

Welcome, worship and witness

Our Future Cathedral Precinct Barbadoes Street

Over the past year, the Diocese has undertaken a thorough assessment of potential sites for our new Cathedral. This document outlines the process that has led to the decision to locate the Cathedral precinct on the Barbadoes St site. It includes the consultation with advisers and collaborators, engagement with the wider community and the key findings of the four-month survey. I am grateful to the 1,604 respondents who took the time to share their thoughts and have encouraged me to think carefully and deeply about the process that lies ahead.

I ask you to continue to pray for this Cathedral project, as we move into the next stage. I invite you to walk with me as we build a worthy house of worship to serve as our spiritual home.



+ Michael Gielen
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch

Engagement Process

PRE-ENGAGEMENT

Bishop Michael invited a number of key advisors to help him decide on a way forward in determining the site of a new Cathedral.

They included:

- The College of Consultors
- The Diocesan Finance Council
- Clergy
- Parish Leadership
- Religious Orders
- Technical and Project Specialists
- Catholic Māori



THE THREE OPTIONS

Informed by the advice he received and having sought additional feedback, Bishop Michael outlined the three potential sites for a new Cathedral: Armagh St, Barbadoes St or Manchester St. He invited the Catholic community to consider those sites, weighing the opportunities and challenges, and share their feedback with him.



DISCERNMENT

After the survey closed, Bishop Michael gathered all the feedback that had been offered. In a period of prayer, review and reflection, he considered that material and took the final decision on the future cathedral location.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

More than 1,600 people engaged with the online survey. The vast majority were connected to a parish community. Some parishes held in-person gatherings to collate responses. Dozens of people sent written submissions to outline their perspective.

FINAL DECISION

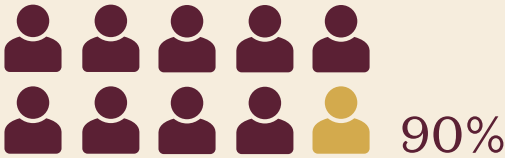
The new cathedral will be built on BARBADOES STREET.

Preferred Location

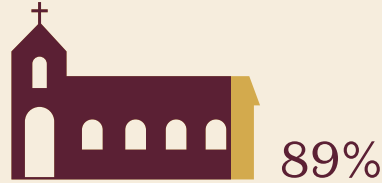
OPTION	RESPONSES
Barbadoes Street	85%
Armagh Street	10%
Manchester Street	4%
None of the above	1%



85%
of the respondents to the survey support the option of Barbadoes St



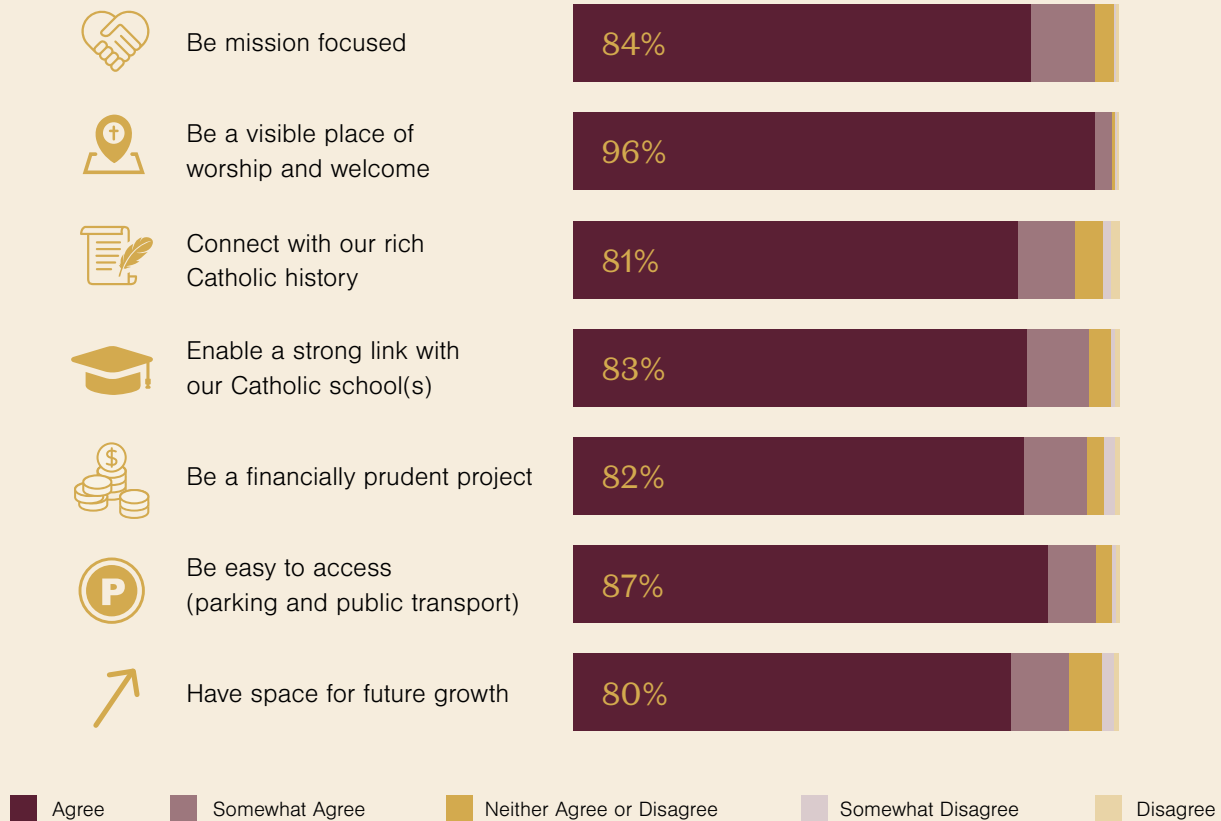
Percentage of respondents who said they “strongly agree” or “mostly agree” that their own thoughts align with the vision for the Cathedral precinct that Bishop Michael outlined.



Percentage of respondents who said they are engaged with a parish community within the Christchurch Diocese. The second highest percentage said they were connected to a Catholic school.

Vision Elements

The following section asked people to consider the elements of Bishop Michael's vision for the future Cathedral precinct and if they agreed or not.



This question was to provide an understanding as to what Bishop Michael had considered for the future Cathedral precinct of the Diocese and has led him to his preferred option. The data notes that there was strong agreement to all elements with over 90% either agreeing or somewhat agreeing.

Further Considerations

These were recurring themes that emerged from the survey when respondents were asked what Bishop Michael should consider when choosing the Cathedral site:

Beauty and Design

Bishop Michael has outlined his focus on building a cathedral that honours God and that enables and encourages worship. He will assemble a team of local experts across a range of areas, including liturgical design, to help deliver on his vision.

Mission-Focused

Barbadoes St has been a site of mission for 160 years, and that will continue. In addition to being the central place of worship, other ministries of the Church will be located at the precinct to carry out the Church's mission.

Finance

Building the Cathedral precinct on Barbadoes St offered the most economical of the three options presented. The sale of high-value land and the considered assessment of other assets will allow for the Diocese's limited financial resources to build a cathedral, support the construction of other churches and deliver the Church's vital ministries.

Visibility

A significant part of the master planning will be determining the location of the various buildings on the Cathedral precinct. The Cathedral itself will take pride of place, and the bishop's advisors will provide guidance on the most suitable placement of the Cathedral on the site.

Accessibility and Parking

As the southeast corner of the CBD is developed, the Diocese and the Cathedral Parish will work with the City Council to support accessibility to the Cathedral precinct via public transport, as well as to support ease of traffic flow. Ample parking will also be a key part of the master planning for the site.

Chapel in the City

Building a chapel in the central city is considered unaffordable, given the other financial demands on the Diocese. The Diocese will continue to assess how it can respond to the pastoral needs of those working in the central city, including from St Mary's Pro-Cathedral and, eventually, the new Cathedral precinct.

Ground Conditions

The Diocese has received advice from local experts that the Barbadoes St site is suitable for the construction of a new Cathedral and other buildings. There are a number of possible locations on the site where the Cathedral could be built, which those developing the master plan will consider.

Next Steps



Patronal Name

Bishop Michael will invite feedback on possible names for the Cathedral.



Site Master Planning

Assessment to determine the location of various buildings, including the Cathedral.



Cathedral Design

Experts are engaged to ensure the design of a worthy Cathedral.



Consents

Diocese works with Council to finalise the plans for construction.



Construction

Construction of the Cathedral is expected to take several years to complete.



Community Centre

A cultural and community centre is expected to be opened at the same time as the Cathedral.



Building of Offices & Other Facilities

Parish offices, diocesan offices, a presbytery and other buildings will also be located on the Barbadoes St site.



Ko te Inoi a te Ariki

*E to mātou Matua i te rangi, kia whakatapua tōu ingoa.
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga, kia whakaritea tōu hiahia
i te whenua, kia pēra anō i tō te rangi.
Homai ki a mātou āiane he taro mā mātou mō tēnei ra,
whakakāhoretia ō mātou hara, me mātou e whakakore
nei i ngā hara o te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou,
kaua mātou e tukua kia whakawaia, engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino.
Āmene.*

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father who are in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Amen.*

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