

Memorial Debate and the fantastic Filipino concert.

Along with these events and all the other ongoing fund raisers such as Trade Me, lunch groups, movie and quiz nights, produce table and raffles, some \$100k+ has been raised so far.

A great financial result to go along with the ongoing community building which is happening through these initiatives. The total funds committed as at the end of February including donations, pledges, grants and fund raising are in the order of \$1.6m, which has been used to prepare the site and services for the school build, the future church build and the on-selling of the three commercial sections. Proceeds from the sale of the St Patrick's site have gone directly towards repaying the ADW loan used to buy the 20 Milne Drive site.



Church Design

We presented a request to ADW to proceed from October's conceptual design of our proposed church and parish centre to detailed design. ADW feedback raised concerns around the scale of the project and its design, the costs involved and our ability to fund them, and the likelihood of needing to involve Rome in the approval process.

A meeting of parish leadership groups in December recommended that we adopt a two-staged approach to the design and build by separating the church and the parish centre.

We have met twice with the architects and builders to look at options for a less costly, staged design and build without compromising our essential requirements, as captured from the parish community. Feedback is expected in mid-April on the feasibility, cost and project schedule for such an approach. This will then be reviewed with the parish before presenting to ADW for sign off.

Prayer – The Essential Element

After 8.30 Mass in St Patrick's Hall (usually around 9.30) a loyal group of prayers meets for about 20 minutes outside the school entrance to "pray in" our new school and church.

You are most welcome to join us for a short Scripture reading, a time of personal prayer, a hymn and finally the parish prayer – about 20 minutes.

If you are unable to join us in person, you can unite with us in prayer wherever you are, lifting our land, a smooth and safe building process, our Parish Priest, parish leaders and our parish community in prayer.



Remember, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, direct them to: the website: ladykapiti@gmail.com or Parish Office.





Project on a Page

Parish of Our Lady of Kāpiti

Te Whaea Tapu o Kāpiti

#9 April 2017

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Progress Report #9

What's been happening since the last update in October 2016?



The School

St Patrick's School closed its doors to pupils at the end of the 2016 school year in December and the buildings were vacated by staff during January. The relocated and newly built Our Lady of Kāpiti School opened at the beginning of Term One with a combined School and Parish mass on 7th February. The school has now been in full swing for a number of weeks, albeit with a few teething issues, and was officially opened and blessed by Cardinal John Dew on the morning of 17th March – St Patrick's feast day.

Here are some from the Cardinal's speech on that momentous occasion:

"This is a day of celebration and thanks; it is fitting that we do this on Saint Patrick's Day.

"The reading from Ecclesiastes told us: "There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven". Those words reflect the journey of the school and parish over the last few years. A journey which started as a vision and ended with this wonderful school and, before too long, a new parish Church. In the beginning it was a time to be courageous and creative, to think of the future and move to where the people of Kāpiti were now centred. A time to create a unique identity that is closely linked to the Kāpiti region and the Catholic faith, past, present and future.

"The relocation project has come about through the commitment, dedication and generosity of many people - it reflects the spirit and commitment to Catholic faith and education since St Patrick's School opened in 1954.

“The same can be said of this relocation project of school and parish - a time for envisioning; for creating; for knocking down; for letting go of what was and building anew; of keeping and treasuring; of endurance and commitment; of generous giving of time, talent and treasure, a time to rename and renew as the Catholic community of Kāpiti.

“We will soon hear some words of St Paul - words used often for openings. They speak of laying the foundation and everyone working together to create a building. It has taken many people to create what we see here today, each person doing their own particular job, using their skills (the builder, the project manager; the architect, the electrician, plumber, landscape gardener; the list goes on); and many people have worked generously and tirelessly transporting from one site to the other to create this modern and creative school building and complex.

“It has been an ambitious and enthusiastic project, both in vision and time. It is one which has been a happy one where everyone has worked harmoniously together to create this school and parish site. A school built for 250 students consisting of 10 classrooms plus a school hall. Built together by the school and parish and displaying the stained glass window from St Patrick’s Church, the hall will also be used by the parish community until the new Church is built.

“As Proprietor of Our Lady of Kāpiti, I now entrust the school to the Board of Trustees to continue building the foundation for an excellent Catholic education for all the students who come here - an education which places Jesus at the Centre of all we are and do.”



Cardinal John Dew, Saint Patrick’s Day, 17 March 2017

St Patrick’s Hall

OLOK parish contributed 50% of the build cost of the school hall. The St Patrick stained glass window from the old church has been restored and installed in the hall. This work was funded mainly from the estate of Virginia Turner and a grant from the Lotteries Commission. The school hall was opened on 7th February with a shared Parish-school mass and is now being used for two Sunday masses as well as mid-week masses and liturgies during the school term.

The primary purpose of the Hall is to serve the needs of the school community and the parish is working with the school to achieve a beneficial sharing of this magnificent facility. This relationship extends to the use of other school facilities such as use of the library on Sunday mornings by the Children’s Liturgy of the Word group.

Leaving St Patrick’s

St Patrick’s school was vacated in late January. The Church and presbytery were vacated in early February, with an emotional closing mass and ceremony taking place on 5th February.

As part of our parish journey we have donated some of our church furniture and statues to other parishes in the diocese such as some twenty pews and the Statue of Saint Patrick being gifted to Saint Patrick’s Church, Wainuiomata, which is currently being refurbished/rebuilt.



Fr Michael and a number of parishioners did wonderful work to clear out the presbytery and church, storing anything we will use in the future along the way. The site was available for possession by the purchasers on 10th February – though this did not happen according to plan (see below).

The Milne Drive Site: Presentation Way

As part of the preparation for the school opening, a huge amount of work has been done (mainly by Goodman & Sons and their sub-contractors) to clear the site, establish all services (for both school and future church – including the use of an onsite bore), make the site secure and fenced, and start the growth of playing fields and grassed areas. Roading and car parking are complete, notwithstanding some significant challenges to achieving KCDC sign off.

Parish in Transition

As well as implementing a new mass timetable, including two Sunday masses in the hall, and dealing with the issues that major change has presented, such as moving between mass locations and times, car parking challenges on the new site, arranging access, etc., we have also been able to move Fr Michael’s office to the presbytery at Waikanae – despite some technical challenges.



Real Estate Sales

The three commercial sites at 20 Milne Drive have been sold. There have been significant challenges with consents around these lots, which delayed our ability to establish titles. These challenges have all been addressed and titles have been issued, allowing settlements to proceed.



Fundraising

A number of significant fund raising activities have taken place during the last few months – the Christmas Fayre, a garden party, the Justin du Fresne