

Vincentian Community, Provincial Office

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION, 1625
PROVINCE OF OCEANIA



Dear Parishioners of St Josephs Malvern,

I have always regarded St Josephs as home for me. It has been home for many Vincentians for over a century. When I completed my studies and formation in 1981 I was appointed to Malvern and served my earliest years as a Deacon and then Priest among you. Again in 2004 I was appointed to Malvern from which I went to YTU to teach each day. In 2016 I had to leave you to take up this present role as leader. This week I am back among you but with a heavy heart. I have to inform you that the Vincentians are unable to continue to staff the role of Parish Priest in Malvern.

When Fr Alan Gibson was appointed the next Provincial of the Vincentians commencing in 2022 I had already been looking for a new Parish Priest for Malvern. I have looked at every possible candidate or combinations and I have found it very difficult to nominate a suitable confrere for the role of Parish Priest in the long term. Like many other Orders we are now finding it difficult to maintain all our existing works and missions.

The Vincentians have served the Parish and the Melbourne Archdiocese since 1892. It is a very happy and long association and a proud history of ministry and service. One hundred and twenty-nine years of continual service. And Malvern has not just been a Parish house but also a Mission house from which Vincentians set forth on Mission to outback Victoria and New South Wale communities. Consequently, it is with great reluctance that I now write to you reporting that we cannot fulfil the role, responsibilities and obligations of a Parish Priest for the Parish of Malvern beyond July 2022.

We, the Vincentians, are not leaving you immediately. We would not do that. We owe you, the Parish, so much! Fr Alan will complete his time as Parish Priest at Christmas. Masses will be celebrated as usual through January 2022. Fr Alan will come to Sydney and prepare to take up the role of Provincial. This commences on January 25th. I complete my term as Provincial on January 24th. I will then take a few days to organise myself and then come to Malvern at the end of January to be your Parish Priest again, until the end of July 2022. At the end of July the Archbishop will appoint a new Parish Priest from the Archdiocese.

Through the time ahead we will work together preparing for July 2022. I look forward to being with you again.

Fr Gregory Brett CM
Provincial
9th November 2021