

July 2024

Dear Parishioners,

Most of you will have heard that the Archbishop has asked me to take on pastoral responsibility for St Jude's Parish, along with my current responsibilities in St Pius X. This change will take place from early September when Fr Brendan begins his sabbatical time from ministry. This will be a permanent appointment for the duration of my time in this area. Running one parish is a busy, full-time role already. Taking responsibility for two busy parishes, is daunting, but I am trusting the Lord, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the ongoing support and prayer of all of you as we discern new ways to deepen the bonds of friendship and mutual support between our two parishes. It will mean some changes in how we do things in both parishes.... I haven't developed the power of bilocation just yet!! I have met with both parish councils in the last few weeks to begin to plot a way forward together.

These changes are and will continue happening in parishes all over the diocese as we discern new ways to be Church together and endeavour to continue to share the Good News of the Gospel. Our two parishes will remain two distinct parishes in law, financial administration etc. However, I would ask everyone for a change in mindset. On a practical level we all need to begin to see our parishes as ONE parish with TWO churches. I will, along with the parish teams continue to do my best to provide for the Spiritual needs of all our parishioners, but I will need your prayer, support and practical co-operation to be able to do this.

A time of significant change such as this causes uncertainty and challenge for us all. I don't have all the answers. We are blessed with excellent staff and volunteers in both of our parishes, and this will allow us to use this new situation as a time of opportunity too.... the opportunity to continue to build our Christian community together in the parishes of Templeogue in these new, challenging and exciting times.

We wish Fr Brendan every blessing as he enters his time of renewal.

Fr Pat