

KEY MESSAGE FOR ALL PARISHIONERS TO BE SHARED ON 17-18 JUNE BY CHRISTINE LAMBERT ON BEHALF OF FR FRANCIS

Dear St Barts Parishioners

Fr Francis has asked me to share with you the proposal for a way forward with a new heating system before the summer holidays so that all our parishioners are aware of what is going on, understand some the implications and know where to find out more information. Why are we proposing to replace the existing heating and what are we proposing?

We all know how difficult it was with our heating over last winter in our church. The comfort of our parishioners is critical so, with the full involvement of the Diocesan Surveyor, PPC and Finance team over the last few months we have **a way forward** and are proposing to **replace our existing, electric, underfloor heating system**.

It is 60 years old, it needs repairing, is inflexible and **is too expensive to run with the dramatic increases in heating costs**.

Before we install a new heating system we **are insulating the walls of the church, presbytery and part of the hall and above the Marian chapel. This will save us a significant amount also.**

Our future heating system needs to **meet the ways we use our church** with a clear **focus on our parishioners and** It needs to be energy efficient, flexible, quiet, in line aesthetically with the interior of our church, as eco-friendly as possible **and within our budget**.

Looking at our use of our church, the Diocesan Surveyor supports our preferred option of the electric, halogen, radiant heaters with a number of Zones to reflect larger or smaller numbers attending the different Masses each week.

The electric halogen heaters **heat up the person rather** than the church and this is now one of the recommended ways of **being more eco-friendly**.

There is an approval process with the Diocese underway. If approved, we plan to install some 11 halogen heaters around the church at the height of the existing windows. We would also have 2 fan heaters on the back wall to heat up the church in advance of our Masses and we will include heating the altar and the Marian Chapel, which are not heated at the moment. We are also considering options for the choir loft.

How will be pay for the new heating system?

Our parish accounts including to year ending Dec 2022 have been published. I would point out that as we are 6 months into 2023, the funds available to us now will be considerably lower than those at the end of 2022. However, we hope to use **some of our current Parish Reserves** to invest in our future heating system. We also propose **to raise some funds over the next few years, to replenish some of our reserves.**

Costs and Savings

We anticipate the new system will save us some **30% per annum** in running costs, compared with the costs of running our existing underfloor heating system.

The **insulation** is estimated to provide significant savings, too.

We estimate **the total cost of the insulation and heating** system will be **about £35,000** though has **yet to be finalised**.

In principle, we plan to seek to raise funds for an agreed **proportion only of the cost over next few years** through **a parish heating fund**.

We will look at **grants, events to raise funds, donations and possibly a planned giving initiative**.

Next steps

If this proposal is approved by the Diocese we are planning to install it as soon as possible, ideally by September/early autumn.

A diagram is available on the notice board showing the type of heaters recommended and where they will be located. This will also be placed on our website.

We believe this proposed investment for the future of our parish is an **essential one which will work for the comfort of our parishioners**. It will also be **more cost effective** and meet the way we use our church in a more flexible and efficient way.

If you have any questions, please do ask Eamon Rafferty, Fr Francis, myself or any member of the Parish Council OR you could send a question to the Parish Office re "Heating system"

Thanks for your attention today and we look forward to **sharing more with you in the near future**.

Christine

Christine Lambert, Chair, Parish Pastoral Council