

FUTURE OF THE CHURCH OF STS PETER AND PAUL, GARRAN

Dear Parishioners,

Our Parish of the Transfiguration in North Woden was created 27 years ago from the two vibrant parish communities of Curtin and Garran. Since the amalgamation, the parish has continued with two churches. While the Garran presbytery was repurposed to provide accommodation for retired priests, both churches have continued to be used for weekly Masses and other events until the COVID-19 restrictions necessitated in March 2020 a change to that practice.

The practical and emotional attachments of many parishioners to the Church of Sts Peter and Paul are real and understandable, but in looking to the future there are several issues that we ask parishioners to consider.

1. Our two churches and the presbytery are all over forty years old (the parish centre is much newer), and with the passage of time and tightening of health and safety standards the cost of maintaining them has risen. A professional audit of the Church of Sts Peter and Paul has estimated that urgent repair and safety work would cost around \$37,000, and work to comply with current safety and building standards would cost at least \$40,000 more, while energy-saving and maintenance work needed beyond the next few years would cost at least \$40,000 beyond that.
2. Meeting such substantial costs is hard to justify given the situation and prospects of parish finances, as the accompanying note on that subject explains.
3. Using only the Church of the Holy Trinity in Curtin, next to the presbytery and parish centre, would not only ease the workload of Fr John, who is without an assistant priest and has additional obligations outside the parish, but would facilitate our sense of being one parish.

Having met to discuss the issues, the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council are asking parishioners to indicate their preference for one of these three options:

OPTION 1

Reopen the Church for the 9.30am Mass each Sunday, but review its use in a year's time.

OPTION 2

Reopen the Church for the 9.30am Mass each Sunday, but only for two years (and provided not much more than the urgent repair and safety work noted above is needed), after which it would be closed.

OPTION 3

Not reopen the Church for the 9.30am Mass each Sunday, but close it with a liturgical celebration presided over by Archbishop Christopher to commemorate the forty-four years in which it has nurtured the faithful, with a social gathering to follow.

Please indicate your preferred option and leave the form in the marked box.

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

OPTION 3

Your Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council thank you.