



+May 22 - 23, 2021

*To the communities of
St. Francis Parish, Friday Harbor
Lopez Island Station
Eastsound Station
Our Lady of the Rock Priory, Shaw Island
Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Shaw Island*

Dear Friends,

I am happy today to greet all of you in the name of the Risen Lord Jesus!

In my letter to you in March, I shared with you that your Priest Administrator, Father Watson Paramisvam, HGN, was awaiting a final response from U.S. Immigration Services on his permanent residency petition. To date, we have still not heard, and Father Watson's current religious worker visa is quickly coming to its expiration date.

At this time, I write to inform you that after consultation with the Priest Personnel Board, I have appointed Father Albert Arulappan, HGN, as your new Priest Administrator.

As you know, Father Albert is a wonderful priest who will serve you and your parish with good faith and dedication. Be assured that he will receive all the support and assistance from the Archdiocese necessary to ensure quality pastoral care for your parish community. Additionally, I have appointed Father Clarence Jones as the Parochial Vicar and Chaplain to Our Lady of the Rock Priory on Shaw Island and the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma on Shaw Island. Father Jones is currently the Parochial Vicar of Sacred Heart Parish in Enumclaw and St. Aloysius Parish in Buckley. At the same time, I want to personally thank Father Watson for his tremendous service and leadership these past four years as your priest administrator. I ask you to keep him in your prayers as he makes plans to return to India later this summer to accept his next mission for the Heralds of the Good News.

Times of transition are challenging. However, if embraced in an open and positive way, this can be a time of blessing. I am confident that will be the case as you support Father Albert in his new role and welcome Father Jones to the community.

In the Heart of Christ,

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Seattle