

Our Lady of the Rosary Church Review

This document outlines the community's feedback on their wishes for a new or refurbished church in the Waiwhetu area.

Problem Statement

Te Wairua Tapu Parish has been directed by the Cardinal to consider how to upgrade, rebuild or relocate Our Lady of the Rosary church Waiwhetu to be a fit for purpose church that is suitable for the Waiwhetu church community, the wider parish and the whole Lower Hutt community.

Process

Input on the church review was invited from stakeholders including parishioners, parish primary schools, mana whenua, and our neighbouring Anglican church St Paul's. Invitations were made via the parish website, parish newsletter and by after-Mass speakers at each of the four communities.

The Vision Group facilitated a workshop at each of the four church communities in the Parish and feedback was also provided by letter or email. Approximately 75 people across the Parish took part in the workshops. Four people or groups provided written input.

Information provided as part of the feedback has been included either in this document as a requirement or included within the potential solutions.

This document also draws from the previous work by the Parish Future's Team.

Evaluation Criteria

When evaluating potential options, these are the main evaluation criteria that will be considered

- Ability to meet all of the "Must" requirements
- Ability to meet a large proportion of the "Should" requirements
- Consideration of the ability to meet "Could" requirements
- Total initial cost, ongoing cost and the ability to fund that cost
- Complexity to implement the solution and maintain it
- Be achievable in a reasonable time frame

Requirements

a) Requirements - *Must*

- Have a sacred space for Catholic worship

- Meet current requirements from sacramental and liturgical norms
- Have a separate blessed sacrament chapel
- Support regular Sunday Mass count of up to 325 people
- Utilise flexible, multi purpose spaces
- Enable a close connection with OLR school
- Comply with relevant council and government regulations
- Be capable of supporting post event social gathering
- Be capable of hosting meetings and gatherings such as prayer; formation and church social groups including youth
- Have modern technology for sound, video and internet
- Be accessible for disabled
- Be based in Waiwhetu
- Consider the impact of climate change and rising sea levels for the next 50 years

b) Requirements - *Should*

- Be capable of creatively supporting outreach and non religious activities (see appendix A)
- Be capable of expanding to accommodate an additional 200+ people for large events. (NB, all of parish would require a total of 850, a full school and whanau event 750).
- Enable ecumenical approaches to worship and outreach
- Have facilities to make families and community members feel welcome and avoid making groups feel excluded
- Celebrate cultural diversity
- Have a space for intimate gatherings or prayer
- Be on or close to public transport routes
- Be suitable for hosting day retreats
- Allow live music at celebrations

c) Requirements - *Could*

- Involve social housing

- House resident priest(s)
- Have a crying room or parents' room
- Have a hall or other facility available for public use
- Have children's liturgy specific space
- Have catering capabilities
- Have off street parking
- Have a playground or paved play area for sports
- Have office/administration space
- Font for baptism
- Have a specific reconciliation space

Appendix A: Services to consider

A number of services were suggested by parishioners as things to be available at the church. Evaluation should consider the ability of the proposed solution to support these activities.

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| ● Community services (e.g. budgeting) | ● Church social and prayer groups |
| ● Social service hub | ● Catholic social services |
| ● After school care | ● Evening classes; teaching |
| ● Early childhood services | ● Retreats for the local schools (students and teachers) |
| ● Physical and mental health services | ● Pre school |
| ● St Vincent de Paul | ● Café |
| ● Outreach | ● Parish centre |