

St Teresa of Calcutta Deanery Announcement

This month we celebrated the feast of the English Cardinal, John Henry Newman. He is often quoted in many situations - but one that comes to mind today is this: "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to change often."

We are all aware of change all around us - some change is planned for and some is demanded of us.

In our Deanery discussions, which have set up our Families of Parishes, we have had to look to a future that will be different for the church in the Archdiocese. We can allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by changes needed or we can rise to the challenge. As a Deanery, the priests and Deanery Synodal Council have realised that we need help to go through the changes that will come and we embark upon that facilitated journey with great faith and hope and a good spirit.

We had hoped we had a few years to look at and address the challenges that lie ahead, together, but changes have to happen sooner than we had anticipated.

Mgr Des Seddon, who is the parish priest at St Mary's Aughton, has, as many of you will know, had a number of serious health issues. This has led him, in discussion with the Archbishop, to seek retirement from parish ministry. Mgr Des will formally retire on the 13th January, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. He will not be replaced. The Archbishop has suggested that St Mary's should no longer be a parish church but become a shrine church. This would mean that there would be no regular Sunday Mass in St Mary's, but, moreover, it would become a specific place of devotional prayer for the deanery, and the territory of the parish be served from Holy Rosary and St Anne's.

In addition, Fr Faustinus, who has served the community of St Robert Bellarmine and St Elizabeth's the last three years, has been asked to undertake a new appointment at the Royal Liverpool Hospital and the Cathedral. He will take up his new appointment from the Feast of the Epiphany, in January.

As at St Mary's, there is no priest to replace Fr Faustinus and so the Archbishop has asked Fr Mark Madden to serve the communities there, in addition to English Martyrs and the former parish territory of Our Lady's, which he currently serves as one

parish. For this to be possible, on an administrative level, it has been proposed that St Elizabeth's, St Robert's and English Martyrs be amalgamated into 1 parish community, served from English Martyrs.

These changes affect the whole of our Deanery - we cannot just presume that extra burdens are undertaken by one or two priests. We have to share this together, priests and people. The parishes directly affected will be invited to a series of consultation meetings in the coming weeks. (St Elizabeth's and St Roberts: Sat 16th Nov at 10.30am. St Mary's Thu 21st Nov. at 7.00pm.)