



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Dear Friends,

Prayerful greetings to you in these challenging times.

Your Parish, and other parishes that surround you, have been well served over many decades by good pastors and lay leaders who have faithfully ministered in your communities. Many of these pastors have now reached retirement age, necessitating a new direction for our communities. This is a great opportunity to think about how we live the mission of the Gospel in our region.

What we are all working towards, together with you, is a new way of expressing the mission of the Church in these parishes of the Archdiocese. It is a new way of collaboration between faith communities and clergy working together to meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of the Catholics of the area. We also want to reach out to all people in our areas. We acknowledge that it will be different for all of us, and perhaps a bit challenging for all of us also.

We have been asked to work together as Priests *in solidum* across the Parishes of St Joan of Arc Brighton, St James Gardenvale, St Mary's Hampton, Sacred Heart Sandringham and Nazareth Parish Ricketts Point. Under the *in solidum* model, the pastoral care of a parish, or several parishes, is entrusted to several priests. A short introduction to the both of us:

Fr David Cartwright

I was ordained in the year 2000 and have served in the parishes of Glenroy, St Patrick's Cathedral, St Francis, Mill Park and until 5 August was Parish Priest of St Fidelis, Moreland. I have also served as Youth Chaplain for the Archdiocese, Prefect of Ceremonies and am currently also Director of Vocations until 4 November this year. I also serve on the Archbishop's Personnel Advisory Board and have held a number of other positions over the past twenty years. I was born in Melbourne, and am a proud North Melbourne supporter. Probably a rare breed in this part of Melbourne!

Fr Dean Mathieson

I grew up in Melbourne, around the bayside area. I was ordained in 2013. Until last year I was Priest in the Capuchin Franciscan Order. Since then I have been at St Gerard's, Dandenong North. Prior to that I was Parish Priest at Sts Peter and Paul's, South Melbourne. Over the years I have served in parishes in Sydney and Brisbane. I'm currently a member of the Council of Priests for the Archdiocese.

We are aware that each of the Parishes in this Bayside area has its own identity and history and we need to work with you to continue to form ongoing vibrant and viable faith communities that will build on those individual stories and be ready to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ to others. In these first few months of transition, we commit to listening to the voices of the people we will be ministering to. We need your help. These formal and informal opportunities will provide a space for sharing each of your Parish's unique contributions to the Bayside community. We look forward to working with you to form ongoing vibrant and viable faith communities that will build on these individual stories, and invite others into our communities of faith.

We invite you to visit a newly created website that contains more information relating to this new way of expressing the mission of the Church in the Bayside area: www.baysidecatholicmission.org . This will be one of the main ways that we will continue to communicate with you over these coming months, as we are all limited in the ways that we can minister during these COVID times.

Please pray for us, as we will most certainly pray for all of you.

In Christ,



Fr David Cartwright



Fr Dean Mathieson