

Dear Parishioners of St. Teresa's and Corpus Christi Parishes

January 21, 2022

As you know the final judgement of the Appeal Court of Newfoundland and Labrador found that the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation (RCEC) of St. John's was vicariously liable for the abuse at the Mount Cashel Orphanage in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. The RCEC is moving forward to address these claims to the best of our ability, and provide justice to the survivors. In this regard the RCEC filed for Creditor Protection on Dec. 21, 2021. This filing provides the RCEC the opportunity to address legal matters in a streamline manner, to ascertain amounts owing to its creditors in a fair and transparent manner and to prepare a proposal for those creditors.

As part of this proposal, the RCEC commissioned appraisals of all the major parish properties and buildings in the greater St. John's area. All these properties will be offered for sale through a public Request for Proposal process. **Parishes in the meantime however must continue to be financially self-sustaining, which means all parish expenses will need to be funded from their assigned capital and the parishioners offerings and through fund-raising efforts. If a parish is unable to remain self-sustaining it will need to be closed. To be direct, we need your offerings to pay ongoing parish expenses such as heat, lights, snow clearing, etc. Your offerings are applied directly to the normal ongoing costs in the parish where they are received.**

The pending sale of parish buildings and properties and the requirement for parishes to be self-sustaining have raised pastoral questions that require serious deliberations and timely decisions. The RCEC, having consulted and received input and recommendations from a number of individuals and committees, has proposed a plan to amalgamate Corpus Christi and St. Teresa's Parishes.

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 the Archbishop met jointly with the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee of both parishes. He asked if the amalgamation of these two parishes could be self-sustaining and would we be interested in making an offer to purchase one of the two properties and/or parish hall from the Proposal Trustee through the court supervised public tender process. If we do submit a bid for one of the two church properties it is not however guaranteed that our offer would be accepted. With this opportunity as the focus the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee of both Parishes are working towards developing a path forward, but your continued support and input are essential.

The Pastoral Parish Councils and Finance Committees are considering a number of options:

- Exploring a possible proposal to buy back one of the two churches for future needs of parishioners;
- Looking at other buildings that might be available to lease in the area;
- Considering partnerships with other faith communities in our geographic area to use their facilities.

We understand that everyone will be interested in knowing what is going to occur and when. For now, it is difficult to place specific dates to potential events. We will update you as we learn more with respect to the amalgamation of our two Parishes. In the meantime we would appreciate your input on this proposed amalgamation and encourage you to e-mail [corpuschristi.stteresas@gmail.com](mailto:corpuschristi.stteresas@gmail.com) or write us with your questions or concerns. You may also refer to the parish's website for a copy of the previously provided frequently asked questions and answers. Your input will help to guide both our parishes through this challenging time. Please feel free to pass this message along to other parishioners. We should take refuge in the fact that the foundation of our faith is not based in the foundations of the structures in which we worship. The restrictions of COVID19 have reminded us of that.

A challenge faced and concluded together can provide the opportunity to strengthen and renew our faith in God.

We thank all parishioners for your continued support, both financially and through your prayers, and for the contributions of all parish staff and volunteers.

Sincerely,

**Corpus Christi Parish**  
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Father Douglas Barrett, Parish Priest

Angus Barrett  
Chair, Finance Committee

Maria Delahunty-O'Brien  
Chair, Parish Pastoral Council

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Father Ciro A. Perez, CSs.R, Parish Priest

Richard Power  
Chair, Finance Committee

Stephen Blake  
Chair, Parish Pastoral Council

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