

PROCESS:

An invitation was extended to the parish to gather and reflect on who we are as a parish, and on our future. On the 27th July we began with the premise that *“the process of building a church does not begin with a building or a site plan, but first taking time with a community to reflect on who we are as church and how are we called to live out that mission.”* Four questions were posed and parishioners shared in small groups. All responses were recorded and have been summarized here, combining similar ideas.

After the meeting, the St Joseph's Planning Group reflected on the responses and comments of parishioners and felt that there may be more views to consider, especially noting the presence and absence of various groups. So, we are asking that you prayerfully reflect on these four questions and the responses **in preparation for the 2nd parish meeting which will prioritize our needs**. Please send any additional thoughts or comments **by Wednesday, 20th August**. They may be submitted in writing to Wilma Vertogen at the Parish Centre or through an email to the Planning Group. st.josephs.pcg@gmail.com. They will be added to working document for the **parish meeting on the 24 August, 2:00 p.m.** Using the results of this meeting, Marianne Daly, Parish Advisor, will then work with the Planning Group in preparing our brief for the architect.

Prayer for Building Anew

E te Matua i te Rangi

Father in heaven,

You have made the whole world a temple of your glory.

It is right that we praise and glorify your name.

With Jesus Christ its cornerstone,

You built a Church of living stones,

So that all who gather in your holy house

May come to everlasting salvation.

Hear our prayer

as we embark on this mission of building anew.

Enfold us once more in the love of the Holy Spirit.

Guide our vision,

Open our hearts,

Bind us as one body.

Enable us to wait with trust,

Discern with patience,

Face the challenges,

Embrace the sacrifices

And speak with reverence;

That we may come to true holiness

As we serve your purpose

In building this sacred dwelling.

We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Question One: WHO ARE WE?

SUMMARY OF COMMON THEMES

- Catholic Faith
- Diverse in culture and age
- School connection
- Support network
- Music
- Youth
- Financial position is strong
- Growing community / geographical area
- Parish family / part of wider community
- Past / Present / Future

- Other comments

Catholic Faith

1. Believers in God, in the Catholic faith, we are practicing Catholics, Catholics who live in an area – we trust wholeheartedly in our Catholic Faith
2. Catholic, evangelical, hospitable, active participation, Christian witnesses
3. A faith community, a community of prayer, a sacramental community, a worshipping community, the Body of Christ, his followers
4. We are the church, we are church goers, we are prayerful people
5. We go to Church to listen to the Word
6. We are the people of God on a journey, we are pilgrims; a pilgrim people journeying to heaven together
7. We are all God's family, people of God
8. A sense of anticipation that a new church will fulfil us in the liturgy
9. Perpetual adoration
10. A community that assists at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
11. Rosary
12. Searchers for the faith
13. Part of universal church, part of a community that is united to the Bishop and the Pope.
14. Aim of worshipping God in our own building; Lovers of the liturgy
15. We are called to be holy, come together to receive the sacraments, especially to Mass
16. A people of faith, hope and charity
17. We are temples of the Holy Spirit, a community called to discipleship with a mission to evangelize
18. Open to ecumenism
19. Sacramentally strong with programs, RCIA

Diverse – age and culture

20. Many mixed ethnic groups and ages. Diverse, with many groups living our faith in many ways
21. Ethnicity of at least 27+ nationalities and possibly more; operate in multi-cultural environment which is changing toward being more multicultural. Diverse cultures making one parish family

22. Community of diverse ages and needs: pensioners, semi-retired, families – parents, children, grandchildren; large number of senior parishioners
23. An ageing community but youth involvement appears to be growing
24. Rich variety of backgrounds and knowledge and skills
25. Many young families
26. A range of different socio-economic and financial circumstances
27. A parish of young and old – all equal
28. A large, active parish
29. People who are new to the parish
30. All ages – generally older – average age? Young through to elderly
31. Conservative through to charismatic
32. Young and old members not a lot in between
33. Lacking vibrant youth
34. Live in a country with two official languages (plus sign language) and a Treaty of Waitangi
35. Special needs eg hearing, wheelchairs
36. All ages and cultures, although missing teenagers and young adults in our community (need leaders, right programme, right venue)

School connection

37. Great Catholic, parish school which we send our children and grandchildren to.
38. Close connection between school and parish - keep connected. The school is a very important part of St Joseph's Parish; it is one of our foundations
39. Children at school – now and the next generation
40. Proximity to St Bede's
41. We have proud history which is enhanced by the parish school
42. Connection with parish and large school
43. Parish school – encouraging the faith development of our children

Support network

44. Spiritual support centre
45. Support each other emotionally
46. Support for the needy and physically
47. Support for each other
48. Lots of different ministries – opportunities for ordinary parishioners to serve their fellow parishioners
49. Strong and active community. Huge involvement in various ministries
50. We help when help is needed – both at home and abroad; Care for the sick – hospital visits etc
51. But still some isolated people, eg people who are confined to rest homes or their own homes
52. Always looking out for people in need
53. Support for the Mission – Mission Outreach. Desire to help the missions overseas. Broadening fellowship, people of mission
54. A community that seek to serve beyond our Catholic community. Share resources?
55. Support the clergy
56. Supportive as a parish
57. Good will to all

- 58. Beacon of hope for community
- 59. Being listeners
- 60. Mutual support – not only faith but social
- 61. We interact with and support the wider community
- 62. Hardworking and loyal parishioners, reflective of our patron
- 63. Generosity; Giving – time, help, money
- 64. Try to be inclusive – tell others

Musical

- 65. A group of people who have a long musical tradition of church music
- 66. Great musicians
- 67. Music and certain aspects not as strong

Youth

- 68. Group that supports and encourages the youth and young adults
- 69. Great things – focus on children with blessings
- 70. Large numbers of children making first Communion

Financial position

- 71. Significant financial resources available
- 72. Considered to be reasonably financial and well managed, creates the stability
- 73. A good balance of assets to use and run the parish
- 74. Well resourced infrastructure
- 75. Wealthy parish
- 76. Financially strong position

Growing community / Large geographical area

- 77. Urban community – but have a larger rural area and responsibility: Waimak to Darfield. Papanui, Redwood, Bishopdale, Belfast, Marshlands – out to Darfield. Geographically a big area
- 78. Potentially huge population, the expansion of Christchurch
- 79. Growing – all ages and families
- 80. North / west Christchurch dwellers
- 81. Cantabrians
- 82. Part of Chch Diocese – background
- 83. Our area of town – fast growing, have infrastructure – in an area that fared well post-earthquake
- 84. Large community, growing numbers
- 85. Parish in Chch NZ, one of the largest
- 86. People of Chch at St Joseph's Parish
- 87. Growth impacts school and parish
- 88. Catholics who chose St Joseph's parish as our place of worship – from not always within the parish boundary

Past / Present / Future

89. A community dedicated to St Joseph, Patron.
90. History – of church and the school
91. 1920 St Joseph's church built
92. Parish Centenary
93. We have a foundation of people and families who have been here for a long period
94. People who have been in the parish for many years or many generations
95. Nuns as teachers – at original school
96. Younger generations can build on the foundation and history that exists here and now
97. Strong tradition, great priests
98. Sister of Mercy
99. A historical community (many generations) long standing parish families; deep family roots in this parish
100. Used to walk to school
101. Busy as individuals, as families, at work
102. Reluctant for big changes
103. Work used to be 8 – 5, school 9 – 3 but it's different now, Grandchildren far busier now that we used to be, both parents work. Everything has changed – need to move on
104. We still can, and need to build
105. Had 2 churches – from 2 previous parishes
106. We are a people who have been devastated by earthquakes; who know suffering.
We are really alive / survivors – earthquake impact
107. We have a sense of loss since the earthquakes
108. We begin baptized – go out in a coffin
109. Parish that was once split and has been joined again
110. Being alert of moving forward with the times
111. Interest in development of new church
112. People stick to their preferred mass times. People don't know each other outside of the mass they go to.

Our Parish is one family, but also part of the wider community

113. People who live in the same neighbourhood who come together regularly to attend mass and other ecclesiastical occasions
114. We are open to ALL
115. We're a family, a parish family
116. The warmth and friendship of the people / parishioners
117. We should always feel at home
118. We have become one parish – St Joseph's and St Gregory's
119. Group of like-minded people
120. Part of the wider community, people of Tradition
121. United in St Joseph's Parish and the growing area
122. More than a place of prayer, opportunities to involve and welcome others, draw them in, involvement especially the teenagers, the parents – school communities can be involved – they are the future
123. Welcoming, inclusive, vibrant and supportive of non-Catholic partners
124. A parish that has a caring and sharing spirit for all ages – family orientated

- 125. Gather as a people with a common belief of community
- 126. A welcoming community – when one seeking to join a community come to Mass
- 127. We have dedicated ourselves deeply to this parish
- 128. We can be “clickey” / shy

Other Comments

- 129. Fortunate to have two priests, appreciative of our parish priest
- 130. Supported by Parish Associates
- 131. Not many weddings because of church appearance
- 132. Too much talking before and after mass, no time for prayer
- 133. Leading role spiritually and financially within the diocese
- 134. The church militant (fighting for what we believe)
- 135. Make change for betterment of the world
- 136. We are not the majority of Catholics in the area.

† † †

Question Two: WHAT DO WE DO?

- 1. We worship God as a community
- 2. We support each other in faith
- 3. We reach out to those unable to go to Mass by taking Holy Communion and other sacraments to the sick
- 4. We look after the needy of our city
- 5. We celebrate the Sacraments together
- 6. We provide fellowship to old and new families through Passionist Family Movement
- 7. We provide support to our Catholic School via School RE programme
- 8. We provide an external PPRE Programme for children who do not attend a Catholic school.
- 9. We connect with our school and share facilities
- 10. Perpetual Adoration
- 11. Provide fiscally for the wider community
- 12. We support Mission trips (e.g. to the Philippines)
- 13. The corporal and spiritual works for mercy
- 14. Community support activities
- 15. Pray for each other
- 16. We perform various ministries and support people (e.g. SVDP, Catholic Women’s League etc)
- 17. We run RCIA which grows awareness of the faith
- 18. We run an outreach programme
- 19. We send reps to World Youth Day
- 20. Encourage Parish Priests to support their faith by undertaking pilgrimage
- 21. We are involved in Operation Deep Freeze and the chaplaincy in Antarctica
- 22. We welcome visiting priests and seminarians - open our homes
- 23. We specifically bless children at Mass
- 24. We are prepared to try new things and not scared of change. Not bound by tradition

25. Promotion of the school as connector between youth, church and community.
26. We provide opportunities for lay person expansion in the faith (e.g. retreats, liturgy education etc)
27. We try to form and grow the faith of the young people in our parish
28. We give an example of how to live to all people through how we live and behave
29. We do the little things well and provide our time (collectors, reading etc)
30. We don't judge others
31. Set an example, not change the world
32. We don't look for accolades in what we do
33. Some people give time others give in different ways
34. We all have different skills and it is our responsibility to use them
35. We are different people making up the community
36. We live the Gospel
37. We treat everyone as equal
38. We are more open and inclusive post Vatican II
39. We listen to the directives of the Pope
40. We provide hospitality & fellowship for Pacific Island communities
41. We pray for families, parish intentions, world needs and our faithful departed
42. We witness our faith to the wider community
43. We defend life in all its forms and stages
44. We worship ecumenically at times of the year
45. We live out the liturgical cycle of the churches year
46. We promote Gods mercy (Divine Mercy)
47. Evangelism and fellowship outside the Church
48. We are aware of the needs of those around us
49. We run Family Masses
50. We proclaim the Gospel in song and music
51. We attend Mass to hear the word of God, receive the holy sacraments and put church teachings into practice
52. We pray
53. We provide financial assistance to those in need
54. We provide financial assistance to the Parish
55. We reach out to the elderly and vulnerable
56. We are called to be Christ witnesses
57. We share with our friends our values
58. We use new technology to access daily teachings (smartphones)
59. We provide people with a faith home in our Parish
60. We gather socially outside Church (picnics, quiz nights etc)
61. We celebrate diversity (e.g. international Mass)
62. We care for each other
63. We support those suffering and in need
64. We baptise
65. We participate
66. We run a youth mass, and run a youth group
67. We volunteer time, treasure and talent.
68. We have an anointing Mass for the sick
69. Our young families endeavour to raise their children in faith
70. We invite others to celebrate with us

- 71. We support the sick
- 72. We provide a 'Last Minute' quick team
- 74. We do Christmas well with the nativity
- 73. We do Easter well
- 74. We support our older people
- 75. We have shared lunches

+++

Question 3:

WHAT ARE THE TREASURES AND VALUES OF ST JOSEPH'S?

- 1. The Eucharist
- 2. The people and our priests
- 3. The sacraments
- 4. St Gregory's as an intact church and a warm Parish Centre at St Joseph's
- 5. A wide group of associations – St Vincent de Paul, Choir, Catholic Woman's League etc
- 6. Regular confession available
- 7. Our sick and elderly who can pray
- 8. Our adorers who worship and thank the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament
- 9. Our school children who have a very good school (they even get to Fri Mass class by class)
- 10. Organ
- 11. Tabernacle
- 12. Stations of the Cross
- 13. Icon
- 14. Marble altar
- 15. Priest's chair made by Fr Noonan
- 16. 4 Evangelist pictures on the ceiling
- 17. Stained glass windows
- 18. Marble baptismal font
- 19. Crucifix hanging above the altar
- 20. Ciborium
- 21. Fr John's Monstrance
- 22. Original foundation stone of the original church
- 23. Mission to the Philippines
- 24. World Youth day
- 25. the relationship with the school
- 26. the children and the people of this parish
- 27. Sisters of Mercy, our priests, parish workers
- 28. People who have come before (the legacy)
- 29. the people who are yet to come
- 30. the variety of nationalities and cultures

31. ready availability to the sacraments (4 masses on Sunday, masses during the week, reconciliation)
32. St Bede's may be undervalued within our Parish
33. relationship with other parishes and denominations (Ash Wednesday service)
34. Sharing of facilities with other denominations in need
35. the various properties (St Gregory's church, the Parish Centre)
36. lectern
37. families
38. access to prayer groups and Passionist family groups
39. opportunity for spiritual growth and development
40. care for our parish buildings (church and parish hall)
41. opportunity to get together, meet and have a chat e.g. shared lunches 1st Thursday of the month
42. young mothers with babies
43. Charismatic youth mass
44. accepting and wanting young children at Mass
45. Priests' vestments
46. liturgical instruments, church artefacts both old and new
47. statues
48. beautiful woodwork
49. involved parishioners, community spirit
50. available land area
51. financially stable, tangible assets
52. active youth group
53. generosity
54. children's liturgy and children's blessing
55. Catholic Tradition and faith
56. we grow together in faith e.g. parish celebration of First Holy
57. Communion, offering Catholics returning home, the music
58. loving compassion
59. unique loyalty from the older parishioners
60. open hearted and open to including others
61. welcoming
62. well established
63. big population growth
64. local area, neighbourhoods, uniqueness
65. values – honesty, commitment, love, service
66. Jesus present in the tabernacle
67. our special history, story
68. warm environment created by planning and working together e.g. parts of mass on screen, parishioners who greet and talk
69. founded on Gospel values

70. respect for life
71. gifts of time, talent, treasure
72. use our gifts to the best of our abilities
73. school masses
74. wealthy, not just financially
75. friendship
76. mezzanine
77. kneelers
78. acceptance
79. people with special needs coming to Mass and actively participating

+ + +

Question 4 WHAT DO WE NEED?

What are the needs of our community?

1. A church built to stand
2. A careful consideration of the best church site
3. Space
4. Church to seat
 - a. 500 adults
 - b. 500-600
 - c. 750
 - d. 800
 - e. 800-1000
 - f. 700-800, but with intimacy
 - g. big enough church for school children & parents
 - h. room to enlarge it in the future if needed: e.g. land left vacant next to new church to build an extension if needed
 - i. Cater better /large enough church for large Masses e.g. Easter and school Masses
 - i. Sliding doors to extend the worship space and also a sound system that caters for that
 - ii. Mezzanine area for overflow/main services e.g. Easter
 - j. Catering for a growing faith community
5. A simple house of worship
6. A sacred building, not necessarily flamboyant
7. Good worship spaces
8. Beauty and orthodoxy in design
9. Traditional cross-style in brick or suitable permanent material
10. Traditional seating but with movable kneelers
11. Architectural competition
12. Traffic flows with school and church
13. Due to our size we need two churches
14. Best use of school and church facilities: access, land
15. Bigger church, spacious

- a. retain intimacy
 - b. flexible space
 - i. that can also be intimate for weekday Masses
 - c. warm and inviting
 - d. good sight lines
 - e. Accessible to the school community and large enough to accommodate school children + parents
 - f. Separate area for young children
 - g. A flexible space that can be used for worship and other activities
 - h. Partitionable: part of the Church to incorporate more people
 - i. Church, not a hall
 - j. Also use for school assemblies with liturgical functions but not use as a gym
16. Atmosphere of sacred space; holiness & uncluttered beauty
 17. Design to encourage community
 18. Be mindful of our history, where we have come from
 19. Clear and unambiguous liturgical architecture
 20. Church needs to be visible, seen
 21. Strong visibility of church from Main North Road as a statement of our faith and community.
 22. Exit off Main North Rd
 23. Visible altar from all areas
 24. Church in the round but not behind altar
 25. To remember we help the poor and needy
 19. Height: open to the roof
 26. Natural light
 27. Traditional style
 28. Bells
 29. Two levels
 - a. Organ at top level
 - b. Choir upstairs
 30. Choir loft
 31. Size where school community can go with parents
 32. A good connection between church and school
 33. Sanctuary
 - a. Large
 - b. Good perimeter around the altar
 - c. Space for minister and those distributing Communion
 - d. Altar rails, more respect for the altar as a sanctuary
 - e. Tabernacle in middle
 34. Flooring:
 - a. carpet and vinyl with natural wood look
 35. Timber for NZ
 36. Sick bay, private place for someone who is unwell
 37. Telephone
 38. Wooden pews, fixed to the ground, permanent space
 39. Confessional
 40. Reconciliation room/s

41. Confessionals: optional, face to face or private
42. Wedding friendly
43. Movement out of the church to a foyer to avoid talking in the church
44. Dedicated spaces for statues, not in doorways, side chapels
45. Good statue & icon placement
 - a. Should have an alcove placement for Mary and Joseph
 - b. Grotto for the outside
 - c. Proper statues
46. Side altars
47. Sacristy
48. Chapel
 - a. Daily Mass Chapel, smaller/cheaper to heat
 - b. Adoration chapel, great benefit for parish
18. Chapel space to be used for children's liturgy of the word, sacred space
20. Accessibility:
 - a. Entry/Exit Vagues Road; both ways
 - b. ease of access especially for aged
 - c. Ramp
 - d. Disabled seating at the front
 - e. Aisle width (generous and consider walkers)
21. Car park
 - a. Sufficient
 - b. + disabled car park
 - c. wider car park spaces
 - d. to hold average mass attendance of approx 250-300 people
 - e. too big a church makes car parking difficult
 - f. good parking front and back
 - g. for school and church
 - h. safe access
22. Covered walkway
23. Gardens
 - a. Useful plantings
 - b. Beautiful gardens
 - c. Outside statues part of garden
 - d. To supply flowers for the altar
24. Church in close proximity to Parish Centre
25. Acoustics, good
 - a. Top class sound system – music (loop system),
 - b. facility for hearing aids
26. Adequate lighting
27. ICT (internet communication technology)
 - a. Good audio-visual
 - b. Sound system
 - c. Data projector
 - d. Multiple screens
 - e. Projector for viewers
28. Area or room for children/babies/parents,
 - a. Nativity space

- b. Crèche within church
- 29. Artwork
 - a. Icon and statue
 - b. Prominent location for the icon of St. Joseph
- 30. Good stain glass
- 31. Window sills for flowers
- 32. Beautiful ceiling
- 33. Fridges
- 34. Toilets
 - a. Bio toilets
 - b. Soundproof
 - c. Higher seats
 - d. Closer than parish centre
 - e. Good ablutions, ensure ablutions are sighted at a discrete location
 - f. Bathrooms, appropriate placement
 - g. More than 2
- 35. Baptismal font
 - a. able to cater to adults
 - b. full immersion pool
 - c. NOT running water
 - d. At entrance
 - e. Submerged for RCIA/Easter Vigil
- 36. Heating and cooling; good climate control
- 37. Recycling & reusing what we can from Old St. Joseph (or parts of things); as many artefacts as possible; new & old wine skins
- 38. Accessibility
 - a. Disabled, including the altar andambo
 - b. Ramp access around the altar
- 39. Comfortable seating: padded chairs and kneelers, cushioned seating
- 40. Space between kneeler and seats
- 41. Church & Parish centre MUST be linked
- 42. Spaces outside of the worship area for a variety of activities
 - a. Facility for offices, meetings – groups
 - b. Funerals
 - c. Meeting rooms, multi-purpose
 - d. Meeting rooms: other areas within & part of the church building that can be used for other community purposes. Social area, tea & coffee.
 - e. Small library to enhance parishioners learning
- 43. Current parish centre to remain
- 44. Music
 - a. Space for musicians
 - b. Central in design
 - c. Permanent area for the youth music team
- 45. Choir loft
 - a. with a separate practice room
 - b. lift
 - c. ensuite
- 46. Choir at the back

47. Projectory area
48. Storage:
 - a. music, PPRE, Nativity, sacristy storage, cleaning, grounds maintenance, church items
 - b. Flower room with basin and water; good preparation area
49. Centre aisle, without this cannot have weddings
50. Presbytery
 - a. adequate?
 - b. Housing for our priests
 - c. New presbytery
51. Finance
 - a. Commitment in monetary terms from young and old
 - b. Realistic financial contributors from all parishioners
 - c. Bear in mind expense and keep costs under control; make money go far
 - d. Economical to run \$
 - e. Prudent and wise use of parish funds
52. Low maintenance
53. Energy efficient building
54. Need for open information and transparency from the Diocesan officials
55. Organized, shared travel
56. Bicycle stands
57. Coat racks & umbrella stands
58. Shop space
59. Low maintenance, permanent material
60. Security
61. Fervent seminarians and good priests from anywhere
62. Love: to be needed, recognition