



14 November, 2025

Dear Parishioners of Waverley,

May the Lord give you peace! As you know, the Franciscans periodically gather in Chapter to review our life together, to discern the needs of the church around us and to reflect on how we might best meet those needs as faithful followers of St Francis.

We had such a chapter in September and among the changes that will follow from that meeting is that we are asking Fr Bernie to take up a new challenge in Queensland. At our nomination, the Archbishop of Brisbane is appointing him to be Parish Priest of the Ipswich Catholic Community, a large parish to Brisbane's west.

We are aware that this is a big change for Fr Bernie but also one for you as a community. I acknowledge with gratitude the support, friendship and faithfulness you have shown to Fr Bernie and how important that has been as you work together in promoting and advancing the Waverley faith community. In a special way, I wish to pay tribute to the tremendous work that Fr. Bernie has done in renewing, encouraging and celebrating Christian life in Waverley. He has done this to buildings, to liturgies, to sacraments and most especially to people. He has been generous in sharing his gifts and in doing so showing Franciscan joy and simplicity.

Changes such as these moves always mean a certain amount of disruption in a Parish but I am confident that you wish nothing but the best for Fr Bernie as he takes up this new role in Ipswich. Happily, this move will take effect at the end of the year so there will be time aplenty for farewells. In like manner, I wish to assure you that the process is already begun to find a fitting successor for Fr Bernie in Waverley who can build upon his good work. We hope to be able to inform you of that in the New Year.

Please pray for Fr Bernie and for me and the other Franciscans as we make these changes, as I shall continue to pray for you all in Waverley.

Yours in Francis and Clare,

*Stephen Bliss*

Stephen Bliss  
Provincial Minister

**Order of Friars Minor | Province of the Holy Spirit**

*Incorporating the Region of St Andrew (Aotearoa—New Zealand)*

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