

Communication Plan

Release March 3, 2023

East Lethbridge Catholic Parish Assessment Project

Questions and Answers

Should you have a question about this project that is not addressed below, you are kindly encouraged to submit it electronically to Father Kevin, Tumback, Pastor, All Saints parish at:

<mailto:pastor@allsaintslethbridge.org>

Why has the re-opening of St. Patrick's Church been delayed?

Many factors have combined to the delay in the re-opening of St. Patrick's including the length of time of the appeals process to the Apostolic Signatura, the retirement of the former Bishop and the subsequent appointment of Bishop McGrattan, as well as subsequent guidance from the Congregation of the Clergy. Finally, there was time needed for discernment by the new Bishop to determine that there are in fact a myriad of challenges facing East Lethbridge Parish. The issue of re-opening of St. Patrick's church is important and is the paramount concern for a subset of parishioners. At the same time, there are much more profound issues that must be addressed for the benefit of all parishioners i.e. the long-term vibrancy and resiliency of the entire parish with appropriate dedicated church space.

When will St. Patrick's Church re-open?

In compliance with the decision of the Apostolic Signatura (the highest Vatican process appeals court) and the subsequent guidance from the Congregation for the Clergy, St. Patrick's Church will re-open for mass at least two days per year on its Name Saints Day (March 17) and on the anniversary of its dedication (Sept 24). In addition, the Church will open for private prayers, at least on occasion, as directed. Work is currently underway with appropriate authorities to determine necessary steps to ensure the safe re-opening of St. Patrick's in full legislative compliance.

What is next for the East Lethbridge Parish?

The much more profound challenge is ensuring the long-term vibrancy and resiliency of the East Lethbridge Parish. The current Bishop has discerned

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that the passage of time and changing needs of the Parish warrant a full strategic assessment for the Parish. An 18-month project was initiated in September, 2022 that will use a comprehensive engagement process to make recommendations to the Bishop of Calgary for the future needs of dedicated Church space for the All-Saints Parish.

What is the purpose of the East Lethbridge Catholic Assessment Project?

The purpose of the project is to research, review, prayerfully discern, and recommend an East Lethbridge Parish Assessment Strategy and Implementation Plan.

The Strategy will promote the best recommendations for dedicated Church space and will include a comprehensive Parish engagement strategy. The recommendations must ensure prudent stewardship of the financial resources of the People of God, must minimize short- and long-term operating costs, and must ensure the long-term vibrancy and resiliency of the parish

Who is leading the East Lethbridge Catholic Assessment Project?

Father Kevin Tumback of All Saints Parish will lead a Parish Project team over the next eighteen months to discern best recommendations, and will propose those recommendations to Bishop McGrattan of the Diocese of Calgary for a decision. While the decision on those recommendations' rests solely with the Diocesan Bishop, the Bishop favors a recommendation from the Parish on the path forward.

Is it true that the Calgary Diocese spent money on lawyers to try to overturn the decision of the Apostolic Signatura regarding St. Patrick's Church?

No

Why are we spending money on a Process Coach for this project? Don't we know how to build Churches?

The part time external consultant is a process coach, not a content expert. To avoid even further delays for the East Lethbridge Parish, a formal project management approach was needed to quick start next steps. Using this approach, action will be coordinated much more efficiently to expedite the process using templates for deliverables, stakeholder engagement, and scheduled milestones. The work of the process coach is paid for by the

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Diocese and ends with the approval of the recommendations and implementation plan

Are there other anticipated costs for this Assessment Project? Who will be paying these costs?

There are no additional costs anticipated for this Assessment Project at this point, and if there are future costs, they would be the accountability of the Diocese.

For clarity, there may be additional costs related specifically to the decision to re-open St. Patrick's church. For example, if an engineering assessment is required to re-open this public building, those costs would be the responsibility of the parish.

Will S.O.C.A be invited to be join or participate in the process?

Yes, SOCA will be invited to join a newly formed committee that will guide the re-opening of St. Patrick's to action the guidance from by the Council for the Clergy.

Will any of the existing churches in East Lethbridge be closed as a result of the process?

No decisions will be made pending the recommendations of the East Lethbridge Catholic Parish Assessment Project.

How much did the appeal process to the Apostolic Signatura cost?

The Diocese costs are confidential. The costs to SOCA for their portion of the appeal process are unknown to the Diocese.

Will the document guidance from the Council for the Clergy the Calgary Diocese be made public?

Yes, it will be available on All Saints web site (www.allsaintslethbridge.org)

What role did the Congregation for the Clergy have in the appeal process to the Apostolic Signatura?

The role of the Congregation for the Clergy was to hear the objection from SOCA with respect to the 2016 Decree closing St. Patrick's church. They agreed that appropriate canonical law had been followed. Subsequently, the decision of the Congregation for the Clergy, and thus the 2016 decree, were set aside by the Apostolic Signatura due to a process error.

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The Congregation for the Clergy, subsequent to the decision of Apostolic Signatura, wrote a guidance to Bishop McGrattan on November, 2021 advising what steps would be needed to comply with canonical law when re-opening St. Patrick's as directed.

In the guidance from the Congregation of Clergy, what is the meaning of the phrase that “a church must be open for private prayer, at least on occasion?”

While the interpretation of “on occasion” is the Bishop's decision, he is open to input from SOCA leadership and other interested stakeholders.

Has Bishop McGrattan conferred with the retired Bishop Henry on this matter?

Yes, Bishop McGrattan has informed his predecessor of developments with respect to the decision of the Apostolic Signatura.

How will participants be selected to join the Parish Project Team?

Fr. Kevin Tumback, as Chairman, will invite participants to fill roles based on their expertise, leadership skills, and teamwork ability while balancing a broad cross section of the parish.

Can we get married in St Patrick's now that it will reopen?

No, unfortunately not. St. Patrick's will only be open for mass twice per year (March 17 and September 24) and will be open at least on occasion for private prayer.

When will the Bishop decide how often St. Patrick's will be open for private prayer?

That decision will be made once it is clear that all municipal requirements have been identified and addressed overcome to safely reopen the Church.

Will Easter Triduum be held at St. Patrick's Church?

No, Easter Triduum will be celebrated as previously planned at (405 – 18th Street S.). The next planned mass at St. Patrick's is scheduled for Sept, 24, 2023. There is a possibility that additional masses could be added but that decision has not yet made.