



To the parishioners of St James', St Andrews and the University Chaplaincy
[to be read publicly at the Sunday Masses on the Solemnity of Pentecost 2018]

Edinburgh, 14 May 2018

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As you know, after the publication of my pastoral letter *We have Found the Messiah*, I met with the parishioners of your cluster on 28 January 2016 in the parish hall so that I could set out before you my pastoral priorities for the future planning for the Archdiocese and learn of your own experiences and concerns.

After our meeting, there followed three cluster meetings with The Most Holy Trinity, Crail and Christ the King, Pittenweem together with your own parish. From these meetings I received your cluster report and, having read this, I was able to learn of the efforts that have been made between the parishes to foster a more coordinated approach as well as your desire for concrete decisions to be made with regard to the long term pastoral provision in your part of The Archdiocese.

As well as my meetings with all of the other clusters of the Archdiocese, I have had meetings with the priests of each deanery, the deans and individual parish priests. Most recently I have had three important meetings with the Council of Priests so that I could have their recommendations on the way ahead for every parish of the Archdiocese. I have considered all that has been put before me and I now wish to make certain proposals to a number of our parishes.

From the beginning of this process I was of a mind that many of our churches would be considered for closure. Following the extensive consultation, and understanding your commitment to our places of worship, I decided that, where possible, this should be reconsidered. However, it also became apparent that the commitment to maintain such buildings would have to be accompanied by a simplified pastoral structure and so I have considered each case individually.

Firstly, in the case of the parish of St James', St Andrews and the University Chaplaincy, I would like to propose that they should remain open as places of worship. Secondly, I would like to propose that the territories of the parishes of St James, Most Holy Trinity and Christ the King be merged so as to become one parish known as St James'. Thirdly, it is my further proposal that Christ the King, Pittenweem should close as a place of worship.

I understand that, on learning this, some may wish to express an or a concern about the proposal. I am therefore asking your Parish Priest to hold a meeting with you within the next few weeks to discuss my proposal, and for him to pen a reply to me with your assistance. I would ask that this reply, and any others, kindly reach me no later than 18 June.

Today and in the coming weeks, across the Archdiocese other parishes are being informed of proposals and I know that, for some, this will be a difficult moment. Mindful of this, let us remember each other in prayerful charity as we face this time of change that lies ahead, always asking that God's will be done in all things.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



✠ Leo Cushley
Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh

