

**DIOCESE OF NELSON  
PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS  
SUMMER 2023**

To the Priests, Religious, and Faithful of the Diocese of Nelson

With the recommendation of the Diocesan Clergy Personnel Committee, I am pleased to make the following Pastoral Appointments to be **effective on July 15, 2023**:

**Fr. Biju Antony, CMI**, is appointed Associate Pastor of St. Edward Parish, Lake Country

**Fr. Jojo Augustine, MST** is appointed Rector of Cathedral of Mary Immaculate, Nelson; Sacred Heart Mission, Kaslo; Sacred Heart Mission, Procter

**Fr. Ruben Buela** is appointed Pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Trail

**Fr. Gabriel Chinnaperiannan** is appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Golden

**Fr. Aaron de Dios** is appointed Pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Kelowna; St. Edward Parish, Lake Country

**Fr. Francis dela Cruz** is appointed Pastor of Canadian Martyrs Parish, Invermere; St. Joseph Mission, Radium Hot Springs

**Fr. Paul John Irumba** is appointed Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Kelowna

**Fr. Cerlouie Jimenez** is appointed Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Kelowna

**Fr. Thomas Kakkaniyil, MST** is appointed Pastor of Holy Child Parish, Summerland; Our Lady of Lourdes Mission, Okanagan Falls

**Fr. Joseph Kizhakethottathil, MST** is appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Grand Forks; Sacred Heart Mission, Greenwood; Our Lady of the Lake Mission, Christina Lake

**Fr. Neil Lustado** is appointed Pastor of St. Michael Parish, Sparwood; Holy Family Parish, Fernie; St. Bernard Mission, Elkford

**Fr. Gerald Sekanga** is appointed Pastor of St. Charles Garnier Parish, Kelowna

**Fr. Peter Tompkins** is appointed Pastor of Christ the King Parish, Oliver; St. Gregory Mission, Hedley; in addition to his duties as Pastor of St. Anne Parish, Osoyoos and Our Lady of Lourdes Mission, Chopaka. He will reside in Osoyoos

**Fr. Rex Velmonte** is appointed Pastor of Christ the Servant Parish, St. Mary Parish, and St. Eugene Mission, Cranbrook

**Other News:**

**Fr. David John** has completed his assignment in the Diocese of Nelson. We are grateful to Fr. John for his many years of dedicated service and wish him well in his future endeavours.

**Fr. Biju Antony, CMI** arrives in the Diocese of Nelson on June 9 from India, for a 5-year ministry contract.

**Other Appointments:**

**Chancellor:** Fr. Cerlouie Jimenez

**Coordinator of Youth Ministry:** Fr. Biju Antony (mentored by Fr. de Dios and Deacon Attwell)

**Communications:** Fr. Neil Lustado

**Chaplain, Immaculata Regional High School:** Fr. Paul John Irumba

**Chaplain, UBC Okanagan:** Fr. Aaron de Dios

Change can be challenging because we all develop relationships and attachments with those we come to know and love. Change can also be seen as an opportunity for growth, new initiatives and at the same time, respecting and building on the good work done before. Please encourage and support of one another as we make our goodbyes with the new parish assignments. Please offer and accept warm welcomes from one another as we get comfortable with the changes and get to know each other. We need each other, our gifts and talents, and everything good we can offer to our parishes. Above all, please be patient with one another, because we can all learn a great deal from the school of patience.

May God bless the priests of the Diocese of Nelson, especially those who are beginning ministry in a new parish!

May God bless our parishioners, who will receive new pastors and welcome them into a new family faith.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

✠ Gregory J. Bittman, Bishop of Nelson