

## PLANNED REFURBISHMENT OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH

One of the key initiatives of our Parish Pastoral Plan was to look at opportunities to enhance our 'Celebration of Faith' experience. A major element of this initiative involves looking at ways we might create a more spiritual and reflective environment for parishioners within our church. The proposed refurbishment of our church involves a number of improvements aimed at enhancing the spirituality and our participation in these celebrations.

Over the last 12-18 months there has been a strong focus on securing our church against the elements with the fixing of damaged windows, upgrade of the stormwater system, waterproofing of the roof and installation of the new heaters. These were priority maintenance issues to ensure the ongoing integrity of the building. The proposed refurbishment is more internally focused and relates to how we celebrate our faith within our church.

The diagram overleaf provides a visual representation of the proposed changes. A major theme of the plan is to create a more 'intimate and spiritual' environment for celebrant and parishioners, so the sanctuary and altar will be brought forward and extended, curving around the front of our church. The existing seating will be refurbished and relocated around the altar to promote a more 'engaged' environment, while the seating throughout our church will be angled to create more space in the central and side passages to facilitate movement through our church. Other key elements of the plan include:

- The original baptismal font, currently located in the Piety Stall, will be relocated to the centre of our church to provide a key focal point for those celebrations;
- The internal brick wall and doors at the back of the church, under the choir loft, will be removed and replaced by glass panelling, following the line of the current choir loft to create a new gathering space for parishioners before and after celebrations;
- The floor of our church will be refurbished with consideration being given to alternative floor coverings to improve the overall durability of the floor, whilst improving the overall ambience of the building and the ceiling painted;
- The existing side entrances will be modified to provide a more private and less disruptive entry into our church;
- The existing altar will be dismantled and the materials used to create a new altar in the expanded sanctuary and the existing crucifix will be brought forward over the new altar and suspended from the ceiling;
- The pipe organ will be relocated to the front of the church, along with organ console and the piano, to create a dedicated area for our musicians and choir;
- New lighting and audio-visual facilities will be installed, while providing the flexibility to change conditions to best suit a particular celebration;
- While not part of this refurbishment program, once this work is completed we will look at landscaping the grounds outside our church, including a memorial garden on the east side of our church.

We expect the program to take approximately 4 months to complete at a total of around \$600,000. We have received liturgical approval for the proposed plan from the Archbishop and the Vicar General.

Information sessions, to which you are welcome to attend, regarding the planned refurbishment will be conducted in our church on Thursday 17th September at 7:30pm and Friday 18th September at 10:30am, following the 10.00 am Mass, where more detail will be provided and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions.

Parish Leadership Team