



# THE PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Te Wairua Tapu

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Date: 07-08 May 2022

Dear Parishioners,

The Cardinal has asked our Parish Priest and Parish Pastoral Council to re-explore options to make use of the property assets at Our Lady of the Rosary church in Waiwhetu, instead of closing it.

The Cardinal has also asked us to be mindful of the needs of our parish, our schools, our wider community, and the overall Church mission. He has re-iterated that our approach should be "visionary".

Below are selected excerpts from a letter from the Cardinal to our Parish on 9 June 2021. The full letter is available on the parish website, [www.holyspirit.nz](http://www.holyspirit.nz).

*"I would like you and the Pastoral Council to look again at the possibilities the Waiwhetu site or another site in the same area offers for Te Wairua Tapu Parish..."*

*"A visionary approach is needed, not just a narrow focus on strengthening the existing church. Te Wairua Tapu does not have a large church which can be used for big feasts and celebrations involving the whole parish, and this should be able to happen at times. Could a renovated or new church on the Waiwhetu site be this bigger church? Could the existing church be strengthened, and a parish centre developed where the presbytery is? Could the presbytery become low-cost housing for struggling families? I believe these and other possibilities should be explored."*

*"What happens to Our Lady of the Rosary church is a matter for the whole parish, not just for the parishioners who normally worship there..."*

### Vision Group

To address the request from the Cardinal, the Parish Pastoral Council has established a subcommittee called the "Vision Group". This group formed late last year and sent a letter to parishioners in December outlining their goals and process. Their letter is available on the website or from the parish office. Timelines from the initial letter have shifted several months while the Synod took precedence.

You can expect to hear more from this group over the coming months. They will communicate via the newsletter, website, church notices as well as run workshops with you at the appropriate time.

We ask that you support this group with prayer, ideas, and practical support as you are able to.

### A Parish Perspective

This work is important to the entire parish, not just those worshipping at Our Lady of the Rosary. Any change to this site needs to benefit the entire parish and the wider community we are called to serve. This means it is important to receive thoughts and ideas from people across our parish. We encourage you to take part when the opportunity arises.

This work is both an incredibly exciting opportunity and a formidable challenge. We appreciate your prayer and support throughout this work.

Blessings,  
The Parish Pastoral Council and Pastoral Team.