



Dear All,

I hope you have had a pleasant summer and are fresh for the challenge of the “new – normal”. With children going back to school this week, and all the special provisions involved I am sure you will be considering how you are going to continue your catechesis, given the requirements for social distancing, sanitising and so on. I plan to speak to our new Vicar General, Canon Richard Walker, about challenges you may be facing in Parish settings. Do let me know how you are coping with this. Then, your arrangements for Mass will need adjustments to meet requirements for sanitising, social distancing, wearing masks. I am sure the Parish Priests you work with will be ready to support you, but you will need you have a conversation with them about the arrangements they have put in place and how you can co-operate.

As you know, I have been thinking about our next meeting and planning a conference around issues related to catechesis for children and young people and youth work. I am sure these are all matters of concern to all Ethnic Communities and there are things to share as well as learn from each other, as well as external speakers. I have to arrive at a date soon, but I need to consult with Archbishop Bernard about his presence and consider the matter of the venue that could cope with 20-30 people. Also I will want to avoid clashes with your diary and the Diocesan Programme.

We are very pleased that Bishop Eparch Mar Joseph Srampickal of the Syro-Malabar Community has come to live in the Archdiocese, so I hope he will be able to attend our meetings on occasion. His Secretary Fr. Jobin Koshackal Jose, and Chancellor and Finance Officer, Fr. Mathew Pinakkattu have also come to the Archdiocese. There are also some other Priests new to the Archdiocese and the list (being prepared for the Diocesan Directory) will be available to send to you shortly.

During the coming academic year, I look forward to visiting you on behalf of Archbishop Bernard, and attending your Masses to meet your Communities. I have enjoyed this part of my work, and being able to offer you support, especially with any initiatives you are proposing or problems that my experience and contacts may help resolve.

Recently I have heard from the Punjabi Chaplaincy about the help they are giving to the Church and Community back home in India in this time of the Pandemic. With the help of Fr George Waraich and co-operation from the Diocesan Communications Team, I hope this will be covered on the Diocesan Website, and our own Our Lady of Good Counsel Ethnic Chaplaincies Website too.

Please remember our new Bishops Elect, Canon David Evans and Canon Stephen Wright as they prepare for Episcopal Ordination. I know they have a special interest in Chaplaincies, Eparchies and Missions, and will be ready to support in any way they can.

Monsignor Daniel McHugh

Co-ordinator for Ethnic Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

Ethnic Chaplaincies

God Bless

Mgr Daniel McHugh

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