

From Canon Michael Harrison, Vicar General, Northampton Diocese

Dear Canon Bennie,

Thank you for the conversation yesterday afternoon concerning the future cover for your parishes. Here is the follow-up email to clarify the details of our conversation.

The good news is that your parishes are to have a resident priest. The not-so-good news is that he is not able to come until Sunday 23rd June.

Fr Prasad Kasireddy MSFS will be the new priest in charge at St Francis of Assisi and St Peter's. Fr Prasad is the assistant priest in Our Lady of Walsingham and St John Ogilvie Corby. He is very much looking forward to his new appointment.

Today Fr Prasad flies out to his native India on annual leave. He will take up his new appointment upon his return, after having had a final week to say his Corby farewells.

Meanwhile, Bishop David has entrusted me to organise cover for your two parishes for the interim.

The arrangements are as follows:

Canon Bennie's final weekend will be May 4th/5th.

Canon Bennie will cover the parish Masses for the Solemnity of Ascension Thursday, 9th May.

I myself will supply the Sunday 9am Mass in Shefford and the Sunday 11am Mass in Biggleswade for the Sundays of May 12th, 19th, 26th and of June 2nd and 16th.

Fr Christopher Perry will supply those two Sunday morning Masses on June 9th.

Fr Liam Castle will cover all the Sunday Masses in St Martin de Porres Luton for the interim.

Fr Prasad will celebrate the Sunday Masses on Sunday 23rd June and each Sunday/weekend thereafter along with the weekday Masses he wishes to arrange. A rented residence is being sourced in the local area by the Diocesan Property Department to accommodate Fr Prasad while the Shefford presbytery is renovated.

Please note that the evening weekend Masses and weekday Masses will not be covered during the interim. Any local arrangements are welcome.

Dean Fr John Danford will take the lead when it comes to any further arrangements during the interim such as funerals. Also, please contact Fr John for emergency calls, bearing in mind the distance he will need to travel.

I would be grateful if Deacons Peter and John could be called upon to celebrate any baptisms and weddings and funerals that do not include Mass.

The support and cooperation of the parishioners will be welcomed during the interim period. Please advertise the interim arrangements as best you can, by word of mouth and in the parish newsletters.

Canon Michael Harrison
Vicar General
Northampton Diocese