



Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF NELSON PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS SUMMER 2023 – REVISED

To the Priests, Religious, and Faithful of the Diocese of Nelson,

Some unanticipated needs in the diocese have arisen, which require the following pastoral appointment changes. We are grateful to the following priests for agreeing to these new moves.

I am pleased to make the following Pastoral Appointments to be **effective on July 15, 2023**:

Fr. Gabriel Chinnaperiannan is appointed Pastor of Holy Child Parish in Summerland; Our Lady Of Lourdes Mission Parish in Okanagan Falls

Fr. Thomas Kakkaniyil, MST is appointed Pastor of St. Michael Parish, Sparwood; Holy Family Parish, Fernie; St. Bernard Mission, Elkford

Fr. Sylvester Ibekwe is appointed Pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Kelowna and St. Edward Parish in Lake Country

Fr. Neil Lustado is appointed Pastor of Penticton Parishes including St. Ann Parish, St. John Vianney Parish and Penticton Indian Band Mission Parish

Other News:

Due to previously scheduled holidays the following appointments will be effective August 15, 2023:

Fr. Aaron de Dios is appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Golden

Fr. Joseph Kizhakethottathil, MST is appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Grand Forks, Sacred Heart Mission Parish in Greenwood and Our Lady of the Lake Mission Parish in Christina Lake

Fr. Rex Velmonte is on a 3 month leave of absence for health reasons; he will assume his new appointment as Pastor of Christ the Servant Parish, St. Mary Parish, and St. Eugene Mission, Cranbrook on October 9, 2023

Other Appointments:

Chaplain, UBC Okanagan: Fr. Sylvester Ibekwe

Summer 2023 Pastoral Appointments that remain unchanged:

Fr. Biju Antony, CMI, Associate Pastor of St. Edward Parish, Lake Country

Fr. Jojo Augustine, MST, Rector of Cathedral of Mary Immaculate, Nelson; Sacred Heart Mission, Kaslo; Sacred Heart Mission, Procter

Fr. Ruben Buela, Pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Trail

Fr. Francis dela Cruz, Pastor of Canadian Martyrs Parish, Invermere; St. Joseph Mission, Radium Hot Springs

Fr. Paul John Irumba, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Kelowna

Fr. Cerlouie Jimenez, Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Kelowna

Fr. Gerald Sekanga, Pastor of St. Charles Garnier Parish, Kelowna

Fr. Peter Tompkins, Pastor of Christ the King Parish, Oliver; St. Gregory Mission, Hedley; in addition to his duties as Pastor of St. Anne Parish, Osoyoos and Our Lady of Lourdes Mission, Chopaka. He will reside in Osoyoos

Chancellor: Fr. Cerlouie Jimenez

Coordinator of Youth Ministry: Fr. Biju Antony (mentored by Fr. Ibekwe and Deacon Attwell)

Communications: Fr. Neil Lustado

Chaplain, Immaculata Regional High School: Fr. Paul John Irumba

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



✠ Gregory J. Bittman
Bishop of Nelson