



To the Parishioners of St Jeanne Jugan Parish, Leeds
Sunday 4th September, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

For many people the start of an academic year brings thoughts of a new beginning. Following the unexpected illness and death of your dear former parish priest, Fr Michael Krychiwskyj, this moment is a time also for us to start looking to the future needs of the Parish of St Jeanne Jugan and for me to appoint a priest who will be able to look after the immediate pastoral and spiritual care of your parish.

Firstly, I wish to thank you once again for the marvellous support that you extended to Fr Michael during the weeks of his illness. I know how much this was valued and appreciated by Fr Michael and by his family and friends.

Fr Michael's illness coincided with my announcement of a significant number of new clergy appointments around the Diocese of Leeds and involved the deployment of all the diocesan priests available to take up full-time parochial office. At this moment in time therefore, I am unable to make further changes without jeopardising the ability to address the strategic needs of the Diocese next year. I do wish to assure you though, that I will appoint a new Parish Priest for your parish when next I am able to organise the deployment of priests within the Diocese.

Consequently, I have asked Mgr Michael McQuinn to become the Parochial Administrator of St Jeanne Jugan Parish. As you know, Mgr McQuinn has endeavoured to provide for the pastoral care of your parish and given as much stability as he could during Fr Michael's illness and in the weeks since Fr Michael's death. Mgr McQuinn is soon to relinquish his duties as Vicar General and, over the next few months, will be handing over his responsibilities to his successor, Mgr Paul Fisher. Mgr McQuinn's appointment as the Parochial Administrator of your parish will enable him to assume greater responsibility for many aspects of parish life in the months ahead. This arrangement will continue until the New Year when Mgr McQuinn will no longer be available for this role. Before that time I will announce new arrangements for the pastoral care of your parish leading to the summer of 2017.

I am also conscious of the question of where your new parish priest, when appointed, should live and of the challenges presented by the large number of properties currently within the parish, and the sustainability of maintaining all its estate. I have asked Mgr McQuinn to work with you to begin planning which properties will be needed, and can be sustained, by the parishioners of St Jeanne Jugan Parish in the future.

I do hope and pray that you will do all you can to support Mgr McQuinn and to make this period of preparation for the future, and this transitional phase until next summer, a fruitful time for your parish.

Please remember to pray regularly for an increase in the response to God's call to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Please keep me in your prayers also, as I try to be a good shepherd to you and to all the communities in our Diocese of Leeds.

Assuring you of my prayers and every blessing, I remain

Your servant in the Lord Jesus Christ

+ Marcus Stock

✠ Marcus Stock

Bishop of Leeds

Given at Leeds on the Feast of St Margaret Clitheroe, 30th August 2016, and appointed to be read in the Parish of St Jeanne Jugan, Leeds, on Sunday 4th September 2016