



ST. COLUMBA'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Dear Parishioners,

Last weekend, with the celebration of Sunday Mass at St Theresa's, Bishop Mark completed his visitation of our community. The Bishop was very happy with the warm welcome he received at both our churches and was delighted to see a lively and welcoming Catholic community. In light of the Bishop's visitation I have some news to share with you.

Fr Isidore was initially appointed to serve our parish for one year while we made the changes to Mass times. I am delighted to be able to tell you that Bishop Mark has agreed that Fr Isidore can continue to serve here for the foreseeable future. We must, however, bear in mind that Fr Isidore is only able to serve in our parish because of the generosity of his own Bishop in Nigeria and in the longer term there will only be one priest to serve our parish.

In conversation with the Bishop we agreed that it was now time to formalise the coming together of our two parishes. This means that according to Canon law we will be the one parish of St Columba and St Theresa. I must emphasise that this will involve no material change (to Mass times, buildings etc) in the way in which our parish continues to work. It will be the formal recognition in Church law of what has already taken place over the last year and it will not impact on the day to day life of the parish. If anyone has any questions, concerns or comments they wish to raise with me about this, please write or email me as soon as possible.

Later in the Spring there will be a parish meeting and social to review the work of the last year and to reconstitute the parish pastoral council as a forum for consultation, participation and practical work for moving our parish forward. More details of this will follow nearer the time.

I know that many of you have embraced the changes of the last year with enthusiasm, some have had questions and others have found the process of bringing our two parishes together very difficult, but I want to thank you all for the help and support that you have given me and for making a difficult transition as smooth as possible. My experience of the last year makes me confident that our Parish faces a bright future as one community with two vibrant centres.

With best wishes and prayers.

Fr Jonathan Brandon

Fr. Jonathan Brandon
Parish Priest

4/3/17