

22 June 2023

To the Parishioners of St Mary's Pro Cathedral, Marlborough Street

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As you know, we are living through times of great change and challenge in our Archdiocese, and you are experiencing this in a particular way. Equally, God's providence is evident in the vitality and faithfulness of so many aspects of the life of the community of faith. In many ways we are truly Building Hope.

As you may be aware, I have recently announced my intention that our process of pastoral renewal should include a strengthening of the presence of the Church in the life of the city. I envisage that St Mary's Pro Cathedral, Marlborough Street, and St Andrew's, Westland Row should be twin pillars of this renewed diocesan mission. I believe that the Archdiocese should have a formally designated cathedral and, on the other side of the Liffey, a significant church of basilica rank, which, between them, will develop the presence and outreach of the Church in our city.

I will establish a project group to develop proposals on which the necessary decisions can be based. Ultimately, these are decisions which will require the approval of the relevant authorities in Rome.

I am deeply conscious of the strong tradition and faithful witness of the community which worships in your church and see it as their spiritual home. I am determined that parish ministry and the needs and aspirations of the local communities should be central to our planning and decision-making on this important question. For that reason, consultation and engagement with the parish communities will be priorities in the next stage of development of our thinking on this issue. Your views and suggestions will be sought and will be highly valued.

You may be assured that any development that will take place will respect and build on the remarkable contribution which you have made, and continue to make, to the life of the Archdiocese.

With every blessing,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dermot Farrell', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

+Dermot Farrell
Archbishop of Dublin