



ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE, DRUMCONDRA ROAD LOWER, DUBLIN 9, D09 H4C2

5th June 2024

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

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Last year I wrote to you regarding my belief that the mission of the Church in Dublin in these changed times requires a new approach to our presence at the heart of the city. I indicated that I saw St Mary's Pro-Cathedral and St Andrew's Westland Row as forming twin pillars of this new strategy.

Careful analysis and consultation over subsequent months has supported a process of discernment regarding the approach to be taken. I am grateful to the parishioners and Parish Pastoral Councils of both parishes for your engagement in this consultation and in particular for the proposals which have been presented regarding how the role of both churches in the life and mission of the Archdiocese could be developed.

Following prayerful consideration, I have decided to petition the Holy Father for the designation of St Mary's as the cathedral church of our Archdiocese. I will also begin the process of seeking recognition of the special place and role of St Andrew's in the life of the Church in Dublin by its designation as a minor basilica.

Both churches offer complementary resources for worship, witness and mission to our changing city and diocese. In line with their particular traditions, I envisage that both churches and parishes will cooperate closely in implementing this new strategic approach. I am establishing an implementation group led by Bishop Paul Dempsey to oversee this process and to support both parishes. I am inviting through this letter both parish communities to begin to implement your own proposals for development, renewed in faith and hope by this commissioning for new service to the Church in Dublin.

When I wrote to you last year, I assured you that parish ministry and the needs and aspirations of both communities would be central to the process of discernment and planning. I assure you again now that these exciting new developments will respect and build on the remarkable contribution which succeeding generations of parishioners have made to the life of the Church in Dublin.

May St Kevin and St Laurence O'Toole, patrons of our diocese, pray for us as we proclaim the Good News to the people of our time.

Sincerely yours,



+Dermot Farrell

Archbishop of Dublin