

## EMAIL RECEIVED FROM PHIL CONSEDINE:

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I wish to respond to your offer to parishioners to provide feedback on the proposal to redevelop the Elizabeth Street site and buildings including the church sanctuary.

### **Context:**

I believe that the Catholic Church should retain a strong visible presence in the central city vicinity.

The population of the city is growing with new residents from immigration new jobs new families and new pensioners (this is a good place to retire to). The Port of Tauranga is growing and is the dominant port of New Zealand already. The Tauranga City Council (TCC) is promoting a more viable central city with its City Heart project. The University of Waikato is about to build a new campus on Durham Street and there are some nearby properties looking to redevelop with student accommodation. The TCC also is seeking to encourage developers to invest in the city centre.

The central city area of which our parish centre is part is likely to be transformed over the next 10 years or so with more residents living close by, more employment and more vitality from visitors and tourists better bus transport into the central city public transport hub. Tourism Bay of Plenty advise that 80% of visitors to Tauranga are New Zealanders (only 20% foreigners). They wish to grow the NZ sector as well as the overseas sector. New Zealand is a popular destination under current international circumstances.

### **Presbytery**

I would like to see the presbytery retained. Perhaps this could be remodelled at some time in the future to provide accommodation in a modern facility with three bedrooms each with its own ensuite, and with office, lounge etc.

This would be a centre for Priests and clergy either local or visiting, having a priest or other member of clergy living on site would provide a very good opportunity for the clergy to engage with the wider Christian community based in the city centre and with other business and social enterprises with minimal travel.

### **Church Building Floor Plan**

The floor plan was disappointing as it seemed to show a lack of coordination and vision to the future. There appears to be limited flexibility of spaces - as there are likely to be changes over the next 30 years it would be wise to create a facility that could be easily changed to accommodate both larger and smaller congregations for whatever events and celebrations that occur. Multi-functional would be the way I would describe what I would like to see happen.

The floor plan shows a strong disconnect at the rear of the sanctuary area to the foyer. These two main open areas are separated by a series of rooms (vestry, meeting, sacristy, flowers, office etc) with a narrow entrance to the sanctuary down the middle.

The central area should be changed to have the various separate rooms relocated to be on the outer walls where daylight and fresh air can be supplied (this is more sustainable and natural for the users of these rooms).

The foyer area should be multi-functional with opportunity to allow the sanctuary to be extended into this area (e.g. by way of folding doors or similar). This area can be used for parish gatherings, tea coffee and small celebrations after Mass - a good social area.

The office could overlook this foyer area also and this may provide an additional benefit as a security presence near the front door (I am assuming that there would be video cameras etc. for security) and an office near the entrance would also provide a visible welcoming presence to all who come in.

Thank you for this opportunity and I would love to be part of discussions about how best to create a functional and modern place of worship, ecumenism and community if the opportunity arises.

Regards

Phil Consedine

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