



PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MITCHAM

Urgent Presbytery Renovations

7 October 2023

Information for Parishioners

Last week your attention was drawn to the urgent need for repairs to the Parish presbytery and to undertake a specific fundraising effort so that this overdue work can be completed as soon as possible.

To enable Parishioners to suitably grasp the unsustainability of the living arrangements in the Presbytery a range of material has been assembled for consideration.

In the Narthex and at each of the external doors to the Church you will find display boards with photos showing the level of deterioration to the building.

The major internal repairs that must be undertaken:

Bathroom & Laundry floors are water damaged and need replacing. This requires:

- Removal of all flooring in both areas due to water damage
- Replace flooring & repairs to walls where needed and waterproof the floor and walls of both rooms.
- Supply and fit wall tiles and paint exposed plaster walls & ceiling in both rooms
- Supply and install vanity cabinets, new fixtures and fittings to suit.
- And everything else required to return the two areas to being functional

Kitchen

The oven in the stove does not work and cannot be repaired and needs replacing. The kitchen's benchtops and splash backs are old, unhygienic and need updating.

There is an operational but obsolete gas heater in the lounge that needs removal for safety reasons.

External repairs deemed to be essential include:

- Replace roof tiles, re-bed and repoint tile roofing where needed.
- Replace the large number rotted weatherboards and repaint replaced areas.
- Repair to external windows patch and paint.
- Replace existing damaged pergola roofing with hailstone resistant polycarbonate roofing.

A number of quotes were received and the cost to complete these works is in the order of \$75,000.

These are major works and for them to be completed in a timely manner it is best to provide a vacant residence. So, Fr Dispin has agreed to vacate the presbytery and move to the Ringwood Parish presbytery while the works are undertaken.



Given that the house will be vacant it would seem a missed opportunity if the following works were also not undertaken:

- Full repaint of all internal walls and ceilings
- Supply and install of new carpet and underlay
- Supply and install new floating floor
- Replace all lighting with power efficient down lights

The cost of these works has been quoted at \$20,000

A total renovation of the Presbytery would cost \$95,000.

Is it within our generosity to assist the Parish to achieve this target?

If we reflect on the near \$1m of works that have been undertaken over the recent 5 years, without asking for further parishioner support this immediate request is small by comparison.

Unfortunately, the target for this fundraising effort exceeds what we might call the gold coin donation contribution. Where possible for parishioners to make a substantial personal one-off contribution, it is expected that all the funds required could be raised.

What if we don't get the target?

We may look at other options including borrowing the money. This is not preferred due to the existing sizable commitment for the Church repairs and renovation.

Once this program of work is completed the physical assets of the Parish would be in the best state they have for some decades. And once again the Parish can commence rekindling those reserves that have held the Parish in such great stead throughout its 70 year history.

“Presbytery Renovation Fund” - How to donate?

Bank Direct Deposit: BSB 083-347 A/c No. 294 362 890
Name: *“Future Maintenance Account”*

This account has been opened specially for the Appeal.

Cash / Cheque – Envelopes for the “Presbytery Renovation Fund” are available at each of the Church doors to use for cash or cheque donations.

Please make Cheques payable to: *“Future Maintenance Account”*

Please put envelopes with cash or cheques in with the weekend Mass collection or drop them into the parish office (not in the letterbox).

Prefer instalments?

If gifting by instalments suits you best, please feel free to do so.

Any queries please contact the Parish Office.