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To be read at all Masses in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & Divine Infant of Prague Parish during the weekend of 29/30 June 2019

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to you about the future of the Divine Infant of Prague Church in Bestwood. After many meetings and a great deal of consultation I have concluded that the Divine Infant of Prague Church should be closed.

This decision is as a result of parish consultation over many years, as well as due Canonical consideration by the Deanery, the Diocesan Council of Priests and Bishop's Council, which includes the Vicar Generals, Episcopal Vicars and the Chancellor. All of these advisory bodies have advised that the church should be closed.

I am, of course, acutely aware that this decision will sadden those who have attended the Saturday evening Mass in Divine Infant of Prague Church, as well as many who have precious memories of parish and family celebrations which have taken place there and members of St Margaret Clitherow Academy who have visited the church for teaching purposes.

Fr John Martin has assured me that everything will be done to provide appropriate transport to those parishioners in the Bestwood area who will need help to attend the Saturday evening Mass in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Bulwell. He will also make a commitment to celebrating Mass once a week in St Margaret Clitherow Academy. Given that the Divine Infant of Prague Church and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church are already a unified parish, it is his hope and mine that the two communities of parishioners can become one strong united missionary community.

The last Mass in Divine Infant of Prague Church will take place on Saturday 27 July 2019. It will be a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating the life and mission of the church and the work and commitment of past and present parishioners.

I have asked Fr John Martin in September of this year to become parish priest also of the Holy Cross parish in Hucknall, so please do keep him in your prayers and continue to offer him your practical support. These are challenging times for us as a diocese which necessitate difficult decisions.

You are very much in my prayer, and I would welcome your prayer.

Yours sincerely

+ *Patrick*

Rt Rev Patrick McKinney

Bishop of Nottingham

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