



The following flier on the future of St Patrick's has been issued by Michael Whelan:

On Sunday 21 August 2022, Archbishop Anthony Fisher came to St Patrick's Church Hill. He celebrated the 12noon Mass and made the following announcement:

The Archbishop announced that he had accepted the advice of the Marist Fathers that the Parish of St Patrick's Church Hill cease to be entrusted to their care and ministry as of 31 December 2025. The Archbishop expressed his gratitude for the unique and faithful ministry of the Marist Fathers since 1868, and for their willingness to guide the transition of the parish to new pastors over the coming years.

The Marist Fathers, like many religious congregations, are facing significant diminution of numbers and increasing average age throughout the Western world.

In 2007, the Marist Fathers began a worldwide search for Marists willing and able and available to minister at St Patrick's. The most urgent need was to find a Marist priest who could take on the onerous role of Parish Priest.

Whilst there are a few Marists at this time willing and able and available to minister at St Patrick's, there is no suitable Marist to take on the special role of Parish Priest in the coming years.

The Marists are conscious that this is a momentous decision – not just for the Marists, but for all those who continue to find spiritual nourishment at St Patrick's.

This is an extraordinary moment. It invites us to what Pope Francis has called, a "synodal journey". We must take time to listen together for what God is asking of us individually and as a community at this time.

A **Process Group** of professional facilitators has been established to assist us with the transition to our new situation – **Mr Paul Bullen, Sr Therese Carroll RSJ, Br Ian Cribb SJ and Fr Gerry Gleeson VG**. They will be available to us all – individually and as a community – in the coming months and years as necessary.

The members of the Process Group will immediately facilitate **four forums**:

- **10am, 11am and 4pm on Sunday 28 August in The Crypt**
- **1pm on Sunday 4 September in The Crypt.**

Let us place ourselves and the ministry of St Patrick's in the hands of God.

Fr Michael, Parish Priest