



We proclaim a crucified Christ

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27 April 2023

To: Bayside Catholic Mission
Pastoral Council *and* Finance Committees

My dear friends in Christ,

Greetings to you in this joyful Easter season.

Firstly, thank you for the engagement and feedback that you have provided regarding the future planning for Bayside Catholic Mission. I am currently overseas, but wished to get this letter to you as soon as possible.

You will be aware that following the petition for Canonical amalgamation of the existing parishes of the Bayside Catholic Mission, I attended a meeting of Bayside Catholic Mission Representatives with a number of representatives from the Archdiocese in December 2022. The details of that meeting were shared with all of the parishioners earlier this year.

At the meeting, I undertook to come back to you early in the New Year with feedback and a decision. I am conscious of wanting to keep you informed and engaged with this issue.

The meeting with Bayside Catholic Mission representatives, and the interest that it has raised, now provides an opportunity for perhaps a review of where things are in the makeup of the Bayside Catholic Mission, and the wider area. In addition, I have since received a good level of helpful correspondence and feedback from parishioners. I have also taken the advice of the Council of Priests, the College of Consultors, and others.

In order to move forward with what might be the best configuration of parishes, so as to respond to the needs of the people, to provide the proper level of pastoral care, and being mindful of the workload of the priests, I have convened a meeting of the priests of the area scheduled for 16 May. That meeting will include the parishes of the existing Bayside Catholic Mission as well as East Brighton, Cheltenham and Highett and Mentone-Parkdale.

I am very grateful for the work that has been done so far and I wish to thank all those who have made such valuable contributions. When the Bayside Catholic Mission was first envisaged it was in the context of impending multiple parish priest retirements. Clearly however, there would have been benefit in taking account of a wider range of local realities and considerations. Time was of an essence then, and the advent of COVID with its considerable periods of lockdown also provided further complexity and made it all the more difficult to consult more broadly.

Following the meeting on 16 May with the clergy, I will communicate further with you, and meet with you at a date to be decided.

Thank you for your faithful commitment to God's people now, and for their future. I would ask that you might keep the future of these parishes in your prayers, that the Holy Spirit may continue to guide us all for the flourishing of our communities in the Bayside area.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by 'A Comensoli'. A small cross symbol is written to the left of the signature.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne