

# DIOCESE OF SALFORD



Wardley Hall, Wardley Hall Road, Worsley, Manchester, M28 2ND

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## **A Pastoral Letter for the Parishes of Saint Winifred, Heaton Mersey, Saint Mary, Heaton Norris and Saint Bernard, Burnage**

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In January, I published a document entitled *Strengthening our Presence as Church: A Journey in Hope*. It contained proposals for the re-structuring of parishes within the diocese. There were just a small number of cases where it had not been possible at that time to determine the best alignment for a particular parish and these included your own situation.

I am very grateful to all those who responded to this further period of consultation, which has now allowed me to make a firm proposal in each case. The implementation of these proposals will happen at a time appropriate to each situation, over the coming months and years.

In the case of the parishes of **Saint Winifred, Heaton Mersey, Saint Mary, Heaton Norris and Saint Bernard, Burnage**, it is proposed that these three parishes amalgamate to form one new parish (served by two priests). It is proposed that this takes place in two stages. Initially, Saint Winifred and Saint Mary will be formally amalgamated. At a later date this new parish will amalgamate with Saint Bernard. It is also proposed that we close Saint Mary's church at the time of the amalgamation with Saint Bernard.

Whatever your feelings may be, I would ask you to accept the proposals I have made about how our parishes might best be organised and engage in the growth and development of the Church in this Diocese, where each one of us is an ambassador for Christ and a missionary disciple. Let us all use the challenges of this present time to build a Church for future generations.

"Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey"

With my prayers and good wishes,

+ John Arnold  
Bishop of Salford

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