

## **Proposal: New Parish Hall – For use by the Parish and School for community building and outreach for Mission**

### **Why**

The review has identified the need for a new hall so that moving forward as a parish we can meet the needs of our community, our school, and to facilitate our reaching out in mission to the peripheries, to the wider Upper Hutt community.

The current hall is no longer fit for purpose, it is over 50 years old, and maintaining it is a burden for the Parish and School. The school does not have its own hall but has use of the Parish owned hall sited on parish owned land within the perimeters of the school. The current Parish Hall has been of concern to the Parish and school for over 30 years. Upgrading it would not be cost effective as it doesn't meet the growing school roll's needs or the needs of the parish. Our school roll is growing, currently 450 and projected to go to 500 in 2 years.

The Mass count is around 600, currently; the population of Upper Hutt has increased at 1.8% per annum and will continue to do so while more people move to Upper Hutt for more affordable housing.

The Hall will facilitate our schools' activities, will offer the parish a place of meeting for community building, and a place of welcome and outreach to the wider community. It will enhance the opportunity for the church and school communities to participate together in mission.

### **How**

There is a combined school/parish community of around 1,000 families. A new hall has been priced at around \$350,000 for the shell and it is expected a full fit out would bring the total to around \$500,000.

Significant funding could be raised, by a one-off family donation of \$500 from families who were able to make this donation, along with the opportunity for others to buy a \$50 tile. We do need to give consideration to the current operational cost deficit. The weekly parish collection at around \$1,600 equates to an average of \$8 from each of 200 families. It is not meeting our current needs but at \$8 per family it can and should be increased by an increase in planned giving.

The Cardinal has said "***As a fundamental principle, each generation should aim to pay its way in the parish and put aside adequate reserves through***

*its giving, without relying on investments (e.g. in rental property) by previous generations or selling assets to meet operating costs”.*

The land the old hall is sitting on could become surplus to requirements and be sold to provide a deposit towards this cost, while St Peter Chanel's houses and centre are providing a steady net annual income of approximately \$23,000 – \$26,000 dependant on level of maintenance required, this is projected to increase to a minimum of \$28,000 – this could be used to help service any loan, especially if we take seriously our commitment to support the work of the church and diocese by increasing our weekly planned giving.

### **Where**

The new hall would be placed between the church and the school, allowing use of the hall for both – with a new car parking area providing parking spaces for both. The hall would be fitted out to enable use by the parish, and the school. The build would be finalised once the Cardinal had given approval, with a 2-year timeline envisaged.

The new hall will not fit onto the Royal Street property.

Moving St Peter Chanel to Royal Street was not an option as it is not practical and doesn't give us the multi versatile space we are hoping to achieve.

### **St Peter Chanel Centre and Complex**

The St Peter Chanel centre provides a Catholic presence in the northern end of Upper Hutt. The population of this area is currently 13,009 forecast to be 17,452 by 2043; there are 1,538 Catholics living here currently. The parish has had a request to use this facility as a family centre, by Greenstone Doors that hope to launch their service in Upper Hutt north.

St Joseph's parish has been invited to partner with this very effective organisation. Greenstone Doors offer support and practical assistance to families and single mothers. This group currently have premises in Lower Hutt and have determined that there is a need to offer this kind of service in Upper Hutt. They have asked us if we are willing to offer the St Peter Chanel Centre for this purpose. They will pay appropriately for its use.

At this time we are being encouraged by Cardinal John to look for opportunities to support mothers and families at risk of terminating their babies due to lack of support. We are blessed to have this opportunity to reach out to the peripheries and to use parish facilities for this good work. It

is envisaged that parishioners will have the opportunity to join in this work in a variety of ways.

In our parish review Cardinal John has asked us to become a "poor church for the poor" and go out to those on the margins of society who need and deserve our support. We see this is a valuable use of our available resources.

**Presbytery and connecting rooms**

The presbytery and connecting rooms will be evaluated for better use as a home for Priests and parish small group activities or support agencies use.

**We welcome suggestions of funding opportunities and practical help of skilled persons to achieve the building of the new hall as well as volunteer labour.**

**Stewardship, Time, Talent and Treasure.**