

Milestone for the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe

Outcomes of the PLT meeting on Tuesday 6 June 2009

At the Parish Leadership Team meeting tonight and after a long period of deliberation, consultation, discussion and exhaustive analysis the decision was unanimously made to proceed with Stage one of the Parish Master Plan, that is the development of ten independent units and community building on the current Tennis Court site at St Bernadette's.

Commenting on this Landmark decision PLT Chair Pat Kelly said "This unanimous decision tonight is a milestone in advancing towards the future Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe. The financial benefit derived from this project will enable us to draw our community closer together and provide greater confidence as we progress to the future against the challenges ahead. Most importantly it will nourish and help ensure the continuing development of Christian Faith for people of all ages in the new Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe".

Other significant outcomes tonight (very) briefly include the following:

- \$6million of Government grants to the three Primary Schools in our Parish reflect the significance and quality of our schools and the depth of mutual support between our Parish and schools as we advance to the future in a shared spirit of Christian Faith in an increasingly complex and divisive world.
- The successful introduction of Multimedia facilities at Mary Immaculate Church both for Liturgy and Parish community purposes is expected to be extended to Mother of God and St Bernadette's Churches after a proposal is shortly submitted for approval to the Parish Leadership Team Executive.
- The multimedia parish concept is being widely supported across the Parish
- The Parish Website is receiving a large and growing number of visits each month including many regular visitors from overseas. It is strengthening the sense of Parish community and helping to ensure open communication for people of (nearly) all ages across the Parish. There's no longer excuse for lack of awareness.
- Holy Week liturgies have received very favourable comments. The Parish Liturgy Group focuses on making the Mass and other liturgies more accessible and relevant to all of our lives, and is also pioneering the use of multimedia for this purpose. Weekly multimedia liturgies will be offered to all of our Churches.
- Fr John has proposed for later this year that we trial new shorter more interactive ways of conducting liturgies at Sunday 5:00pm Masses, to be alternated between each of our three Churches and to more deeply engage people across all ages.
- The Outreach/Wellbeing groups actively strengthen the spirit of Parish community through numerous activities and in other ways support many lives.
- The Young peoples' Group began in 2007 and is now thriving. Its growth presents a challenge and a proposal for additional Youth Leaders is being developed.
- The financial annual report has highlighted the extraordinarily low expenditure on Parish repairs and maintenance because of our current financial constraints. This should be somewhat alleviated by adopting Stage one of the Master plan which should also facilitate the deployment at last of a Pastoral Associate when a suitable candidate becomes available.
- The Maintenance Group working solidly in the background is reviewing priorities.
- The Korean Community is progressing its planning for facility developments.