



Christ the King Parish

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Dear Parishioners,

I write to express my sincere appreciation to those who could attend and participate in the recent Town Hall meetings and to update you on the results. The participation of so many in this process manifests your faith in God and your love for the Church.

You will remember this has been a long journey, even longer than the past 11 months of detailed study. Our need to build a strong parish identity was part of our original objective after amalgamation and was also identified as an Archdiocesan priority. As we worked to unite our community under the banner of Christ the King, we have unified many ministries and brought our Mass times together into one schedule; now, we need to review how we're using the resources we've been given, including our facilities. Early in this process, we identified that both churches have served their communities well for many decades, and either church could serve us in the long term, but that each would require investment to do so.

For those who were not able to attend the November Town Halls, we presented an analysis of the eight options that had been previously identified. We presented a ninth option that proposes *selling a portion of the St. Thomas More site including the building (approx. 3.5 acres), developing a ministry/outreach centre on that remaining portion of land to provide for the physical needs of the surrounding community, and retaining St. Vincent de Paul Church and constructing improvements to the property to make it the central worship site for Christ the King Parish.*

The Facilities Study Team, including our Real Estate consultants, advise that this option provides the greatest opportunity for our parish to advance our mission. This recommendation comes from careful consideration and moments of collective prayer. For all the details on the reasons for this proposal, we strongly encourage you to watch the Town Hall video, which will be posted on our website by Monday, December 4th. (<https://ctkdartmouth.com/facilities-study-process/>)

I must confess that making this recommendation is very difficult for me because, for the past nine years, I have made a home at the rectory of St Thomas More Church and have built strong and loving relationships with so many who worship there. So, I feel the same emotions that many feel, and it pains me to see some hurting. However, the need to carry out the mission entrusted to us by Christ and the need to build the future of our Church obliges all of us to make the necessary changes that will position our parish to meet the spiritual and material needs of our community.

It is essential to respect and acknowledge that the former parishioners of each church have had very special moments in "their" church, and each building leaves an important legacy in our community. I know that St. Thomas More Church has been a spiritual home to many, but let us not forget that the actual home for us rests in Christ, and we must keep our gaze on him. Hence, St. Paul, in his letter to the Colossians 3:2, encourages us in these words: "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

When these types of changes take place in the Church, sometimes we may be tempted to follow our emotions and may act or say things that hurt others or disrupt the peace, love, and unity of the parish. With this in mind, I request that during this time of change, let us stay united and grounded

