

NEEDS ANALYSIS

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to discerning the future property needs of our parish. Here is a summary of what the parish has been saying.

We are fortunate to have such spiritual priests. These three men have devoted themselves to our welfare. Our first priority is to meet their needs. The Capuchins live in community with certain requirements for communal living including sacred space for prayer. Here in Wellington the community is expected to grow, and so there is a requirement for additional living space. It is usual for Diocesan priests to live in their own presbytery. However, there is a need for greater ease of sharing with the Capuchin community.

Right since the early days of our parish, the Mercy and Marist communities have been instrumental in serving the Wellington East area. Today we host their colleges which are large congregations in their own right within our wider congregation. We need to be open to allow our facilities to be used for retreats and other activities for these congregations. If our buildings were better suited to retreats, they would be used regularly for this purpose as well as sacraments such as reconciliation. For St Catherine's, who are space constrained, there is a wish to continue to make regular use of the Kilbirnie church as well as something larger for gatherings involving all Catholic schools in the parish.

Our three primary schools are growth-orientated and are an important element of our mission as set out in our vision statement. St Patrick's Primary is keen to make increased use of the adjoining hall for extra-curricular activities. They have limited play space and are interested in using the current presbytery area. At Holy Cross there is interest in a feasibility study on bringing the school and church closer together. It is noted that this school is currently under instruction not to use their local church (Holy Cross, Miramar) due to its low seismic rating. St Anthony's are looking to expand their learning space. They would like to move their library, staff room and administration into the presbytery making a whole classroom and many smaller rooms available for more flexible learning.

At the heart of our communities are regular gatherings around their many altars. The liturgy committees have indicated that they favour quiet sacred spaces with consideration being given to soundproofing and adequate space for children's liturgy. There is a need for better technology in our buildings for children's liturgy. Above all else, in the buildings in which we gather, there is the need to be welcoming to our younger generations. At the other end of the age spectrum, our buildings need to provide for the physical needs of our older parishioners. We need to reassess the Holy Cross church based on latest seismic knowledge. There are a great many options. The right time to consider these options is when the full set of facts on the current building are in front of us. A key consideration will be those things that will help our younger parishioners to have strong experiences of church. For all our ethnic communities we need to provide spaces that help them to celebrate and grow, supporting them to feel part of the wider community while retaining what is special to them.

From a financial point of view the parish is operating in deficit. Some buildings are currently an important source of income, however the cost of maintenance is beyond our current means.

Planning should start with the optimum for achieving the parish vision of **a prayerful, diverse community drawing strength from one another growing and becoming fully alive as missionary disciples**. Priority actions can then be selected.

These identified needs form the starting point for options for our buildings and property. The sub-committee will now develop some options to be shared with you for your further feed-back.