

September 2016

It is my personal belief that we must keep the present Elizabeth Street/Cameron Road St Mary Immaculate Church site at all costs. The vast amount of money we could get for selling the property is a strong temptation we must resist. The site is priceless. It is central, close to public transport, also to ongoing business and residential high-rise and the Bongard Polytechnic/Waikato University and also Takatimu Drive. It is an integral part of the pulsating, vibrant central city set gloriously as a visible sign and witness on the only remaining central city hill.

The moving of the main church out to Aquinas at Pyes Pa would not be in our long term best interests. Future, well attended daily midday week masses with all the business and residential high-rise going on all around are a strong possibility at this central site –not so at Pyes Pa.

The parking issue is a red herring as it can quite easily be resolved.

My plea is that the retention of this historic central site be a non negotiable first principle in the two committees' future deliberations on parish restructuring. Maybe, hopefully, it already is.

I would be disappointed if future public consultation included an option for the sale.

Finally, at the moment one is also able to conveniently visit the Blessed Sacrament John Fisher chapel day or night, one of our most precious catholic traditions.

Hylton Rhodes