

St Andrew's Church – Parish Property Review meeting –
Thursday 25 Nov 2021: 7 – 8.20 pm

Attendance: 8 + 2(LFT) = 10 persons (including John and Clayton)

- John L opened the meeting with a reading from Acts 2:42-47 and a prayer
- Clayton D read the Cardinal's letter
- All attendees read a line each from Synod 2017 property outcomes
- John L posed the following question: **What would you like our Parish to look like in 20years time?**
 - Increase the congregation in our church
 - More lively, more diverse, more volunteers
 - B4 LFT stepped in life was nice, very diverse congregation. However, since LFT took on role in last 3 years, people started arguing more, loss of community spirit and the parish has lost a lot of people because the Catholic church has lost its vision.
 - Looking back 20 years, life was buzzing and good... Looked what worked then and portray this in the future.
 - People are fed up with meetings, it's all talks for the last 5-6 years and nobody listens.
 - Bring our lost sheep (Parishioners) back to the Catholic church and make it vibrant
 - Bring Catholics back again
 - Catholics to reach out to all Christians
 - Look at why people flock to Pilgrimage spots in the world.. that is what we should aspire to be.
 - Who appointed the LFT?
 - Hub of activity and more people
 - We need a Shepherd
 - Parish merger was a catastrophe. We are still 3 churches and very few people mix. There is very little inter-attendance at Masses
 - We need to address the issues of the merger. We need to become one Parish.
 - Until the three churches go we won't be one Parish!
 - Having one church would be a mess. Leave things as they are! We will manage. Why can't we just carry on?
 - People don't know each other.
 - I've been at St Andrew's for 50 years. We've got to get rid of 3 churches and build one church. In 20 years time, St. Andrew's land and assets will be most valuable so build the new Vision church on St Andrew's property.
 - Why are we not thinking about the youth in 20 years' time
 - Parishioners have volunteered and agreed to pay for repairs and leaks. People have asked for permission to fundraise but permission is not forthcoming.
 - (John L): Pope says we need to look out to the people "on the peripheries"
 - Who has the stats of the combined parish that say we are currently not reaching out. Tell people where exactly we need to step forward and they will find a solution.
 - Messaging to people needs to be more direct and clear. We need to explain to people where we need help and ask for help.
 - Pre-Covid survey undertaken asking where people can help (John L – very limited responses to this survey).
 - The survey results were not published. Why? (John L - any survey that has been conducted has had outcomes reported in the Newsletter and/or website.
 - Clarify areas where community is lacking

- *Be more specific*
- *In 3 years Pete Roe has been around, we have not utilised his full potential.*
- *We had a televised liturgy service and the priest was sitting at the back!?! We need a priest to get to the people.*
- *Lets have a lay person get to people*
- *Tawa has 2 priests*
- *From the 1st meeting at J'ville, we were told there is a lack of priests and the future is without priests. People were put off by this concept. (John L - It has never been said that we don't want priests or need priests. We will always need sacramental priests.)*
- *The model (collaborative – Priest working with lay) not well explained.*
- *(John L) : explained what “Nice to have” means:*
 - *None of our buildings is fit for community purposes.*
 - *It would be nice to have a relaxing area, theatre, commercial kitchen, community hall, etc*
- *We already have a community kitchen which is still going strong.*
- *We already have public community centres available in Newlands, J'ville and Kandallah.*
- *Per various: We need a multi-purpose centre (lounge, community centre, family and community gatherings, functions, celebrate feasts, free lunch (hospitality), chapel, theatrette, youth centre, café, bathrooms/showers for those in need, soup kitchen)*
- *Build a chapel*
- *Touch the youth (13 – 30 years), multi-media, youth centre*
- *What is going to make us “Catholic”? We don't need to duplicate what other organisations like Salvation Army already provide.*
- *Cater for the poor (Accommodation)*
- *Cater for the elderly - pensioner flats*
- *The elderly need to be visited*
- *Retreat house*
- *Talk about religious aspect*
- *How do we as Catholics stand out?*
- *How are we going to promote vocations? We haven't called for vocations. (John L - our Church has been praying for vocations to priestly and religious life for generations! Maybe the Holy Spirit is sending them but we are looking in the wrong places?)*
- *Have retreats and attract vocations.*
- *Lets not forget the Catholic faith and religion – maintain traditions*