

---

---

## **From the Pastor's Desk..... 7 December 2014**

---

---

Thank you to those parishioners who have so far provided feedback on the church project. The steering committee will meet shortly to review this feedback and discuss how best to reply to your comments. However, I wish to reply to one concern that was raised concerning the possible loss of seating in the church. I want to assure everyone that there will be no such loss of seating in the plans. In fact, when the wooden pews were shifted to the centre of the church, we actually gained space for additional seating.



As you are aware, Fr Alfin has been appointed assistant priest of Randwick parish in Sydney beginning next year. And while I have been reappointed parish priest of Kippax for a further three years, at this point there is no replacement for Fr Alfin. Hopefully, a replacement will be announced at some point soon, but we also need to be open to the possibility that we may have to operate as a one priest parish. At this stage we are not talking about reducing the number of Sunday Masses now offered. If we do come to that point, then there will be widespread consultation with parishioners before any such decision is made. In the meantime, let's be hopeful that an appointment will be forthcoming.



This Sunday (7 December) has been designated a Day of Solidarity with Christians of the Middle East. We are all too painfully aware of the plight of our Christian sisters and brothers – and of course our concern also extends to all persecuted groups in the Middle East. However, there is a serious threat to the very existence of Christianity in areas which have been the homeland for Christians from the very beginnings of Christianity. We have seen this dramatically played out in the Iraqi city of Mosul where Christians were driven savagely from their homes. The persecution and displacement of so many Christians in the Middle East surely calls for our grave concern and prayers.

***Peace and blessings,  
Gerard***