

A Vision for the Future

Holy Family Parish

Welcome

Chairman: Catherine Gillespie

28 January 2016



A Vision for the Future

Opening Prayer

Father Paul Strain Adm



A Vision for the Future - Progress

- £5K Pledge - £79,700 received to date to reduce debt
- Current Parish debt - £1,455,366
- Pastoral Centre - On market for sale
- Evaluation of Options in Monetary and Non-Monetary terms underway
- 3 Consultation Meetings:
 - St Therese Presbytery - Potential use
 - **Columbarium - Potential to develop in the parish**
 - Parish Centre - Use and suitability
- Thanks for patience, generosity and support

A Vision for the Future - Next Steps

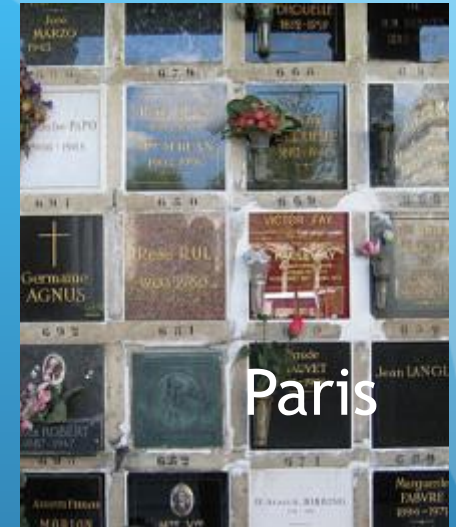
- Review of consultation meetings
- Costings of Options
- Identify, quantify Monetary and Non-Monetary Costs and Benefits
- Weigh up Monetary and Non-Monetary Costs and Benefits
- Assess and recommend the preferred Option
- Further consultation with Parish, Diocese and Pastoral Community

What is a Columbarium?

A Columbarium is a place for the respectful and usually public storage of cinerary urns [i.e. urns holding a deceased's cremated remains]. The term comes from the Latin *columba* [dove] and originally referred to compartmentalised housing for doves and pigeons called a dovecote.

What does a Columbarium look like?

California



What does a Columbarium look like?



Columbarium in St Patrick's Church

What does a Columbarium look like?



St Vincent de Paul
Lignonel



What does a Columbarium look like?

A Columbarium is a memorial wall with niches behind a faceplate where the ashes are stored. Faceplates can be made of a variety of materials or designs, but with an appropriate theologically sound design.

Individual brass plates, engraved with the name of the deceased along with dates of birth and death, are positioned on the faceplate

Why does a Columbarium belong in a Church?

Historically, the Church has been the final resting place of deceased members - either within the Church building or an associated burial ground. Burial inside the Church was reserved to honour the noteworthy clerics, nobles and other important citizens.

A Columbarium, along with modern cremation techniques, allows all of God's people, so desiring, to be buried within the Church building.

What are the benefits?

For members of the Church:

A Columbarium in the Church provides a safe, comfortable, theologically correct, ecologically sound and economical way to honour the dead.

For the Church and Parish:

A Columbarium provides for an additional ministry to the congregation and relieves much of the stress at the time of death about what to do with the remains of the deceased. Additionally, it can provide some income to the Church

Where can a Columbarium be located?

Since a Columbarium is modular in design and construction, and projects only about 10 inches out from a wall, it can be located in many different locations.

This can be in the Church porch, a hall, a side or rear wall in the Sanctuary, near or in a Baptistry area, an alcove, transept, or in a small room or designated space.

How large a space is needed to start a Columbarium?

A wall space as small as 2ft. 6 inches square, projecting 10 inches into the room, will accommodate 16 niches

A Columbarium can therefore be developed on a phased basis

[based on the scale of the Columbarium in St Patrick's Church].

Can a Columbarium be custom designed for a specific location?

Yes

While there are a great number of 'standard' designs, it's modular construction and design will meet a variety of needs and can be made to fit into unique locations.

Advantages of a Columbarium

- It is theologically sound within the Christian tradition
- It provides comfort to a family having a memorial to their deceased within the Church
- It is a reminder to the entire Church of the Saints that preceded them
- It is a visible sign that the Church believes in life after death
- It can make a beautiful addition to the Church
- It is economically beneficial as compared to other methods of interment
- It provides a source of income to the Church / Parish
- It is environmentally friendly
- It provides an appropriate way to handle concerns of a surviving family at a difficult time of death

Is there a need for a Columbarium?

Trends in Burial and Cremation 2005-2015 within Greater Belfast area

2005

20% Cremation

80% Burial

2015

50% Cremation

50% Burial

Source: O’Kane’s Funeral Directors

Is there a need for a Columbarium?

Cemeteries in Greater Belfast area:

- Milltown Cemetery - new plots available until 2020
- **Belfast City Cemetery** - no new grave plots available
- Roselawn Cemetery - Extra burial space available Spring 2016
- **Carnmoney Cemetery** - No new grave plots currently available - additional land being negotiated / Ballyclare alternative
- **Knockbreda, Dundonald,** - No new plots available
- Balmoral, Clifton St, Friar's Bush, Shankill, Knock Cemeteries

Burials take place in existing graves only

Antrim and N'abbey Council considering constructing a Crematorium

Financial Issues - Capital

- The parish would expect the Columbarium to be self financing
- Funds to build and maintain the Columbarium will come from the pre-sale of niches and / or donations specifically for the Columbarium
- Any surplus income generated would go to parish funds once operational costs had been met

Financial Issues - Revenue

- A niche would typically cost £900 -£1000
- Payment may be paid incrementally
- 70 - 90 year lease
- Funeral / cremation costs are additional
- Niches selected and assigned on a 'first come first served' basis

Potential to develop a
Columbarium in
Holy Family Parish

Discussion

Reminder - the next meeting is on
Wednesday of next week