

ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

Bulletin Highlights

Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Year A

18 Dec 2016

Plans for St Clare's New Church



A church at St Clare's has been under discussion for well over 10 years. In the early stages, there was a widely held view that the development and sale of the parish's former property at Smeaton Grange would provide the finance.

Unfortunately, this process became a nightmare that was complicated enormously by the Global Financial Crisis and the creek that runs through the property. In addition, the number of local council requirements were far reaching, and the management of the project was not completely in keeping with expectations. It was a much harder project than originally anticipated.

The time span from when conceptual work began until the final lot was sold was not too far short of 10 years. Over this time – and when it came time to sell the various lots that had been established – there were various expressions of interest but none that were near to market values. All offers were graciously declined.

However, after a few years the lots eventually sold and all those exasperating events became consigned to the pages of history. And as 2016 draws to a close, the task is to save another \$900,000 over the next three years to then begin work. On an annual basis, the savings plan has been conceived in the following way: (a) Interest accrued \$80,000, (b) contributions from parents at St Clare's \$25/month per family raising \$100,000, and \$100,000 from the parish. We somehow need to find the other \$20,000. At the very least, broad-based commitment is absolutely essential.



There may well be some disappointment that the church cannot be built quicker. However, this financial plan has been based upon the present level of contributions from parishioners as well as broad-based financial support from the St Clare's school community. The option of taking out a mountainous loan was rejected because it would have resulted in an insufferable level of debt servicing that would have hampered the parish for decades. If, from the generous financial commitment of parishioners it becomes possible to accelerate the project, then this will happen. Please continue to be supportive. Thankyou.

Nativity Play ~ 5:00 PM Christmas Vigil

Parents with little children from about K-3 are welcome to invite their children to be a part of the Christmas Nativity play after Holy Communion. This little dramatic presentation of the Christmas story is always a wonderful few minutes for the children.

Mrs Lisa Saunders and Father Joe will be organising a rehearsal on this coming Tuesday in the Church at 3:30 PM. If interested, please be on time.

And there is another special treat at the 5:00 PM Vigil. Santa will be appearing and having a little treat for all the boys and girls. Very beautiful!