

## CARPARK LEASE AT KILLARA ANNOUNCING DIOCESAN APPROVAL FOR THE PROJECT

At the end of last year the Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Committee, and the Killara Development Committee, both in separate meetings and then in Joint Sitting endorsed the move to put the proposal for the lease of a substantial section of the carpark at Killara for official approval by the Bishop and the College of Consultors. As you know this came at the end of nearly two years of research, negotiations and meetings at various levels within the parish.

On 2nd February the meeting of the Bishop and the College of Consultors considered the proposal.

During this last week we received the letter from Bishop Peter giving approval for the project.

I think that this is good news for the whole parish as it ensures us of a sound financial future and the consequent ability to grow as a ministering community - which after all, is why we are here. I know that some will still be concerned but with time I hope that it will become clear that this is very much an investment in our parish's future rather than a threat to it.

I would also like to re-state some of the important assurances that have been explained before:

- the site is being leased, not sold
- the leasee will be Group Homes Australia (GHA) who will build two houses (they are houses, not institutional buildings) for older residents who need varying levels of care. The operation of the houses will be entirely the responsibility of GHA.
- the development of the residences by GHA is at their expense and the lease will yield the parish a substantial annual indexed income
- at the end of the lease the two houses pass over into parish ownership
- in order to ensure that the lease arrangements are to the greatest benefit and protection of the parish we will engage a legal firm with Church experience to assist in the preparation of the lease contract. This will in turn be submitted to the diocese for approval.
- our aim is to provide twenty parking spaces for parish use

At this point I would also like to thank all who have worked so hard to bring us to this point. Much hard work has been done to ensure that our parish is on a sound footing to move confidently into the future.

The Killara Development Committee will now progress the project and, as stated above, in the first place engage a legal firm with Church expertise to coordinate the negotiation of the lease. We will keep you all regularly updated on developments.

*Fr Colin  
19th February 2017*