

Executive Summary

1. This network proposal is the consequence of the devastating earthquakes of 2010 up to the present time. Bishop Barry Jones will not institute a situation whereby the church and school are separated. Bishop Barry will not be building a second church in the Catholic Parish of Mairehau. This situation, whereby church and school are together on the one site is the mind and pattern of the Church.
2. This proposal also sits within the diocese’s current pastoral planning, financial and insurance settlement context. In summary these are:
 - The Bishop has completed his consultation on the “Provision of Sunday Mass in the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch”.¹ He is not reconsidering further revision of parish boundaries.
 - The diocesan insurance settlement was undertaken on a global “lump sum” basis and an agreed sum was negotiated by all parties to the insurance process. The settlement was a compromise; a situation that means there are no “winners”. There won’t be enough insurance money. Some buildings, with the benefit of hindsight, were under insured. Funds are limited. For this reason the Diocese has discounted buying any land. There is sufficient within the present network. The diocese has only contemplated a school within a current Catholic land holding – in this case, the parish and school is proposed for the Innes Road site. This land is strategically located and has room for expansion.
 - A new second school and second parish church in the parish is estimated to cost in the order of \$20million (approximately 75% school : 25% parish) and take 3-5 years to achieve. The “merger” proposal out for consultation is estimated to cost in the order of \$12million (approximately 50% school : 50% parish) and be achieved in two years.
3. The three site plan options in the detailed proposal² only served to demonstrate to the writers and inquiring community that the “merger” proposal would fit. Should the proposal go ahead local governance will be extensively involved in working up a preferred option for design and costing.
4. The Clearview School (Rolleston) & St Joseph’s School (Papanui) photos in the detailed proposal were provided to merely illustrate examples of classrooms that meet the latest design quality learning spaces.
5. Property guide space deficiencies within the present schools are fully addressed in this proposal.
6. The combining/“merger” process this proposal contemplates has been used on numerous occasions previously. In our view it maximises staff retentions and affords maximum stability for students as they would see their current teachers in what would be their new school.

Mike Nolan
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(05 November 2012)

&

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¹ November 2011

<http://www.chch.catholic.org.nz/dox/diocese/Provision%20of%20Sunday%20Mass%20Nov%202011.pdf>

² October/November 2012 <http://www.chchceo.org.nz/?sid=97>