

20th June 2021.

The Bishop has granted me early retirement, because of my recent ill health. From the summer of 2021 I will give up my role as parish priest of St. Joseph's, Newbury. I took up this position on the 9th of September 1998, and those 23 years have been the happiest and the most fulfilling of my priesthood. I sincerely thank you all for that gift and opportunity. I include all those who have touched my life as your parish priest, past and present. You have a prayerfulness, a dedication to the Mass and the Sacraments that is very deep and sincere, you possess a wonderful spirit and a great sense of humour, which I have always appreciated. I have been humbled by your care of me. I would also thank Fr. Peter Codd who stood in for me, with all the parish duties that I could not fulfil due to my absence. But I must thank those, most profusely and sincerely, who have made sure that the parish, and parish life has run smoothly during the Covid 19 pandemic. You stepped up when I was unable to do anything. You have my everlasting gratitude and thanks. I would also like to thank my sister Breda, and her family who rallied and supported me through a difficult time. I am looking forward to a new chapter in my life, and I will grasp the opportunity of retirement with open arms. Finally, I would like to thank all those who are or were involved in the National Health Service. You saved my life and I thank you most sincerely.

This being the Year of St. Joseph. I will finish with the prayer to St. Joseph.

Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God has entrusted his only Son,
in you Mary placed her trust,
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

God bless you all.