

# DERMOT FARRELL

BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND



FAVOUR OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE

**ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN AND PRIMATE OF IRELAND**

## DECREE

Merging the Parishes of Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral  
and Saint Francis Xavier, Gardiner Street

In order to provide for the long-term pastoral and spiritual needs of the People of God in the Parishes of the Pro-Cathedral and Gardiner Street, taking account of the changing pattern of the population in this area and the availability of Priests to serve the needs of the Archdiocese in the foreseeable future, necessitates the need to alter the arrangements for the pastoral care of the People of God in this area.

On 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the Provincial of the Irish Province of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), Very Reverend Shane Daly, S.J., informed me that, as a Province, they were no longer in a position to provide pastoral care for the Parish of Saint Francis Xavier, Gardiner Street, due to limited resources; lack of vocations and the age profile of their current members.

After deep consideration of the issues at hand, namely, changing demographics in the area; the steep decline in the catholic population of the parish since it was first established; concerns regarding individual pastoral vitality; the ability to celebrate the liturgy; financial situations and limited resources, their geographical proximity and the declining numbers of available clergy in the Archdiocese of Dublin and the Society of Jesus (S.J.) to provide pastoral care; I, Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin, having consulted with the Priests presently working in the area, the Parish Pastoral Councils, the parishioners, and with the Council of Priests, as required by cc. 50, 127 and 515§2 of the *Code of Canon Law (1983)*, exercise my ordinary power, and in virtue of c. 515§2 of the aforementioned Code, do hereby decree that the parochial territories of Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral and Saint Francis Xavier, Gardiner Street, are to be united, joined and merged together (cf. 1(c) ii of the *Congregation for the Clergy, Instruction: "Procedural Guidelines for the Modification of Parishes, the Closure or Relegation of Churches to Profane, but not Sordid Use, and the Alienation of the Same, (30<sup>th</sup> April 2013)*), whereby the Parish of Saint Francis Xavier, Gardiner Street will be subsumed into the Parish of Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral.

The Parish of Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral shall comprise all its existing territories and all the territories of the former Parish of Saint Francis Xavier, Gardiner Street. The Parish is assigned to the Deanery of North City Centre.

The Parish Church will be the Pro-Cathedral Church of Saint Mary's, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1. All sacramental registers hitherto preserved by Saint Francis Xavier, Gardiner Street, are to be conveyed to Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral, where they are to be faithfully preserved according to the norms of c. 535§§ 1-5.

This decree is to be effective on the 31<sup>st</sup> Day of the Month of July 2024.

This decree is to be communicated to the Administrator of the Pro-Cathedral, Very Reverend Kieran McDermott, and the current Parish Priest of Gardiner Street, Very Reverend Niall Leahy, S.J., who are the canonical representatives of the two Parishes affected by this extinctive - union and merger.

In order to ensure for legitimate notification, I further order this decree to be made public to all the faithful through its publication on the Archdiocesan Website and those of the merging Parishes.

This decree may be challenged within the peremptory time limit of ten days from the legitimate notification of the decree and in accordance with the norm of law (c. 1734§2).

My principal motivation in this merger, is contained in the supreme law of the *Code of Canon Law* (c. 1752) - *Salus Populi Suprema Lex* - to provide for the pastoral care of souls, and for the good of the faithful People of God.



  
Archbishop of Dublin

Given at Archbishop's House, Dublin 9  
This 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 2024  
Vigil of the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Chancellor