

Dear Parishioner,

We hope that you and your families are currently safe and well during these challenging times. This letter is forwarded with two main purposes; to extend a sincere thank you to parishioners for their support in so many ways over these unprecedented times, and to provide you with an update in relation to Phase 2 of St. Joseph's Church renovation. We would like once again to thank you for your generosity to our Parish of Errigal in such difficult times, that we have found ourselves in during this pandemic. We sincerely thank everyone who has made invaluable envelope and personal contributions and thank those who continue to do so.

At this stage it was hoped that Phase 2 comprising internal renovation works associated with St. Joseph's Church would have commenced. However, due to the pandemic, these works have been temporarily placed on hold pending the ability to proceed safely and until we secure the necessary financial assistance required for the project to advance, with definitive repayment structures in place. Due to enforced recent church closures, church attendances have been reduced, and therefore envelope and parish contributions have also reduced significantly for reasons beyond our control. As has been previously stated, the planned Phase 2 internal works will incur financial costs that are currently beyond the resources of the parish and will be partially funded through an inter-parish loan which will have to be repaid over a maximum period of ten years. The church committees continue to engage proactively regarding the commencement of the renovation and the finance vehicles to fund the renovation and its repayment. A significant volume of work has been carried out by the Renovation Committee since the start of the pandemic to ensure that the project will commence with the support of the parish community and the wishes of the community to see the renovation progress. They have continued to work tirelessly behind the scenes with a view to initiating works as soon as possible. Current endeavours also include securing external funding that may be available to projects such as ours, (Heritage Lottery Fund) and updates will be given to Parishioners in due course.

We offer the above information as a point of clarity of the status of the renovation. We wish to thank you for your continued support and thank those in advance who wish to make contributions to our parish in the future. We are living in particularly challenging and uncertain times, especially with regards to employment, the increase in the cost of living and the demands on financial income of families during the previous months and the months ahead. We do not intend to add to the financial burden that the parish will accrue with this renovation at this present moment. However, we would like to take this opportunity to reassure parishioners that the renovation will commence following further clarity of these matters, including repayment of the inter parish loan, which will rely on Errigal parish contributions to finance. Therefore, the stability of our parish finances will be important for the renovation works to St. Joseph's Church to commence with the necessary finance in place and safeguards regarding repayment arrangements.

For information, the church contribution options currently utilised are:

- (a) Donations** **(b) Parishioner Loans** **(c) Legacies - Bequests**
- (d) New registration for Parish Envelopes**
- (e) Standing Orders Payments which might be a preferred/easier option for some.**

If you are a UK taxpayer and register for Gift Aid with the Parish, we can claim back a further 25p for each £1 you give at no further cost to you. Please email - errigalparish@gmail.com or phone 29558251.

We hope that you and your families continue to stay safe and well during these unprecedented times, and we will provide future updates regarding the commencement of the project following an improvement to the economic viability for this initiative to proceed.

Errigal Parish Finance Committee