

The following is a Copy of the Letter sent by Fr Provincial to all our communities on the occasion of Our Friars withdrawing from the Parish of St Joseph, Berkeley Road, Dublin

## ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITES

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Dear Brothers,

Today, sadly, we leave St. Joseph's, Berkeley Road, a parish we have served in since 1984. Furthermore, the reality of Covid 19 restrictions means it has to happen without any leave-taking ritual.

However, a few things need to be expressed. Firstly, on my own behalf, and on behalf of the Provincial Council, I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the service given by the friars who have been based there over the years, from the time of Fr. John Kelly (RIP), first Parish Priest and Prior, up to and including the present community led by Fr. Martin McDonald.

Likewise, I would like to acknowledge the sadness and disappointment experienced by both friars and people at our leaving. But I also take positives from these sentiments: it means that our ministry there has been appreciated and that those assigned to Berkeley Road over the years have been happy to be there.

When I met with Archbishop Martin back in August of last year, I was most pleased with his assurance that the Church in Berkeley Road would remain open to the people. This promise has now been fulfilled by his successor, Archbishop Farrell, who has appointed Fr. Paul Churchill as Parish Priest, and who takes up the reins of office on the 21st (tomorrow).

I recently had a letter from the new Archbishop informing me about the appointment of the new Parish Priest. He also expressed his gratitude to "all the members of the Carmelite family who served in Berkeley Road Parish over the years", and went on to write that he greatly valued "the association between the Carmelites and the Diocese" and that he looked forward "to developing this relationship as we continue to work together for mission."

Those last remarks remind us that we still have two substantial presences in Dublin, St. Teresa's and Avila Centre. The service they offer can certainly contribute significantly to mission in the Archdiocese. Let us pray that this hope will be richly realised into the future.

Yours fraternally,



Rev. John Grennan, OCD

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