

Dear Sacred Heart Parish School community,

I understand that it is a sudden news for you, however, my hope is that this announcement may offer you reassurance, clarity, and comfort.

Beginning in mid-January next year, our parish and school community will welcome a new Parish Priest and a new Assistant Priest.

Fr John Salvano, who currently serves as Parish Priest of Kew East, Balwyn, and Balwyn North, will also take up the role of Parish Priest here at Sacred Heart Kew.

Joining him as Assistant Priest will be Fr Tom Christie, who is presently serving in Malvern and Malvern East.

Both priests are exceptional pastors, and when I received the appointment call from the Archdiocese last Wednesday, I felt a genuine sense of relief knowing that these two would be coming to serve in my place. Although I will be moving on next month, I remain fully committed to giving my best to the parish and the school until my final day here, and I will ensure a smooth and thorough handover to the incoming priests. I have every confidence that they will continue the good work we have begun together this year and will lead our parish and school community toward further growth and vitality.

Some of you may be wondering whether this means our parish is being merged with others. At this stage, Sacred Heart Kew will continue to operate independently. The only change is the appointment of new clergy, and having a Parish Priest for long term will bring greater stability to our parish life, which has been somewhat unsettled in recent years.

For your information, I have been appointed to serve in the Mordialloc and Aspendale parishes. As I will be moving to a new parish during the school holiday period, I am not sure whether I will have the opportunity to farewell you properly. Still, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the time we have shared as one parish school community. It has truly been a joy to walk with you, to celebrate with you, and to share in so many meaningful moments together. The encouragement and support you have shown me are something I will never forget.

I pray that the good memories and strong foundations we have built together will continue to flourish as you welcome the new priests who will be joining you. Although I will soon be leaving, I would be grateful if you might remember me in your prayers.

May you enjoy a blessed school holiday break, and may the grace of the Lord remain with you always. Thank you. God Bless.

Yours faithfully,

Fr Michael Kong
Parish Administrator