

St Anthony's property forum

26 February 2017 – 28 attendees

- May 2014 consultation suggested three mass centres
- Three parishes as one group, who will make the decisions?
- To get funds for any rebuild may have to sell other properties
- What is the financial situation of the Archdiocese?
- Is the direction one of living within our means?
- How could the Gascoigne Room be expanded?
- How are we going to meet expenditure?
- If Seatoun presbytery sold what would happen to the school playground?
- If provide buildings how are the buildings going to be filled?
- Each church has a school, but are the schools participating? should we put a levy on them?
- Parents to be told that if they are sending kids to parish school they need to participate in the parish, this needs more emphasis
- Focus on people not buildings, we could use a tent to accommodate school family attendance
- Need to keep sowing seeds in the minds of the school families, taking the church to them, the children have a love of the church buildings, we need to keep using things like music and to keep praying
- Not just Samoan community at Good Shepherd, it is a church hall which means that there are four churches
- Any retirement housing needs to be somewhere with easy access for the elderly, Strathmore site better for refugees
- Community between elderly and school, why are we losing families after they leave our primary schools
- More work still needed in reuniting the Samoan community
- There is a survey completed by prior finance committees in relation to Good Shepherd
- Could the strengthening of Holy Cross be as low as \$300k? Does the Holy Cross hall need to be replaced, maybe just do the church?
- Holy Cross has a hall down the road at school
- Is it just people feeling emotional about keeping their existing church?
- Can we move the Good Shepherd church/hall to the Holy Cross school?
- In the longer term need to look at the link between the schools and parish, the kids love their church; an exciting opportunity to bring the Holy Cross school and parish together
- Retirement home on Holy Cross site?
- Better parking at Holy Cross school site if church relocated there
- Need to think what things will be like in 50 years, need connections between schools and churches, but maybe if new church at Holy Cross school build it in a way that it could become the main church as an option for the future
- Probably don't need three churches now could probably go to two now but there are reasons for three
- We probably only need 3 masses in the parish
- Need more accurate figures
- Timetable needs to take account of the changes that will take place while we are making decisions

- Would like to see a retreat centre at St Pat's church as St Cath's and St Pat's have trouble finding places for retreats, if there was a retreat centre in between the two colleges will help to hold teenagers into the parish
- Must talk to the colleges and involve them
- In long run 20-50 years, existing situation is not viable, what happens if all three schools would be made one? In the long run might come down to one church. Also, need lay people to take on more. Difficult with only two priests. What happens if we only have two churches? Good Shepherd might be the first to move but who next? Could we have a Catholic child care facility. Play area might help relationships with new families, the relationships could be grown over time.
- Older people getting too old to do maintenance
- Mezzanine in Holy Cross for office space and other things to build community
- Retreat centre at Kilbirnie would be awesome. Make it big enough to host large groups from the colleges, minimum 50 probably 100? Huge need for this for both colleges. Links teens to the parish
- Merge Good Shepherd with Holy Cross, do it really gently to shift some Samoan ownership, move the Good Shepherd church to Holy Cross school?
- Don't sell the Seatoun presbytery, bear in mind the St Anthony's school field is technically on loan from the presbytery
- Build retirement flats at Holy Cross site, either beside the church on the hall site or instead of a church there big visible Catholic retirement centre, close to amenities, flat ground