



We proclaim a crucified Christ

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03 October 2023

Dear Parishioners of St Justin's Parish Wheelers Hill and Good Shepherd Parish Mulgrave,

My prayerful greetings to you in the Lord.

May I first express my gratitude to the Resurrection Fathers for their continued outstanding service to the parish communities of Mulgrave and Wheelers Hill.

As you may be aware, Fr Kazimierz (Kaz) Trawicki CR will be finishing his appointment as Parish Priest of the Parish of Good Shepherd, Mulgrave due to ill health. I am sure you will want to join me in wishing him every grace and blessing, and prayers for good health in the future. We particularly thank him for his dedicated service to the Archdiocese of Melbourne in the Parish of Good Shepherd.

Over recent decades, as we have experienced a steady decline in active participation in parish life in some parishes coupled with a reduction in the number of ordained clergy available for parish ministry, changes in parish configuration have been undertaken. Some parishes have been partnered under the care of a single parish priest, some have been amalgamated and more recently, multiple parishes have been brought into a larger family or Mission under the care of two or more priests appointed to work together.

In order to both address the pastoral challenges and find ways to encourage vitality and growth across the whole Archdiocese, we established the process of renewal you know as *Take the Way of the Gospel*. This process invites us into a journey of listening, learning and walking together to reimagine our present way of doing things in the face of the changing circumstances in which we now live so that:

- The mission of the Gospel is at the heart of our life, worship and outreach;
- Local faith communities are arranged to allow them to flourish;
- Our faith communities are effectively resourced spiritually, ministerially and materially.

In the spirit of *Take the Way of the Gospel*, I have asked Fr Andrzej Madry CR PP (with the endorsement of his Superior, Rev Marek Ptak CR, to take on the pastoral care of Good Shepherd Parish, Mulgrave in addition to his role as Parish Priest of St Justin's Wheeler's Hill.

Fr Madry has generously agreed to take on this additional role and will be available to take up an appointment from 18 October this year.

In one sense, this is a “home-coming” as back in 1986, the Parish of St Justin’s Wheelers Hill was born out of Good Shepherd Mulgrave. This is an opportune moment for the charism of the Resurrection Fathers to be lived out as a “common spirituality” across both parish communities entrusted to their pastoral care.

As neighbouring communities, you have already begun to share in pastoral activities such as an active Bible Study group, Youth Group and the new ReachOut Ministry initiative – not to mention the wonderful joint support in the preparation for the celebrations of Easter, Christmas and First Reconciliation.

Over the coming weeks and months, I would encourage your two parishes to commence discussions through your respective parish councils to determine how these shared arrangements might best be established to ensure that it is possible, sacramentally and administratively. There may need to be some reordering of Mass times.

Please be assured of my prayers. I wish you every blessing in the works of your Parish, and your ongoing efforts towards parish renewal into the hands of the Lord as we together walk our journey of faith.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Comensoli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne