



Summary and Trends resultant from meetings consulting OLOV parishioners on the Cardinal's Directive to review Churches and Presbyteries.

What parishioners have told us so far:

- Buy land to increase Catholic schooling – primary to secondary in Upper Hutt.
- Feeder preschool in church grounds.
- It was felt that some appreciation of the collaboration of the School and Parish be noted. It would be helpful if they could be kept close together.
- Cohesion between the Church and School could be assisted by there being a connection of name in Parish and School.

Developing and Retaining Community

- The amalgamation of SFX and OLOG has only been three years and we need time to consolidate and gel as the parish of Our Lady of the Valleys.
- A balance needs to be held between the desire to be one parish, while recognising the importance of the individual communities that make up Our Lady of the Valleys Parish. (unity while celebrating diversity).
- Youth currently meeting at SFX are the Church's future, those involved with the youth expressed the need for them to have a place to meet. (and to continue to be involved in the church.)
- Protect sense of community by providing a welcoming gathering place. Want and need of parish to facilitate community development.
- Is a rethink parish boundary necessary?



Impact on Individuals

- Inadequate connecting public transport services between the two churches which are geographically separated. Parishioners expressed concern about isolating individuals, particularly seniors, from Mass attendance and their local (geographic) parish community. Perhaps a need to look as encouraging car-pooling, sharing of cars etc.
- Parishioners wanted to know the time frame, beyond the 31st October, for the review process and whether they will have further opportunities for consultation regarding options.
- Concern was expressed about the impact of Parish initiative and groups connected with the two church sites. What impact will the removal of a site have on these. What steps can be taken to ensure that these groups' and communities' future needs are met.

Finances and Resources

- The question as to what happens to funds realised by the sale of assets in a parish was expressed at all four meetings. (Father Tony has informed attendees that funds from sale of assets would remain in parish). – While the Archbishop is the registered owner of land, it is held on trust for the parishes. Disposition of an asset is linked in trust with the Parish.
- In the event of asset sales, we must be in a position to rebuild what we have.
- It was acknowledgement that we don't need as many buildings. Concerns was expressed about the increasing cost of maintaining them, and insuring them.
- To minimise the sense of regional separation, rebuild a church, presbytery, hall and meeting facilities on a new site that is geographically more central.
- Although, currently can be used, SFX an earthquake risk and may need strengthening.
- Consideration needs to be given to keeping the church spaces flexible and possibly redesign /reconfigure for community use.