



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Following my visit to Our Lady of the Rosary, the subsequent meetings with Caroline Walsh and my meeting on Sunday 1st September with Fr. Simon and the other parish clergy, I write to confirm that the final Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary will be celebrated on Sunday 6th October.

I am very conscious that this will be a sad day for the whole parish and especially for those who attend Our Lady of the Rosary. I know your priests will be keen to offer every support in the time following this final celebration.

Times of change are never easy, but they are also moments when new opportunities arise. The closure of Our Lady of the Rosary will be a significant moment for the whole parish and I invite you all to see this as a time to reflect on the ways in which you are engaged – both as individuals and as a whole parish community – in the life and mission of the Church. From such reflection new life and commitment can grow. To assist with this, a Week of Prayer will be held in the parish beginning on the 29th September. I ask you make use of this important opportunity to prepare for change and to grow together as a parish community.

In the coming weeks, three possible Mass time schedules will be shared with you all and, following this consultation, the favoured scheme will be trialed between October and the end of the year.

At the time of my visit to Our Lady of the Rosary, the full financial picture was not available. A debt of gratitude is owed to Caroline Walsh for her work with the community at Our lady of Rosary and to Ghislaine Cornfield and David Kelly for their dedication and very helpful paper. I have carefully considered the proposals that were submitted to me and have also examined the parish accounts, which reveal significant financial pressures on the parish. With all this in mind it is clear that it will be necessary to sell the whole site at Our Lady of the Rosary. The funds that will be forthcoming will enable new developments in the life and mission of the whole parish community.

With these changes to the life of the whole parish, it seems very appropriate to place the parish under the patronage of Our Lady of the Rosary. The two churches will, of course, retain their dedications and I encourage everyone in the parish to turn to Mary our Mother and seek her intercession for the continuing future mission of the whole parish.

With every Blessing,



Yours sincerely in Christ,
+ Richard