



CAPUCHIN PROVINCE OF GREAT BRITAIN
Br. James Boner OFM Cap., Provincial Delegate

8th December 2021

Dear brothers and sisters,

Peace be with you and may this season bless you.

This will come as no surprise but I write to formally let you know about our withdrawal from the Parish of St David's on 31st December, entrusting the parish into the care of the Vincentian Congregation. This has now met with the approval of Bishop Peter. You will have started to see Fr. Poulouse around, Br Paul has already moved to Durham as you know, though will return to Pantasaph for Christmas, and Br. John will join him soon after.

You have known of our intention to leave Pantasaph for some years, a hard decision, but one you have always appreciated with our diminishing numbers in the Province. It has taken a long time to come to pass, but we trust we have now found good stewards of the parish and property in the Vincentian Congregation. I am sorry for where there has been uncertainty, caused by Covid and other factors, and please do let me know if there is anything else we can do to make the transition as smooth as possible.

We give thanks that we have been able to minister in the area for all these years and for all the friendships we have formed. Pantasaph Friary is our Capuchin mother house in this country and has been a home to our Province for over 150 years, variously as a noviciate, house of studies and retreat house, and always in service of the local parish of St David's and the diocese. As you know, the church was opened in 1852, a gift of the Denbigh family, and has been in our care ever since.

The friary would be nothing without the parish, and our ministry would have been nothing without the prayers and support over many many years from thousands of people who have sat in the church of St David's. Thank you to you all, to the Sisters of Charity, to so many parishioners, staff and volunteers.

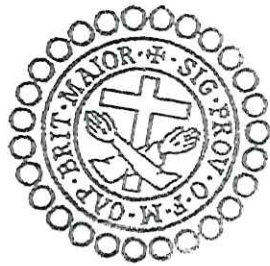
We are of course sad to leave North Wales, one of the first places we settled after our return to England, Wales and Scotland during the nineteenth century. We are sad that we will be further away from our friends here. I remember my own time in Pantasaph fondly and am ever renewed coming up the drive when I return. Yet we give thanks for all to whom we have ministered, all those who supported our works, and for all those friars who have been formed in the friary's walls, inspired by the example of St. Francis, all the saints of our Order and led in unceasing mission by Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord has done great things for us; we trust in the plans He has for the people of the parish, the Friary and the church.



Padre Pio's Shrine will continue under the care of the Vincentian Congregation and we will retain our graveyard in the friary grounds. I hope that friars will be seen walking in the hills around Pantasaph for many years to come. I'm sure you will know how to recognise us!

Thank you for your recent support, your support over the years and please be assured of our continued prayers for the parish. I trust you will have a lovely Christmas with Brs Francis, Paul and John and Fr. Poulouse.

Yours fraternally,



Br. James Boner OFM Cap.
Provincial Delegate