



R.C. DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN

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**Bishop of Aberdeen
Rt Rev Hugh Gilbert O.S.B.**

Ad Clerum

6 July 2020

Dear Fathers and Deacons,
Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This is to bring you up to date with some clerical movements in Aberdeen. Fr Rafał Szweda will be moving imminently from Holy Family, Mastrick to St Mary's Cathedral. There he will continue his work as Assistant Chaplain to Fr Turski for the Polish Community in Aberdeen and also become Assistant Priest in the Cathedral parish. Fr Turski will take on the full pastoral care of the parish at Holy Family, Mastrick, as well as continuing at St Joseph's, Woodside. He remains first Chaplain to the Polish Community.

At the same time, for health reasons, Fr Peter Barry, while continuing at St Francis, Mannofield, is relinquishing care of Westhill with immediate effect. He leaves a flourishing community behind him. Our thanks to you, Fr Peter, and prayers for continuing energy! In the short term, until more permanent arrangements become possible, Fr Emmet O'Dowd will continue as Assistant Priest at the Cathedral and meanwhile takes on the care of Westhill until further notice. He remains hospital chaplain in Aberdeen.

Due to his many commitments, Deacon Doug Duncan will no longer act as deacon at St Peter's, Castlegate. He continues his work for Stella Maris and in the parish of St Columba's, Bridge of Don.

I am grateful to all involved for their collaboration in these arrangements.

Also on a clerical note, many of you have ordination anniversaries around this time. May I at least mention today's crop – 6 July: Fr James Anyaegbu, 7 years a priest; Frs Raf and Emmet two years, and Deacon Doug Duncan two years also. You make some of us feel quite ancient! Prayers and congratulations to you.

We can expect more clarity about the resumption of public worship towards the latter end of this week. In the meantime, it has been good to hear of churches reopening, where possible, for periods of private prayer.

Yours devotedly,

+Hugh OSB

Hugh Gilbert OSB
Bishop of Aberdeen