

Parish news – moves, arrivals, updates

- Please pray for **Fr Dominic**, as he moves from Our Lady and All Saints this September.
- Please pray for **Bishop Alan**, as he will be resident at St Therese from September – he will be living in the presbytery, his home as he travels across the Diocese.
- Please pray for **Fr Paul Kerner**, who will be moving into St Basil's, as a priest of the parish of Our Lady and All Saints – he will be priest in charge at St Basil's.
- Please pray for **Fr Daniel**, who will be priest in charge at Holy Trinity and St Therese, as a priest of the parish of Our Lady and All Saints.
- Please pray for **Damien Wade**, a parishioner and catechist on our Confirmation programme, who will begin training as a priest in September. Damien has taught IT and Business Studies for several years at De La Salle school, where he is highly regarded, and we wish him every blessing as he begins his training.

So, our parish will have two "Priests in charge", working together (along with the Ursuline Sisters, Parish Council, Stewards of the Gospel and PAs) and will in all ways remain one parish. Each priest will – as now – have an area of the parish for which they have particular pastoral care, and will generally say the Masses in the church(es) for which they are responsible.

Fr Paul Kerner was born in Harlow, where he attended St Mark's school. He has since worked for Ryanair at Stansted Airport, and then trained as a priest including studies at the Dominican University (the Angelicum) in Rome. The religious order he trained with (CRIC) asked him to remain in Italy, and he has subsequently served for several years in a Diocese in Northern Italy. As his parents live in Harlow, he is keen to return to the Diocese, and Bishop Alan is very pleased that he is able to come and serve in Basildon. Fr Paul will live at St Basil's.

Bishop Alan's move is intertwined with the reason that **Fr Dominic** is moving. As you may know, the Diocese own a large house near Brentwood called "Abbotswick." For thirty years it has been a house of prayer, looked after firstly by Franciscan Sisters, and more recently by the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW). The COLW sisters have recently been invited to work at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, in Norfolk, and will be moving there at the end of July. Abbotswick is a beautiful house, set in 14 acres, in the midst of the Essex countryside. For the last 22 years the retreat house for young people, Walsingham House, has been based on Canvey Island, in property rented from the Sisters of Mercy. With Abbotswick becoming free, Bishop Alan asked how it could be used, and Fr Dominic and others proposed that it could be used for Walsingham House. For young people, it will be a truly stunning location for retreats, and during exam times and school holidays it could also be used by parish groups. It will sleep up to 40 people in bunk bed accommodation, in 10 rooms, all en-suite.

For youth retreats to take place at Abbotswick, it needs significant refurbishment; this major project will cost £350,000. £185,000 has already been raised, and the refurbishment work will take place between September and January; Fr Dominic will be looking after this project, and helping the volunteer and staff team in their move from Canvey to Abbotswick in late December/January.

Bishop Alan lives at Abbotswick at the moment; he is graciously moving from there so that the youth team have a place to live, and it is a great blessing that he has chosen to live within our parish.

Finally, Fr Dominic will also be working on "**Brentwood Caritas**" – a new diocesan initiative that will help everyone involved with projects such as food banks, night shelters, debt counselling, visiting the elderly, supporting the homeless, counselling for children and families, and so much amazing work where our love and faith motivates us for social justice. Caritas will help volunteers network, share good practice, and develop ideas across parish boundaries. Please pray for this new project.