



The Parish of St. Dunstan

July 9th, 2023
the 6th Sunday after Pentecost

To the Children of God at the Parish of St. Dunstan,

The Parish of St. Dunstan is an incredibly important spiritual community in the lower mainland. Your witness to the love of God for all of God's beloved children is not shared by everyone around you. Your commitment to the way of Jesus in acts of service to the people of this neighbourhood is not practiced by everyone around you. Your desire for spiritual renewal and Christian formation is not felt by everyone around you. And yet you persist in these. I always give thanks to God for you.

I am so grateful that for the past nine years I have been able to work with you, walk with you, pray with you and dream with you. It has been an incredible honour and I am very proud of what we have done together.

A few weeks ago, at the request of the bishop, I began discerning a new ministry path. I accepted an interview with the canonical committee of the Parish of St. Mark in Ocean Park. Subsequently they asked the bishop to appoint me rector of their parish beginning on September 16th. I have decided to accept this appointment. And so my last Sunday at the Parish of St. Dunstan will be September 10th.

Discerning God's call on our lives is not ever easy. I have walked with many of you over the years as you have faced times of transition and I know how difficult these decisions are. We all know this. But after meeting with the canonical committee, learning the story and current situation of St. Mark's, and praying, I am sure this is where God is leading me. I think I can be their pastor in this next stage of ministry.

This is not an easy decision. And in a lot of ways, it doesn't make any sense. I am grateful for your prayers during this time of transition. Especially for my children, for whom this is really the only spiritual home they have ever known. I know they will miss this place and the people here who have nurtured them and loved them.

God has a good future for the children of God at the Parish of St. Dunstan. As you begin discerning your next steps as a congregation, you will be in my prayers. God has given you every gift needed for this moment. The light of God, as reflected through the people in this place, will shine brightly in the lower mainland as you continue to follow Jesus in this new time.

Yours truly,

The Reverend David Taylor, Rector