

UPDATE ON PARISH FUTURE FROM THE LIVING STONES GROUP



In the last update from the Living Stones group, we shared the key points from the property valuers on the sales potential for St Francis/Stokes Valley and Our Lady of Grace/Heretaunga.

If parish members are to make an informed decision they will need more information. The Living Stones group is looking at what that decision information could be. One way is to compare each of the options against key factors. These will be expanded in an upcoming communication to you.

Meanwhile, an abbreviated options and factors is given here to begin thoughts, discussion and feedback from parishioners.

The options:

1. selling St Francis Xavier site and using the funds to renovate/develop Our Lady of Grace site; or
2. selling Our Lady of Grace and using the funds to renovate/develop St Francis Xavier; or
3. selling both St Francis and Our Lady of Grace sites and purchasing a new site to build a new church centre.
(doing nothing and keeping the current two church sites is not an option with ongoing costs, maintenance, and as previously decided by parish members).

The 'key factors' to consider for each option are:

1. What might the financial cost be and how could it be met?
2. How much will it 'change the world' (positively) in the parish spiritual and social life?
3. How will it meet the liturgy required?
4. Will it unite the parish?
5. Can it support St Brendan's School faith life needs?
6. Could it have any community commercial benefit (renting out facilities)?

An option would have to rate 'positive' in most of the key factors (1-6) to be a sound option.

We would like to move closer to 'taking action' - and the Living Stones Group are working on a fuller communication to present options and factors for your informed consideration.

The Living Stones group continue to pray and explore the options and request your continued prayer for insight and guidance in this important task. We would be happy to receive your thoughts, and feedback should you see any of us at Mass or other parish gatherings.

Conor Healy, Julie Stewart, Kevin von Keisenberg, Philip Calvert, Seu Sio, Tino Aukusitino, Louisa O'Brien, and Father Tony.