



Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria BC V8X 2A1 – Tel: (250) 479-1331 – Fax: (250) 479-5423 – Web: redvictoria.org

MEMO

DATE: June 13, 2024

TO: Clergy, Religious, Pastoral Administrators, Parishes, Pastoral Centre staff, and CISDV Administrators

FROM: Bishop Gary Gordon

RE: Pastoral Appointment Announcements for Sacred Heart, Holy Cross, St. Patrick's Victoria, and the West Coast Parishes

As I shared in my memo of May 24, 2024, Rev. Jan Grotkowski, S.D.S. was recently and unexpectedly called to a new assignment by his Religious Superior. After much prayer and discussion, the Diocese of Victoria Personnel Committee has discerned that Sacred Heart Parish, having experienced a number of changes over the past few years, is in great need of a period of stability.

Therefore, I announce today that Rev. Shijo George, new to the Diocese in December 2023, and here upon mutual agreement with the Eparchy of Mississauga, will be appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish effective June 15, 2024. He will also continue to serve the Syro-Malabar faithful.

I appreciate the disappointment this will cause to the Holy Cross Parish community. While Holy Cross is without a pastor, I have appointed an Executive Committee to act as the de facto governing body for parish priorities, agendas, and direction. This Committee will be composed of Catherine Davis (Parish Pastoral Council Chair), Dave Begg (Finance Committee Chair), and John Bartle Clar (Appeal Team Leader). The lay leadership, dedicated staff, and community strength of Holy Cross Parish is edifying, and I am confident that the ability of Holy Cross to be light and salt for the Diocese of Victoria will continue.

I have also appointed an Executive Committee to serve St. Patrick's Parish in Victoria while Rev. Benson Asuming continues the process of immigrating to Canada. This Committee will be composed of Mark Redchurch (Parish Pastoral Council Chair), Peter Bray (Finance Committee Chair), and Theresa Smith (member of the Parish Personnel Committee),

Finally, I must announce today that Sr. Nancy Abarrientos RVM and Sr. Marife Macalam RVM, Pastoral Administrators for the West Coast Parishes (Holy Family Parish in Ucluelet, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Tofino, and St. Lawrence Parish in Ahousaht), have been called by their Religious Superior to new assignments elsewhere in Canada, effective August 2024. I wish to thank the Sisters for their service in our Diocese, and ask you to join me in prayer that their new assignments may be a source of spiritual growth and renewal.

We are most grateful for the dedicated and faithful people who minister in our Diocese. Your continued support and prayers for the ongoing pastoral needs of the Diocese of Victoria are much appreciated.