

## **CONSULTATION BACKGROUND**

As the committee has gone about talking to the parish about its needs, overriding elements appear to be for our buildings to support integration of our school families into the church and advance the mission of the church in the eastern suburbs, while still meeting sacramental needs and supporting older congregations. At the same time, we have to be realistic about how much property we can afford to maintain. We need to rationalize the buildings we maintain, and bring our remaining buildings up to a good standard or replace them with new structures. We have a unique opportunity to reconfigure our buildings to meet the parish's future needs and help it grow. The provisional concepts are:

### **St Patrick's, Kilbirnie:**

- Complete remaining maintenance work on the church
- Demolish the presbytery at St Patrick's
- Utilise the presbytery site in the meantime for carparking and school recreational use
- Upgrade the downstairs area of the church over the medium term
- In the future build an all purpose activity, retreat, conference, office centre connected to the Church with undercroft parking. This would provide better amenities for the colleges and children's liturgy and could be a good source of revenue.
- Retain the hall at least for the medium term and complete remaining maintenance work with the possibility of upgrading it to meet pastoral needs

### **Holy Cross, Miramar:**

We have received a review of the Holy Cross Church from a second engineer. The report reveals that some parts of the structure are stronger than initially appraised, although one feature remains at 22% of code. On the positive side, the revised report probably means that the costs of strengthening have reduced from around \$1M to something in the range of \$300,000 to \$500,000. To this we have to add the cost of deferred maintenance such as the roof replacement. The sub-committee is considering two options at Holy Cross:

- Strengthen the church and replace the hall, for a total cost likely to be in the range of \$1.5M to \$2M; or
- Build a multipurpose/worship centre in the range of \$2.5-3M, at or alongside Holy Cross School, selling the current church site

The second option, would enable a smaller multipurpose sacramental, learning and social centre closely linked to the Holy Cross School. The emphasis could be on encouraging and supporting our youth and community groups within the Parish. If the Holy Cross Church site was sold this could be done so that the site continues to be used for general church or social good purposes, including retirement living. Subject to the results of feedback, before final recommendations are made we will develop more detailed plans and funding options.

### **The needs of our priests**

We also need to plan for the long-term needs of our priests, which means providing space for our Capuchin community. This is partly dependent on what happens with Holy Cross Miramar. If we remain on the current Miramar site, we will probably look to upgrade the presbytery. Alternatively, the Seatoun presbytery building can be used. It is a better size and shape for their future needs. The Committee sees benefit in the parish office integrating with one of our school offices for better operation and liaison. Further liaison with the parish secretary is planned.

### **Good Shepherd Hall and St Anthony's**

We have to be realistic about how much property we can afford to maintain. The Committee is keen to consider how the Good Shepherd community could support growth of the Holy Cross community as the building programme at Miramar commences. Our Samoan community is very important to us and there will be opportunity to have their cultural needs reflected in the design of any new/upgraded buildings in Miramar. The sub-committee is considering the future of the Good Shepherd site or utilizing it for social housing, to support refugee families coming into the eastern suburbs or possibly for a Mercy Villa style community, similar to that in Upper Hutt, for older parishioners wishing to downsize and live in a faith community. Again, these options will be properly costed before a decision is made.

Other ideas being considered are:

- In the medium term, enlarge the Gascoigne room at St Anthony's Church to provide more usable space for parish and school, and open up the church to the school with a larger entrance from the school side
- If the Seatoun Presbytery is not utilised by the Capuchin's, there are options for allowing use by the school.

### **Next steps**

The committee will make its final recommendations to the parish later this year. The committee does not wish to recommend anything that is not on balance in the best interests of the parish as a whole. Your feedback is important, discussion forums will be announced in the weekly newsletter. You can email your personal thoughts to [holytrinity.wgtn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:holytrinity.wgtn@xtra.co.nz) or written submissions can be made to the parish office. Please make your feedback before **28 February**.