



+ April 6-7, 2024

*To the Parishioners of
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Kelso
St. Catherine Mission, Cathlamet
St. Joseph Mission, Kalama
St. Mary Parish, Castle Rock
St. Rose de Viterbo Parish, Longview*

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 Brian Thompson as your new pastor and Father Vinner Raj Simeon Raj, HGN, as your new parochial vicar. Presently, Father Thompson is the pastor of St. Columban Parish in Yelm and St. Peter Mission in Tenino, and Father Simeon Raj is the priest administrator at St. Joseph at Holy Family Parish in Frances, St. Lawrence Parish in Raymond, and St. Mary Parish in Seaview.

These 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 Michael Barbarossa and Father Arulanandu David for their wonderful service and leadership these last few years. I ask you to please keep them in your prayers as they move forward in responding to God's call in their new assignments. Father Barbarossa will be pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish in Hoquiam, Our Lady of the Olympics Mission in Amanda Park, St. Jerome Parish in Ocean Shores, St. John Mission in Montesano, St. Joseph Parish in Elma, St. Mary Parish in Aberdeen and St. Paul Parish in Westport. Father David will be the parochial vicar at Holy Innocents Parish in Duvall, St. Anthony of Padua Mission in Carnation and St. Jude Parish in Redmond.

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 Father Thompson and Father Vinner Raj to your parish family. As always, I remain,

In The Heart of Christ,

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