



WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN

BISHOP of CALGARY

July 3, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Paul Parish, Airdrie

Greetings of peace.

The announcement of priest assignments every year elicits mixed emotions from parishioners. While people grieve the move of their priest from the parish to a new pastoral ministry assignment, they also begin to open their hearts and minds to the incoming priest.

In the particular case of your parish, I imagine that your experience of not having Fr. Domingo Bongalos in the parish and in the Diocese for an extended period while addressing immigration issues outside the country and not having the certainty of his return to the parish has complicated the process of your grief. I am, however, very grateful that Fr. Julian Studden, as the Parish Administrator, has been present to you to provide for your pastoral needs. Fr. Julian has provided you with the guidance and leadership of a pastor.

As we proceed with the official transition, I ask you to warmly welcome Fr. Bob Dielissen as your new pastor. Upon the return of Fr. Domingo to the Diocese, Fr. Domingo will receive a new pastoral appointment from me. While you perhaps were unable to formally thank him for his ministry as your pastor, I hope that this official transition will assist you to have some closure and the assurance of a new and official beginning with the new pastor. Under the pastorship of Fr. Bob, the parish life of St. Paul's Parish may continue to be strengthened and built up for the sake of furthering the mission as the body of Christ in Airdrie and the surrounding areas.

With summer underway and the restarting of life in society and in the community under the conditions of the pandemic continues to unfold, I hope that we will all experience the beginnings of new life – different from normal, but authentic – and be moved by the special graces that the Lord provides.

Be assured of my thoughts and prayers. I look forward to the day when I will be with you and install Fr. Bob as your new pastor.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Most Reverend William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary