



+ July 8, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters at St. Patrick Parish,

May the Lord bless each of you.

Today I have issued the official decree to merge the parish of St. Patrick into St. Joseph Parish, effective September 1, 2022.

Located in Seattle, your parish is surrounded by a number of other parishes, some within walking distance. While the population of Seattle has exponentially grown, the St. Patrick's community has not followed the same trend. These factors and several others, such as declining engagement in the sacraments and dwindling Mass attendance, led to the recommendations for me to merge the parish.

However, before doing so, I asked the Strategic Planning team to work closely with your pastoral coordinator, Deacon Dennis Kelly, and to provide as much assistance as possible for the stakeholder team comprised of your fellow parishioners, to determine the optimal way for St. Patrick's parishioners to move forward.

As you are well aware, there were months of meetings and discussions to determine which parish you would like to join. You explored options at St. Joseph Parish and Sacred Heart Parish. To ensure you were able to ask all your questions, the strategic planning process was temporarily paused while the Jesuits identified a new pastor for St. Joseph Parish.

Recently, I received the letter from Deacon Dennis about where members of your community wish to go. Based on this, I am issuing the attached decree merging St. Patrick into St. Joseph Parish. This means that starting September 1, 2022, St. Patrick Parish will be part of St. Joseph, with Father Chris Cartwright as the pastor.

St. Patrick Parish has been dedicated to social justice, outreach to the poor and care for our deaf, deaf/blind and L'Arche brothers and sisters. These are tangible ways you are living out the Gospel and I encourage each of you to continue living out your faith with your new community. I know the parishioners at St. Joseph are ready to welcome you so that together you can build a vibrant, thriving community that shares the joy and love of our Savior.

I share my sincere gratitude with everyone who has been involved in this process. You have listened to the Holy Spirit and worked tirelessly to help your community move forward with hope and in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Please know of my continued prayers for you. I pray that through these changes you experience the grace of the Holy Spirit and hope for the future. As always, I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul D. Etienne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular initial "P" and a distinct "D" and "E".

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Seattle