

St. Paul the Apostle Parish under the Pastoral care of the MSSP

Ready for the Journey

I have got my leave.
Bid me farewell, my friends.
I bow to you all and take my departure.

Here I give back the keys of my door,
and I give up all my claims to my home.
I only ask for kind words from you.

We were neighbours for long,
but I have received more that I could give.

Now the day has dawned.
A summons has come
and I am ready for my journey.

*Written by Rabindranath Tagore
(Modified for this occasion)*

January 1999



January 2023

Dear parishioners below you will find farewell messages from MSSP members who shared the life of the parish either who served here or spent a significant time here.

Fr Mark Demanuele writes:

Dear Parishioners at St. Paul's Dundas Toronto! I still remember the first few days with you when I came to the Parish. I was anxious and did not know what to expect. However, the warm welcome, the joy, and the love of the Maltese community changed everything. It's been a while since I left, but I assure you that you are always in my heart, as that was my first assignment out of Malta. You made it easier for me, and even though I was still young, you helped me grow and mature in my ministry. Thank you for all the love you showed, and even if the MSSP community was unknown to most of you, you welcomed us with open arms. I am sad that we must let go of a beautiful community, but circumstances are not encouraging. However, I cherish every day I was in the parish as the first MSSP Parish priest. Though we passed through hard times, we overcame them, making the parish beautiful and welcoming to many other people of different nationalities. I assure you that you are always part of my life, and thank you for making it so meaningful. God bless you!

Fr Dominic Cachia writes:

Dear Parishioners, I spent seventeen years among you, a special and blessed time. Recently, I had the unexpected opportunity to be with you once again. I was glad to see you again, as you were happy too to see me again. Once again we shared happy and sad moments. We had moments too of socializing especially at the New Year's Eve dinner dance and other events. With Fr. Ivano I shared the ministry of celebrating masses, funerals and both hospital and home visits. Now that the time has come for the MSSP to move I encourage you to continue to love and support the Maltese/Canadian Parish of St. Paul by coming to worship together and help the new Administrator Fr. Roy to continue to bring you closer to God. You are in my love and prayers. God bless you all.

Fr Emanuel Parnis writes:

I wish to take this opportunity of our departure from St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Dundas to thank the parishioners for all the support they gave me during my time there. I wish you all the best and I promise to keep you in my prayers. May God bless you and keep on guiding you on and on in your spiritual journey..

Fr Mario Micallef writes:

Times of transition are never easy. Even harder are times when one has to say goodbye. And yet, these are part of the life of every human being, and of every group where people gather. The parish community is not immune to this.

As we, Paulist Missionaries, say goodbye to St Paul's in Toronto, I find myself reflecting on my own time shared with you as your pastor. During this time friendships were formed, happy moments shared, and tears joined in moments of sadness. I know sometimes I might have hurt or disappointed someone, through human weakness rather than bad intent, and for this, I am truly sorry. Yet, thankfully the good times by far outweigh the bad ones. Many beautiful memories shared with many of you will stay etched in my memory for a long time to come.

As the parish moves into new, uncharted waters, I assure you of my prayerful support. As what happened to St Paul on the road to Damascus, moments of complete darkness and a sense of loss can lead, with God's grace, to a wonderful and bright future. God's providence has never failed us. I strongly believe it will not do so now.

May God abundantly bless each and every one of you.

Fr Frankie Cini writes:

I was a deacon at Dundas during my studies in Canada in 2000-2002. Over thirty people then came over to Zebbug Gozo, on the 18th of August 2002, for my first solemn Mass. My memories of St. Paul's are etched in my heart even at this sad time of parting. In those days with Frs. Mark Demanuele, the late Fr. Karm Borg, and Fr. Dominic Cachia I found my feet as a young minister, and was shaped by the friendliness of the parishioners. The lasting genuine friendships nurtured and that time have remained special gifts on my journey! I have faith that this new chapter in the history of the Parish is an invitation to explore new ways of seeking the Lord's calling to faithfulness and joy. And if ever in Malta, our MSSP places are your home, always!

Fr Giovann Tabone writes:

Dear all, looking back albeit still very fresh my time with you last year was indeed a great blessing. Even if it was brief and most of my time was occupied with my studies, yet you made it, literally, living at home away from home. For this, for all your hospitality, friendship and truly 'being Maltese' made my sojourn indeed a blessing. For this, thank you. While for us as MSSP, this chapter is certainly a bitter time of letting go, yet myself joining the chorus of other MSSP brothers who ministered and stayed at our beloved Maltese community in Canada was an honor and great delight. May you continue to be a seed of true witness to our Christian faith and heritage! Blessings.

My dear brothers and sisters of the parish, the time has finally come to say goodbye. When I arrived in 2019, I was a bit hesitant because I was thinking what am I, an Aussie-Italian, going to do among the Maltese-Canadian community? That hesitancy disappeared pretty quickly due to the warm welcome I received and the relationship we built over these years. Together with Fr. Mario, it has been a true privilege to walk in faith with you and to be of service. We have laughed and cried, shoveled plenty of snow, and met Christ in many ways. Despite the sadness I feel, I have been blessed with this experience with you. I ask you to hold me in your prayers as I take my next step as I promise to hold you in my heart and prayers as you move into the future together with Fr. Roy. May our faithful God bless you all.

Fr. Ivano