



Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide

Archbishop of Adelaide

7th June, 2023
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Dear Parishioners of Aberfoyle Park and Blackwood Parishes,

RE: Aberfoyle Park and Blackwood Parishes

Grace and peace, I hope that this note finds you well.

I am writing to advise you of an important direction made in relation to your respective Parish communities. The decision is part of our ongoing pastoral planning in the Archdiocese.

At the beginning of the year a group was established to gain a greater understanding of the pastoral, financial and resource requirements of communities in the Archdiocese, identify and address priorities, and develop strategies for the future. This is in light of declining numbers of Clergy and lower Mass attendances, accompanied by a decrease in those people identifying as Catholic on the Census.

Under the leadership of Fr Paul Mwaura and Deacon Tee Ping Koh I have asked your Parishes to work towards becoming one Parish by the end of 2023. This process will be supported by Fr Dean Marin, Vicar General, Sarah Moffatt, Director of Pastoral Life and Mission and Peter Bierer, Assistant Director of Pastoral Life and Mission.

The specific details will be determined in consultation with both Parish communities in the coming months. The attached Frequently Asked Questions might assist in the interim.

I deeply appreciate this can be an unsettling experience and urge us all to look forward to the future in hope, with our sense of mission and Jesus at the centre. We continue to affirm the gifts and charisms of both Parishes and this new reality intends to honour these as well as point to new realities.

If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact Fr Dean Marin vicargeneral@adelaide.catholic.org.au or Sarah Moffatt smoffatt@adelaide.catholic.org.au

In Domino,

+Patrick O'Regan
Archbishop of Adelaide