

10th October 2016

To The Redevelopment Committee

We do not believe a large amount of parish funding should be committed to rebuilding and strengthening the present St. Mary's Church in Tauranga. This site, in the central city, surrounded by retail premises presents major parking problems at any services held there during the week and during the weekend now that retail hours continue for seven days of the week.

When the church was built the above problem did not exist and Tauranga was a small town. Now it is a very fast growing, large city. Last week there was a very large funeral in the church and there was chaos in all the streets nearby as attendees attempted to park their cars to pay respects to the person concerned.

The parish has land elsewhere in the area which is highly suitable for the building of a church and which would allow for adequate parking to be planned.

While it is always sad to say 'goodbye' to a much loved church but it is after all only a building. Many parts of the church could be recycled into the building of a new church. We do not have to lose our treasures and significant adornments. These would all be reused and be part of the planning and architecture of the new build.

By rebuilding the parish would end up with a building incorporating all the requirements of building and earthquake codes the present building lacks. Reading the detail of problems with the present build it would appear the expense required to 'fix' these would be comparative to that of a new build.

We would wonder why the parish would consider patching up the old building when a new build, in a new area, more appropriate for a church, is available.

Yours sincerely

Tony and Rhonda Harrington