

St Annes Parish Expo – Sunday 7th Dec 2018

Property & Finance Committee Report

Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou katoa.

Hi, I'm Paul Speechlay and I'm speaking on behalf of the St Annes' Property & Finance Committee. John Thurston is our chairperson, but unfortunately John is currently overseas, so you've got me.

Earlier this year, several new people were appointed to the Finance Committee.

The members of the committee are:

John Thurston (Chairperson),
Hazel de la cruz (Secretary),
Fr Brian Prendaville (Parish Priest),
Heta Dawson (PPC representative).
Falaniko Malaki,
Paul Speechlay.

The committee is supported by Theresa from our parish administration team.

At this time, it is important to acknowledge the contribution of our previous committee members – the late Pat O'Connell, along with Bev Glass and many others over the years who have volunteered many many hours of their valuable time. Thank you sincerely.

The Property & Finance Committee is divided into three portfolios – Property, Finance, and Health & Safety.

Each member is allocated to one of those three subcommittees.

Property	Finance	Health & Safety
John Thurston (Head)	Paul Speechlay Head)	vacant
Fr Brian	Hazel de la cruz	
Heta Dawson	Falaniko Malaki	

We haven't allocated any of our committee to the Health & Safety portfolio as of yet. It is an area that we will be addressing in early 2019. We are likely to draw on the skills of you, our parishioners.

Property

In recent months we have begun a process of review of the condition of our buildings. Regrettably, there are some areas that require substantial repair and possibly replacement. A coat of paint won't do the trick.

As a Property & Finance subcommittee we will be estimating the cost for these areas, and determining the best solution in terms of both cost and also value for money. It will be a substantial project that will take us quite a few months to sort out.

We have prepared an initial Property Improvement Plan, and as we undertake the review of our buildings, we would like to achieve these in the timeframes given. However, prior to any remedial action being taken, we will review the task in respect of cost & value for money.

Finance

We have prepared a comparison of the financial data over several years. It is clearly apparent that financially we have been in a “holding phase”. In other words, we are standing still financially. We have not been proactive with maintaining our \$12 million asset, our buildings. It has now reached a point that we need to address the “elephant in the room”. It will take some time, but we will be working with our Property portfolio team to prepare a Property Maintenance plan to take us through for the next 10 years.

Over the coming months, we will also be reviewing all our outgoings, with the aim of getting the best value for our \$\$ spent. Unfortunately the parishes of our Diocese do not have any collective purchasing power arrangement, whereby we can get better pricing for electricity, photocopiers, stationery or whatever. Each parish does their own thing.

We believe that if parishes combined their purchasing power, we can all benefit. So, to start off, over the coming months, we will seek the interest of our neighbouring parishes to see if they want to join us in some form of collective brokerage of our parish outgoings – to give us all a better deal for the \$\$\$ we spend.

An area of significant concern, highlighted by the comparison of the financial data, is that not all of us are giving to support the mission of our parish.

In 1998, of the 1296 parishioners that attending Mass each week, 275 parishioners were part of our planned giving (that is through envelopes or direct credits) giving an average of \$4761 per week. That’s just 21% of our parishioners supporting our parish financially.

Regrettably over the years, that percentage has dropped to 14%. 222 people out of 1592 Mass goers.

However, it gets worse - despite less people on our planned giving scheme, the amount given per week has actually increased to an average of about \$6400 per week. This means that less of our community are giving more – carrying those of us who are in a position to give. That is inequitable and unfair. Those of us who are working, have a duty as parishioners of this beautiful parish, to participate financially too. Otherwise our parish will not be able to make ends meet in only a few years. We will not be able to maintain these buildings, let alone cater for the needs of our St Annes community. Reaching out to the wider community to put into the practise the mission that God asks of us, would be wishful thinking.

If the number of us that participated in our parish planned giving increased to 40%, that would mean a further 415 parishioners – our own parish receipts would increase by over \$12000 a week. That’s not far off \$500,000 a year. Imagine what we could achieve – imagine how active, we as a parish we would be. As a parish as a whole, we would be doing a lot better living out God’s mission he has asked of us. An important tangible goal we can achieve is to fix our leaking roof – or if necessary rebuild our leaking church.

Yes, I’m asking everyone, not just us here today to help rebuild our church. I’m not talking about the bricks and mortar or any peeling paint, I’m talking about us, our parish, our community. We’ve dropped the ball. It is our personal responsibility to pick it up again.

We have planned giving forms available. We need you.

Most important is the health of our parish community. As a finance committee we are committed to supporting the mission of our church. We will be supporting our Parish Pastoral council in making our parish a stronger and living and vibrant parish.

We look forward to serving you all,

Yours in Christ,

Paul Speechlay
on behalf of the St Annes Property & Finance committee