

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Parishioners,

I have been with you now for nine months, and have been serving the Parish alongside two other roles: I have continued to lecture in Allen Hall Seminary in London during term time – helping form the next generation of priests. In November I was formerly appointed to serve as Vicar for Vocations and Formation in the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, and this is a national role. Whilst I have at times struggled to juggle these three ministries, the latter one is growing and increasingly taking me out of the Parish.

After several discussions with my Ordinary and Bishop Alan, it has been agreed that I will leave St Joseph's, in order to work full time for the Ordinariate, alongside my teaching, and allow a full-time priest to focus all his time and talents in the Parish. This has been a very difficult decision to arrive at, but one which I hope will prove best for everyone.

St Joseph's is a lively and busy Parish, still growing, and needs the pastoral care and attention that only a full-time dedicated priest can give. We have made great strides forward together since September, moving successively out of lockdown, and praying and working towards completion of the sacramental programmes. I am humbled by the support and kindness of parishioners, and those outside the church whom I encounter daily. There is still much to do, and I ask you to pray for my successor who will be announced soon, along with the rest of the diocesan moves this year.

We shall be moving out of the Presbytery at the end of June, and having some much needed holiday, and a priest will move in for the summer. Thank you for your support, and I am sure that we shall meet again somewhere in the Diocese.

Yours in the service of Christ

Fr Michael