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10 August, 2016

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

RE: Development Application (59/2017/HA)

Kenthurst Parish has recently submitted a development application (59/2017/HA) to The Hills Shire Council relating to a parcel of land owned by the parish. The proposed development is for the construction of the Parish Church (which has been the passion of the community for the past 30 years) and for a lawn cemetery.

This development was endorsed by our parish pastoral council and approved by our parish finance committee. It also has the full support of the Diocese of Parramatta. The principals of the our schools have been informed of this project right from the beginning.

The proposed lawn cemetery development is needed as it will help contribute to the construction costs and debt repayments related to the building of our new church. As many of you know, we have been worshipping in the school hall for almost 30 years and as can be appreciated, we are a not-for-profit entity and the cost of building a church is quite significant and these costs need to be met.

Consultants have been hired to ensure the proposed lawn cemetery is appropriately enclosed from public view with external and boundary landscaping which totally encloses the site.

We are also currently going through this application with The Hills Shire Council and we will abide by their directions. At present, this has meant ensuring the site i) is landscaped specifically to totally enclose the area from public view ii) ensuring there is no direct view into the site iii) appropriate fencing is in place around the site.

We are absolutely sympathetic to the concerns of local residents and will work with them on any reasonable points of view they might have. We have written to the adjoining and close neighbours inviting them to meet with the members of the parish committee regarding their concerns.

I would like to reiterate our willingness to continue working with Council, residents and parents to address their concerns.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Vincent Savarimuthu
Parish Priest