

St. Peter the Apostle, Provincetown
Our Lady of Lourdes, Wellfleet

July 18, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

This past Friday I received a call from Bishop Da Cunha appointing Fr. Philip Hamel as the new pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Peter the Apostle churches. Fr. Phil is presently pastor of three churches in Somerset and Swansea.

I have already thanked Bishop Da Cunha for assigning a priest to our two small parishes and I am most grateful to Fr. Phil, our new pastor for accepting the assignment.

Fr. Phil was ordained a priest in 1985 and has had a number of varied pastoral experiences in the Diocese and is looking forward to bringing new life and fresh ideas to our parishes.

I understand that changes in personnel can initially be unsettling but as our parishes begin, after the pandemic, to resume our pastoral activities in Provincetown and Wellfleet, a new pastor with new ideas and dedication is just what we need to pull us all together and start fresh this fall. Fr. Phil will need the enthusiastic support of us all.

When I arrived here in July, 2011, the welcoming feeling I received and warm personal support so many of you shared, began an exciting time of my life during the ten years as your pastor. I shall always remember with fondness the wonderful experience I had working with so many dedicated Catholics of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Peter the Apostle parishes. I hope you extend that same welcoming to Fr. Phil when he officially takes over as your pastor on August 18th. Fr. Phil will be the 16th pastor of St. Peter's in residence and the second pastor of both Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Peter's.

In early August, Merlin and myself will move into our family home in Chatham with my sister and brother-in-law, a small Cape cottage my parents purchased in 1984. It is something I am looking forward to, as I have not lived in my family home on any continual basis since I left to enter the seminary in September, 1968. Until then, I will be staying in Provincetown until the beginning of August. All my hopes and prayers are with you and many, many good memories from St. Peter's and Our Lady of Lourdes are coming along to Chatham with me.

All my prayers and love,
Fr. Mick
Pastor