



+ April 6-7, 2024

*To the Parishioners of
Assumption Parish, Bellingham; Sacred Heart Parish, Bellingham;
St. Anne Mission, Blaine; St. Joachim Mission, Lummi;
St. Joseph Parish, Ferndale; St. Joseph Parish, Lynden;
St. Peter Mission, Deming*

Dear Friends,

I am happy to greet all of you in the name of the Risen Lord Jesus!

As archbishop, I have the important responsibility and honor of providing you with ongoing pastoral care and sacramental ministry in your parish community.

Today, I write to inform you that your parish will be entering a time of transition in pastoral leadership beginning July 1, 2024. I am pleased to announce that, after consultation with the Priest Personnel Board, I have appointed Father Jeffrey Moore as your pastor and Father Tyler Johnson, Father Stephan Arockia Doss Thomas, HGN, and Father Francis Thumbi as your new parochial vicars. Father Moore is currently the pastor at Assumption Parish in Bellingham, and Father Francis Thumbi is currently the pastor of St. Anne Mission in Blaine, St. Joachim Mission in Lummi and St. Joseph Parish in Ferndale. Father Thomas is a Heralds of the Good News religious order priest from India and will arrive this summer. He will join six other HGN priests currently serving in the archdiocese. Father Tyler Johnson is currently the priest administrator for Immaculate Conception Parish in Arlington and St. John Vianney Mission in Darrington while also serving as Associate Director of Vocations in the archdiocese. He will also be appointed the chaplain to the Newman Center at Western Washington University.

These four men are wonderful priests who will diligently and faithfully serve you and your parish family. Be assured that they will receive all the necessary support and assistance from the Archdiocese of Seattle to ensure quality pastoral care for your parish family.

At the same time, I want to personally thank Father Francisco Cancino, who is currently the pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Lynden and St. Peter Mission in Deming. He will be the new parochial vicar in Skagit Valley. I also want to personally thank Father Cody Ross, pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Bellingham and chaplain of the Newman Center, who will be the new pastor for St. Mark Parish in Shoreline and St. Matthew Parish in Seattle. I ask you to please keep these priests in your prayers.

Times of transition can be challenging, especially as we prepare to say goodbye to a familiar presence and welcome new pastoral leaders. However, if embraced in an open and positive way, this can be a time of blessing for the entire parish and the Catholic Church of Western Washington. I am confident that will be the case as you welcome Fathers Moore, Johnson, Thomas and Thumbi to your parish family. As always, I remain,

In The Heart of Christ,

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Seattle