for Christ the King?</p>	<p>\$2 million in 2017 and \$2.6 million in 2023</p> <p>Cost for renovation of St Matthew's? There was a bit of work done in 2016 (\$800,000) to get to 30% compliance - but more would need to be done to get it up to code. This \$800,000 to bring St Matthews to 30% of NBS came from the insurance money that is held by the Bishop.</p> <p>Question: do we put the money into doing that work at either Bryndwr or Burnside if both churches ultimately will be going and we need around \$15-20 million for a new church?</p>	
<p>When the buildings are demolished, does that money stay with the parish or go to the Diocese ?</p>	<p>Any asset that is sold by a parish the funds stay with that parish. Donation money that is made to the parish, remains with the parish. The Bishop does not take that money.</p> <p>A 99% agreement was made by parishes to share the earthquake insurance bulk payment that was made. All churches were not insured for strengthening. Therefore, we were underinsured for the 2011 Earthquake.</p>	
<p>A thank you came from the floor for all the work done so far. All those on committees/teams in the parish are volunteers and they give a considerable amount of time to the parish.</p>		

<p>Statement - Communication back to the parish needs to improve and we acknowledge that we can do this better. Now we are moving forward, we will be able to share more.</p>		<p>Increase communication to the parish.</p>
<p>Statement - Fr Alister's challenge to parishioners – you say we are lacking in female representation in the finance & building committees - this is a challenge to parishioners to step up to better represent these committees. If you have a particular skill and can offer your services to a committee, put your hand up and offer. Don't leave it to the priests.</p>		
<p><i>Other Statements/Questions:</i></p>		
<p>There is nowhere in church documents any mention of 'leadership team'. There is a concern from the change of the term 'parish council' to leadership team, why are we using this terminology if there is no mention in church documents? Mention of the synodal process and how we involve our people to participate. Why are we seeming to go against the documents and the people of the church? (Sr Kathleen Rushton)</p>		