



## Our Lady of the Valleys Parish

Home of: Our Lady of Grace Church, Heretaunga  
St Francis Xavier Church, Stokes Valley

Friday, 27 September 2019

### CARDINAL'S DIRECTIVE - HIGH LEVEL OPTIONS



Thank you to all who have provided feedback, suggestions, and questions. The Steering Committee has discerned what you've said and propose the following options for further consultation. They are high level and will require further refinement and investigation of costs, development requirements and time frames and will include feedback from Parishioners of their **preferred 2 options**. The results will be presented to the parish before submitting the report to the Cardinal.

This document is available on the Parish website - [www.olv.org.nz](http://www.olv.org.nz) - and will be distributed electronically to those who receive the Parish newsletter by email.

Please write or email the Parish Steering Group via the Parish Office, to let us know what your **first and second** options are and **WHY**

**Please have your responses back to the Parish Office by 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Responses can be placed in the collection baskets at Sunday Masses, mailed to 5 Palmer Crescent or emailed to [pp@olv.org.nz](mailto:pp@olv.org.nz).**

When we developed these options, we kept the following things front of mind:

- ✘ How to incorporate the youth and families and school. They are our future.
- ✘ How to be inclusive and support the marginalized in our communities
- ✘ How to service the current mass count
- ✘ How to care for our priest
- ✘ Affordability of options and utilizing current resources

All options require a transition time of possibly 2-10 years for implementation.

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Option 1 One New Church	Option 2 Two Churches	Option 3 One Church OLOG	Option 4 One Church SFX
Build a new purpose-built church on a new site.	Both churches remain open (status quo). More time for amalgamation to gel.	OLOG remain open and close SFX.	SFX Remain open and close OLOG Maintaining the local based choir and youth group in Stokes Valley.
Sell both SFX and OLOG churches and both presbyteries.	Maintenance for both churches programmed in Long Term Maintenance Plan	Size of OLOG church seats 400 therefore has a larger capacity for occasions such as Sacramental Program, School Masses, Easter, Christmas and large funerals. One Sunday Mass could accommodate all.	SFX seating for 250 people.  Two Sunday Masses would be needed to accommodate all parishioners.
Build a new presbytery along with a purpose-built new church	This option is based on current priest availability and supply continuing.	Ample parking on street, limited parking on site.	Ample parking on and off street. Future maintenance of car park required.
Parish office, and hall built beside the new church.		Presbytery is a modern construction for two priests and a housekeeper. Currently housed is one priest with visiting priest and seminarians occasionally.	Previous Parish presbytery is now rented out. The office and meeting room is used by the parish. This would revert back to being a presbytery
New Church and possible new school located together on the one site.	St Brendan's School remain on its present site with student waiting list.	OLOG church is within walking distance of St Brendan's School. School students currently attend Friday masses.	Church is remote from Parish School. School is not funded for transport cost from present location in Heretaunga to Stokes Valley.

Option 1 One New Church	Option 2 Two Churches	Option 3 One Church OLOG	Option 4 One Church SFX
New multipurpose church with community centre/hall.	Same as for OLOG and SFX	OLOG has two spaces for meetings and social gatherings- The Pettit Centre and the meeting room attached to the church.	Small meeting space as part of the rented-out presbytery.
New site required for church and school.	Same as for OLOG and SFX	Spare ground beside OLOG church could be developed.	Ample land available for future development.
100% NBS compliant.	Same as for OLOG and SFX	OLOG church is earthquake strengthened to 80% of the New Building Code.	SFX Currently rated at 39% of NBS.
New low maintenance facilities.	Same as for OLOG and SFX	The Parish office sited at OLOG and presbytery have recently been refurbished and are of low maintenance.	The SFX presbytery had a parish office, with limited space that would need refurbishment.
Preference for the site to have some public transport service, as well as good car access.	Both Church's facilitate local communities walking to their respective churches as well as car transport	Travel to site by car is not an issue. Public transport is available for Heretaunga parishioners not available to SFX parishioners.	Travel to site by car is not an issue. Public transport is not available to or from SFX site.
New facilities to accommodate present and future growth.	Present two churches in the immediate short term adequate for growth.	There is currently a building boom Silverstream, Heretaunga/Trentham and Upper Hutt. Indications are we will require the bigger of the two churches to accommodate an increase in parishioners.	New housing development in Stokes Valley is minimal. SFX church not able to accommodate all of the parishioners plus Heretaunga area growth.

## **These options are in no order**

**Questions to consider in choosing your options.** How does this option reflect on our synod commitments of being futuristic and reaching out to the peripheries? How does this option affect the marginalized in our community? How does this option affect our families with school age children? How does this option affect our youth? How does this option affect our priest? Where should the location of the new site possibly be? What should we do with assets we're closing?

### **Option 1: Build one new church and presbytery**

The first option is to truly come together as the Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys by building a new purpose-built church on a new site with facilities to support our youth and communities both inside and outside of the church. We would propose to build all on the one site a new multifunction church/hall, office and a new presbytery. St Brendan's, our Parish School, could also be part of this proposal. The current site of St Brendan's School provides limited scope for building expansion. The School continues to manage an enrolment waiting list. Those who volunteer their time to support our ministries and outreach could be consolidated which allows for more support and coordination for all ministries as our people come together to form single groups (e.g. one pool of all Eucharist Ministers). The vision would include having one Parish youth group. This option would have the highest initial investment costs but have low costs for future maintenance because it will all be new builds. Note, the cost of this option could only be funded from disposal of existing parish property. Option 1 would take a significantly longer time to complete than any of the other options as it requires investment in a feasibility study, sourcing of land, discussions with the Catholic Education Board and time to implement the building of the new facilities.

### **Option 2 Two Churches (Status Quo)**

Option 2 is the status quo; keeping two churches operating in the one Parish with the same Mass times and the one priest moving between churches for Masses. The recent amalgamation is in effect, the sharing of a priest and resources, centralization of administration, the RCIA programme and the Sacramental programme. A number of parishioners from Silverstream and Heretaunga end of the parish travel to SFX for Saturday 5.30 p.m. or Sunday 8.30 a.m. masses. Any movement from the status quo, in terms of property holdings, has the potential to lead to changes in current pattern of Mass attendance and could mean a loss of parishioners, and income. This could lead to questions of the Parish's viability. With the amalgamation, Stokes Valley is now within zone for enrolment at St Brendan's School.

**Option 3 One Church. Our Lady of Grace:** Option 3 considers having one Church based in Heretaunga. Our Lady of Grace Church is situated towards the northern end of the Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys. OLOG seats 400 people and has capacity to hold numbers for occasions such as Christmas, Sacramental Programme, School Masses and large funerals. The church is within walking distance from St Brendan's School. The current location facilities the School to be able to regularly attend Friday Parish Masses, Masses for other celebrations and visit /use both the church and other facilities on the Heretaunga site. The geographical location of Our Lady of Grace

Church enabled all three Upper Hutt Catholic Schools to come together for Catholic Schools Day 2019. There are large housing developments under way and more planned for Wallaceville, Silverstream and Pinehaven, all of which are in the parish boundaries. Being close (walking distance) to the church is valued by our School community. New families are moving into the area, hence the increase in children seeking Catholic Education. The School is at full capacity and has a consistent waiting list. OLOG Church has been earthquake strengthened to 80% of the New Building Code. The Presbytery has recently been refurbished as has the Parish Office which is attached, so both are of low maintenance. There is additional space within the presbytery that could be developed to reflect the changing needs of the parish in the future. OLOG has two spaces for meetings and social gatherings. The Pettit Centre is next to the church and the meeting room attached to the Church. Both areas are in regular use. There is spare ground beside the church that could be developed. A small section is behind and to the right of the presbytery could be further developed for Parish use (possibly St Vincent de Paul storage). There is ample on street parking around the site. Car travel to unga from Stokes Valley is not an issue as the distance is a 7 minutes' drive. Some parishioners travel to SFX to attend Mass at 5.30 p.m. Saturday or Sunday 8.30 a.m. A change in Mass times to something more suitable for all is possible. Public transport is an option for Upper Hutt residents but not those living in Stokes Valley.

#### **Option 4. One Church: St Francis Xavier.**

Option 4 considers having one Church based in Stokes Valley. St Francis Xavier Church is situated at the southern end of the Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys. SFX seats approximately 250 people which could be an issue for any big Masses or funerals. The earthquake rating on the church is 39% of NBS and it is currently functional. Should at some future time this rating fall below the required standard, the Church's rebuild or closure would be required. If the rented out "presbytery" was to revert back to a its full presbytery function, it would need to have a refurbishment. The Presbytery and Parish Office space are located beside the church. There is a small meeting room attached to this building. There is vacant land adjacent to extend and enhance the office/presbytery building for future needs should this be required. OLOV parish values the locally based choir and youth group that is currently based at SFX. There is ample on and off-street parking at SFX. The carpark is in good repair, however, it would need maintenance, by the parish, in the future. The St Vincent de Paul shop, situated at Stokes Valley, has a storage garage and food parcel distribution centre, directly behind the church. SFX is some distance from OLOV Parish school. The cost of buses to the church has proven prohibitive for the school so pupils would not be able to have school masses at their parish church. There is the possibility of land becoming available for future development at Stokes Valley. SFX has a complex lay out with building and unused land areas that are currently semi land locked. Currently some parishioners who reside in Heretaunga attend mass at SFX as the Mass times of 5.30 p.m. Saturday and 8.30 a.m. Sunday are preferred. A change in Mass times to something more suitable for all is possible. Travel by car to Heretaunga from Stokes Valley is not an issue as the distance is 7 minutes' drive. Public transport

is not an option either way.



# RESPONSE TO CHURCHES AND PRESBYTERY REVIEW



My first Option is

The reason for this is:

My Second Option  
is

The reason for this is: