

In the past, communities were centred around the church and the school. Over the years we have been a part of three church communities and the two that have the most “community spirit” were those where the school and the church buildings were side by side.

Since regularly attending St Mary’s Immaculate we have often reflected on how its physical placement does not make sense. Its access is difficult, the road noise intrusive, its lack of grounds unfriendly for young families and its close proximity to main roads a safety issue.

Some things we need to consider:

Is busing children into the city to attend a school mass where public parking has to be coned off just so the buses can park acceptable?

Is it reasonable to expect people to pay for parking when attending masses and other activities at the church?

Crossing busy roads with no “assisted crossings points” for the very young and the frail is not safe. What value do we place on the safety of our parishioners?

Recently our father and father-in-law had his funeral at St Marys Immaculate. It was a very large funeral and the weather was terrible. We had multiple people contact us after the funeral most upset that they could not attend because there was no parking available near the church. In the end they had to go home. This was a Saturday funeral when parking is more readily available than on a week day. Even the parking building was full. How many times has this happened? Do we as a parish deem this acceptable for future mourners?

What sort of culture do we want our parish to foster? At the other two churches we were members of we had Easter egg hunts in the school grounds, games on the lawn. Cups of tea and sausage sizzles after mass where the kids played on the school grounds whilst the parents talked. Sunday School lessons held outside under a beautiful tree. These activities created a strong community and fantastic connection with young and old.

Yes we understand that for many there is a strong emotional connection to the present site. But lets not forget, the church is merely the building we gather in, the spirit of the lord and the spirit of your fellow parishioners will remain no matter where you are congregating. As is said in [Matthew 18:20](#) - For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Lets be brave and bold. Lets think beyond our own time here and think of the future generations who will come to worship. Lets create a space that is built for purpose, a place for young and old. Create a community that supports our school, our families, our community and is safe, secure, peaceful and welcoming.

We support a move to Pyes Pa

Todd and Michelle Muller