

Fundraising Feasibility Study Summary



We appreciate the time and interest of those who shared their opinions in the recent feasibility study. Given the significant restoration work needed on St Macartan's Cathedral, continued fundraising will be necessary. We value the high level of participation and the willingness to provide support.

The feedback gathered was extensive – 1,401 parishioners in Monaghan and Rackwallace Parish and its five neighbouring ones – Donagh, Kilmore/Drumsnatt, Clontibret, Roslea and Tyholland (1,386 surveys and 17 one-to-one conversations).

The focus of the restoration project now is on Phase IV. On the western side of the Cathedral, many of the features at the main entrance require attention. These include repointing of turrets and replacing stonework mortar. This will be done in a sequenced manner over an 18-month period. It is important to keep the restoration going to retain our expert contractors, ensure cost effectiveness and build on the progress we have made.



We sought feedback on the following:



KEY FINDINGS



There is great affection towards the Cathedral. Participants cited its **historic importance, iconic presence in the town** and its significance for this and future generations.



Many highlighted the recent work to the spire and stonework. There is **satisfaction with the project elements** completed. Given the span of the works across several phases, additional aspects were not suggested.



The **funding priorities 'tested' well**; 'improving safety measures' ranked highest. This was followed by 'ensuring the longevity and legacy of the Cathedral'.

Parishioners in Monaghan and Rackwallace were on **average more favourable than neighbouring parishes** (given they have a greater awareness of the work). Over 85% were parishioners or regular attendees.



Communication in relation to the work carried out, plans for the future and how they will be funded were noted as important by parishioners in the one-to-one conversations.



The majority are willing to **give financial support** or are open to being asked. Most felt the financial goal is achievable.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the 1,401 opinions received, along with the most effective way to raise such significant funds, we have agreed to:

Commence a fundraising campaign that will be broad and inclusive

Prioritise Phase IV and on conclusion, determine the outstanding work and its funding

Emphasise the key role of the Cathedral to the town and region – historically, physically and above all, spiritually

Provide updates on a regular basis, informing parishioners, neighbouring parishes, local businesses and friends (at home and abroad) of progress and ways they can be involved



NEXT STEPS

Our aim is to ensure the safety and preservation of our beautiful Cathedral. This in turn will guarantee the endurance of this iconic, sacred space. Mindful of the sacrifices made by our forebearers during the mid-19th century in building the Cathedral, it is incumbent on us now to play our role in safeguarding its legacy.

Please pray for the continued progress of the restoration and success for our fundraising initiative. To enable everyone the opportunity to learn more about the work, to ask questions and consider their financial support, we will be holding one-to-one meetings, small group gatherings and large get-togethers over the next year. When you receive a call or letter about the fundraising campaign, we would appreciate you:

- Accepting the invitation to hear the details
- Listening with an open mind
- Responding positively at a level right for you

Thank you. We look forward to keeping you updated on our ambitious plans and how you can help us realise them.

For more information see:

https://youtu.be/GGgDr_Oudbw?si=QJfRS7Lp-Mp6I-DB

or scan

