

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) - St Francis of Assisi Ohariu

MINUTES of meeting held Sunday 15 September 2024 (6.45 pm to 8.15 pm)

Present: Ning, Lucienne, Joanne, Ed, James, Gerry, Alfred, Joe.

Apologies: Nil.

Appointing a chair

Following a time of discernment the Parish Pastoral Council welcomed **James Fouhy** as chair.

Vision for our property

Natasha, lead for the community engagement process for our property project (as outlined by Archbishop Paul on 13/9/23) has asked for the vision for the future property in the parish.

The PPC worked through the current Parish Pastoral Plan and noted the following:

The overarching vision is to **“ensure that our physical space is safe and meets the social, administrative and liturgical needs of the parish” (page 9)**. Other points from the current Parish Pastoral Plan included:

- “Properties are developed such that they empower the outworking of this pastoral plan”.
- “Properties meet legal requirements (including parking marking and all signage)”.
- “Properties meet the standards of *Creating Welcoming Churches: a disability resource for faith communities*”.
- “Parish will allocate dedicated parking close to the church for those expecting a child, or with very young children, facilities for changing babies”.
- “A child friendly space is provided in the church (building) for young families. Parishioners are catechized to accept young children at the Mass”.
- “Quality purpose built/prepared rooms are available for children’s liturgy”.
- (Space for) “Small groups (to) meet regularly (including but not limited to prayer groups, Passionist Family Groups, Couple for Christ, etc)”.
- (Space to enable) “Social events/activities (to be) offered 3 times each year. Hospitality and fellowship after Sunday worship becomes the norm”.
- (Space that enables) “opportunities for young Catholic families to meet and get to know each other. This might include social events, Messy Church, school holiday programmes”.
- (Space that enables) “Pastoral Leaders (to) work with teachers to provide a combined St Brigid's and St Benedict’s transitional retreat day for year 8s”.
- (Space such that it is evident that) “The parish invests in children, young adult and family ministry”.

The PPC then discussed the attributes that would be included in this (without repeating the above):

- life giving and inclusive liturgy that is child friendly.
- Sufficient parking, including disability parking.
- Gathering spaces: foyer (meet and greet), hall space (gathering and hospitality), meeting rooms of various sizes (these are not mutually exclusive).
- Toilet facilities.

- Kitchen (to meet needs of parish).
- Blessed Sacrament chapel – (smaller, easier to heat, meets needs of weekday worshippers).
- Safeguarding compliant reconciliation room (noting that a glass walled Blessed Sacrament chapel might meet this need).
- Administrative area.
- Vesting sacristy (where the priest enrobes).
- Working sacristy (where flowers, candles, etc are done).
- Audio visual engineering to high standard.
- Principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design applied.
- Carpark safety.
- Awareness of the environment – for example sunstrike.
- Visual connection to the environment (for example, as at the Home of Compassion chapel at Island Bay).
- Plan to note the option to purchase the units owned by the Sisters of St Brigid when no longer required by the Sisters (parish/Order agreement is in place).
- Youth and family friendly space (with adequate storage – such as at St Anne’s Newtown).

The PPC discussed some principles of design apparent in other (known) churches:

- St Joseph’s, Mt Victoria (unfolding koru shaped, immersion baptism, large foyer, large meeting room, good kitchen, small chapel, a worship space where it is visually apparent that the community gathers around the altar. Risk associated with steep slope of floor and the garden hidden from view noted, along with the resonance of the construction).
- St Anne’s, Newtown (large foyer, hall that meets various needs including commercial sized kitchen, a smaller meeting area with large storage, hall).
- St Brigid’s, Fielding (immersion baptism at entrance to church, social/hospitality area with outside area surrounded with child proof fence – so they cannot leave).
- Our Lady of Kapiti (sized for congregation, working sacristy and ramps behind the “false wall” behind the sanctuary, large foyer for overflow, Blessed Sacrament chapel with glass wall, larger meeting room, commercial sized kitchen, admin area).

The Parish Council thought it important that a member of the PPC was on the group of “experts” suggested for the project (noting it is first and foremost a pastoral undertaking).

Meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

Next meeting:

13 October 2024, 7pm, parish office.

Forward agenda:

1. Where are we at? A stocktake.
2. Pastoral planning, looking ahead.
3. All of parish gathering for 10 November 2024 (planning to include invites to ministry groups, process including synodal “conversation in the Spirit”).