

RESPONSE TO FR MICHAEL TROY ADDRESS – 19<sup>TH</sup> /20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021  
FROM THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Without doubt, this is a very sad day for all of us in Knocklyon Parish. Fr Michael's announcement will be a great shock to many people and we will all have very mixed emotions and, understandably some concern for the future of our parish. It is actually hard to imagine life in our parish without the Carmelite presence, a presence that has seen us through many changes and challenges since the parish was constituted in 1974.

Fr Michael has articulated the difficulties facing the Carmelites, which has resulted in this decision and while we can all fully identify with the reasons, it does not alter the sorrow and sense of loss we all feel at the ending of a relationship which has been so important in developing a sense of community here in the parish. As he mentions, the bonds between the Carmelites and the people here in Knocklyon have enriched us all.

So, while we may be surprised and regret the situation we find ourselves in, we must also acknowledge with gratitude the work of so many Carmelite friars since the foundation of the parish.

Without them, we would not have the vibrant parish community we have today. From the formation of the parish, so many Carmelites have left their mark, from the early halcyon days with the late Fr Paddy Staunton to the current team of Fr Martin, Fr Joe, Fr Fintan and Fr Michael, every one of the Carmelites ministering in Knocklyon has provided their own unique contribution and all have added to the creation of a sense of community that is rare in the world in which we live today. The work undertaken in this community, led by our Carmelite friars has seen Knocklyon become a beacon of Christian endeavour. The building of our Church, of our Primary schools, our Community School, the creation of our Community Centre, the building of the Iona Pastoral Centre and the development of so many parish groups have all aided and enabled parishioners and created a sense of caring for one another.

This caring attitude has been evident more than ever throughout the pandemic when our Carmelite priests kept our faith alive through keeping our Church open and available for prayer and through our online masses. Though it has been difficult and at times traumatic as a community we have pulled through and please

God, we will be able to get back to a fully functioning parish in the near future.

So, what does the future hold ?

From the beginning of February next year the parish will revert to the direct control of the Archdiocese. In due course, the Archbishop will decide on who will minister here and in what circumstances. In the meantime, we will continue to have a Carmelite presence and we hope to use the time between now and then to try and complete as much of our missed sacramental preparation as possible.

Let us all pray that the Lord will guide us through the coming period with strength and compassion. Let us pray too for Fr Martin, Fr Joe, Fr Fintan as they face change in their ministry. Let us look with hope to the future and in the words of St Paul,

*“ May the God of hope fill you all with joy and peace as you*

*Trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power*

*Of the Holy Spirit “*

Romans 15 : 13

Thank you all for your attention – let us pray for one another in the uncertain days ahead.