



St. Monica's Catholic Church

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23rd June 2021

My friends, fellow parishioners of St. Monica's Parish, Moonee Ponds,

I am writing to let you know that on the 21st of September this year, I will be turning 75 years of age, the normative retirement age for priests in the Melbourne Archdiocese, and accordingly, I have written to Archbishop Peter Comensoli advising him of my intention to retire from being Parish Priest of St. Monica's Parish at the end of this year.

Archbishop Peter has written back to me acknowledging receipt of my letter and to communicate that my appointment as Parish Priest of St. Monica's Parish will formally end in January 2022.

Whilst no longer being a Parish Priest from January 2022, I will still be a priest of the Melbourne Archdiocese, living not too far away, being available to help your new Parish Priest, or any Parish Priest, with pastoral support.

My wanting to inform you of my decision to retire as your Parish Priest at the end of the year, is to help ensure you hear the news from me and not as a 'story' leaking into the Parish from some outside source.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for accepting me as your Parish Priest for the past 7 years; 7 years during which I have celebrated some of key moments of life with you, including the death of my own mother.

For all there has been, the past 7 years, I speak a deep and grateful prayer of 'THANKS!'

For what there will be in the future, I speak a trusting prayer, 'YES!'

May Christ, our Way, Truth and Life, continue to watch over and guide each and every one of us,

Faithfully yours,

(Fr. Anthony Feeney)