



# catholic diocese of christchurch

to sanctify - to teach - to care for



## Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament - November 2012 Update



### CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT UPDATE

While still awaiting several engineering reports, and with new ones being requested, work on finalising the future of the Catholic Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament continues.

The Cathedral Management Board has met with Don Miskell, principal of Boffa Miskell, the lead company in a consortium of businesses that will design the central city rebuild, and discussed the place of the Basilica in the new plan, the church's strong links with the city and the future of the area surrounding the Cathedral.

With 20,000 people expected to be living within the four avenues over the next 30 years, and the close proximity of the eastern green belt, it is important to understand the face of the new city. Mr Miskell will provide ideas back to the next meeting of the Cathedral Management Board.

Our clarity of thinking around the future of the Basilica is taking shape but we continue to look at all options. The geotech report will help greatly in allowing us to make a recommendation to the Bishop for consideration. Subject to the availability of plant and other resources we expect this report early in the New Year.

One option that is gaining traction is the retention of the north and western walls of the Cathedral as a memorial.

These can be braced and made safe and stand as a reminder of the magnificent building that stood on the site for over a century. We could then talk to the owners of the adjacent former convent site about building a new Cathedral in that area. This is only an option, as we still need to understand the soil and underlying status of the ground on which we could build.

If, in the end, the advice that we receive is that it is impossible to rebuild the Cathedral on the present site, we have agreed that we will recommend to Bishop Jones that a relic of the Cathedral will be left, which will be protected and preserved, as a memory of the earthquakes. Honorary Cathedral Architect Simon Pascoe is preparing a report, with the Bishop having the final decision.



*Cathedral Bell on loan to 'Quake City'*

### WINDOW REMOVAL

While awaiting the engineering reports and costings, plans are continuing for the removal of several windows on the south-east side of the building including the Sacred Heart of Jesus window, St Augustine, St Brigid and St Patrick windows. The work is expected to take four weeks. After removal of these windows contractors will move to the north side to undertake removal of the remaining windows. Plywood covers will be installed to cover the areas where the windows have been removed to maintain security within the building.

### ON LOAN TO 'QUAKE CITY'

The Diocese has loaned to the Curator of Canterbury Social History at Canterbury Museum several items for display including:

- The Cross from the front dome with wooden spigot and base
- The largest bell
- Four Fleur de Lis tiles
- Five dome corbels