

OF
CATHOLIC DIOCESE
TE TAKIWĀ Ō TE PĪHOPA
CHRISTCHURCH

*For years, they have
answered God's call.
Today, it is our turn
to answer theirs.*

Priests Retirement Villas

The Need

Currently, the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch has no dedicated housing for our retired priests, making the need for retirement accommodation critical. With 13 priests already retired and six more nearing retirement, we are facing a significant shortage of suitable living arrangements. While some priests reside in independent housing, rental properties or retirement villages, these solutions are not sustainable in the long term.

Priests that are due to retire in the next two years



**Monsignor
Rick Loughnan**



**Monsignor
Brendan Daly**



**Father
Brian Fennessy**



**Father
Peter Costello**

Retired Priests who will be living in the villas when first built



**Father
Peter Farrant**



**Father
Denis Nolan**



**Father
Kevin Wei**



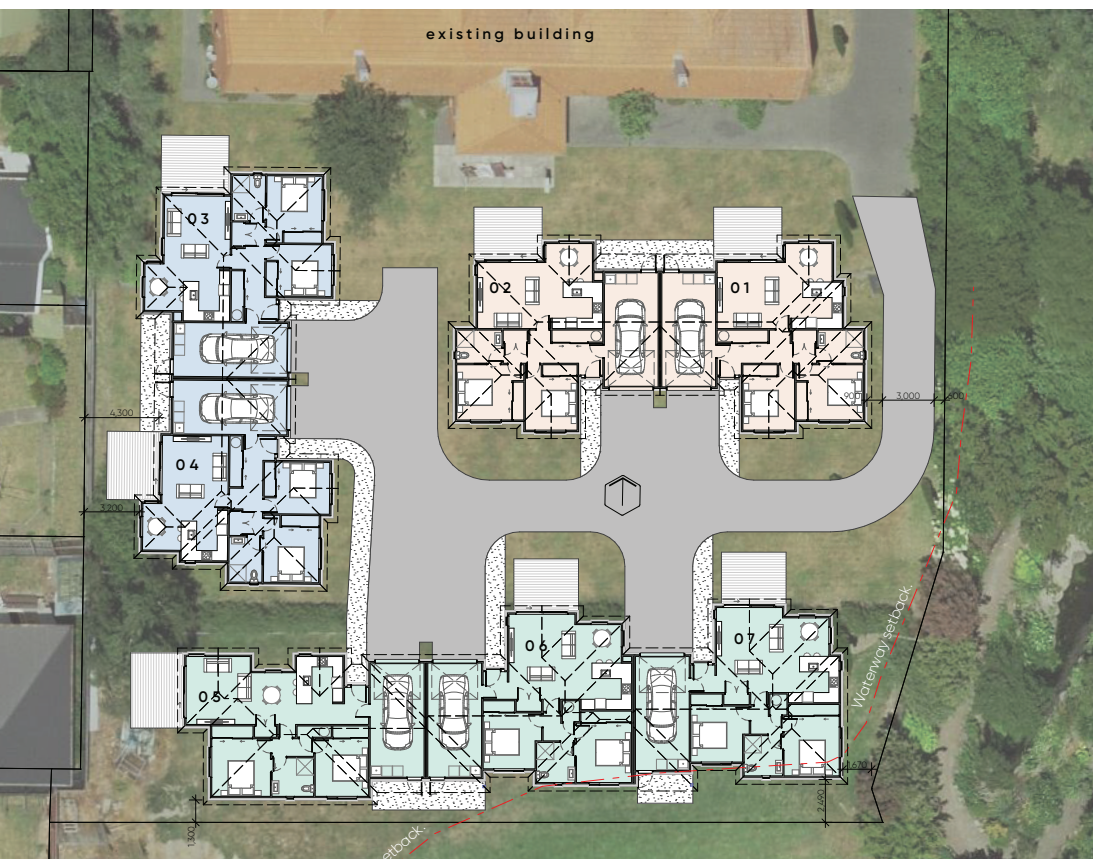
**Father
Geoff Gray**

The Plan

We plan to develop seven two-bedroom units on Brougham Street, adjacent to St John Fisher House, and renovate the existing building to update the two units and a chapel. Your support is crucial to make this project a reality. These new retirement villas will provide independent living in a supportive community.

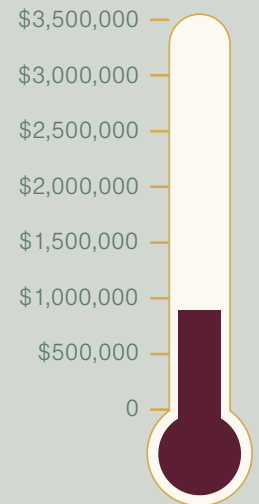
Each two-bedroom unit will offer a peaceful environment, including a kitchen, living area, and garage, allowing our priests to retire in comfort with dignity while living among fellow clergy and continuing their fellowship and prayer.





\$3.5 million

fundraising target



\$900,000

pledged to date

Figures are current as at Nov 1, 2024

Project Budget and Timeline

The project cost is estimated at \$3.5 million, which includes:

- Construction of seven independent living villas.
- Upgrades to St John Fisher House and chapel.

Fundraising Campaign

We understand that everyone's ability to give may vary, but together, we can reach our goal if each of us plays a part. There are several ways you can help support this important cause:

- **Make a one-time gift**
by cash, credit, or bank transfer.
- **Consider a pledge**
This allows you to spread your gift over several years.
- **Making a bequest**
If you'd like to discuss how to include a gift in your Will or take advantage of the Free Will Writing Service, please contact us.



To make a donation, please contact the diocesan office or visit our website:
cdoc.nz/support/donate/PRV

Donor Acknowledgement

Donors who contribute \$5,000 or more will be acknowledged on a donors' board displayed in the restored chapel. In addition, there are 10 naming opportunities for the new and restored villas, and the chapel, starting at \$100,000.

“Serving the people of the Church is such a joy”

There's an old saying that a particular challenge is “a marathon, not a sprint”. For Fr Peter Costello, who has completed 25 marathons, it has a particular relevance to his vocation.

Physical activity had been a part of Peter's life, playing senior rugby and cricket through to his adult life. At the end of a rugby career at age 30, jogging became a hobby to keep him in shape. By chance it evolved into marathon running.

It was in his late 30s that another invitation was put before him. Peter had been working as a public servant, rising to a senior position in the then-Social Welfare Department. He began looking at different ways to serve his local community in a full-time role outside government.

Fr Mick Doyle had a suggestion: “Why don't you become a priest?”

In response to Peter's reaction of “I'm not really holy enough”, Fr Mick responded “Well, you don't have to be too holy”.

Reflecting some decades later, Fr Peter suggests that even though he was a Massgoer and that his faith was important, he didn't have an irresistible sense that Fr Mick was right. He was open to further exploring God's will, though, and entered the seminary at 41.

“I certainly felt that it was possible that I had a calling, but I thought I won't know until I've spent some time in the seminary,” he recalls. He was ordained at the age of 47.

Much of his priestly ministry has taken Fr Peter to the regions of the Diocese, serving in Whataroa, Hokitika,



Fr Peter Costello on his ordination day with his family.

Greymouth, Timaru and Waimate. Over the past five years, he spent time serving in Christchurch East, Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland and Ashburton.

As Fr Peter thinks back over more than 31 years of priestly ministry, he doesn't hesitate to mention the highlight.

“While celebrating the Mass is the pinnacle, serving the people of the Church is such a joy,” he says.

“There have been some wonderful times, some great celebrations. It is a privilege to know the people, to be of help to the people. I feel very blessed.”

With a new phase of life approaching, Fr Peter hopes to be able to continue, in some way, to serve and assist others — and grow a few vegetables.



“We have an opportunity and a responsibility to provide modest but comfortable residences for our priests who have retired or will soon retire. I have personally already given to this campaign and several priests have joined me in doing so, as have a number of generous lay people. I thank you for prayerfully discerning how to help me in this project to thank those men who have served us so faithfully over many years.” - Bishop Michael Gielen

Contact us to talk about making a gift



Damian Powick
Campaign Director
dpowick@cdoc.nz
Mob: 020 4170 3947



Sharon Lee
Donor liaison
giving@cdoc.nz
03 366 9869