

## **Fr John's Letter to the parishes of Holy Redeemer & St Joseph's: August 2021**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

First of all, I would like to thank you so much for your immense generosity in celebrating my recent birthday. I had done my best to keep it quiet! My best was not good enough obviously! I am so grateful for all your cards and gifts, which have been too many to count. My grateful thanks also to all at Holy Redeemer for the wonderful gathering after Mass last Sunday. My apologies to those who turned up for the mid-week celebration at St Joseph's to find me absent. I was there in spirit! All very much appreciated. I am indeed blessed to be a part of two wonderful parish families.

Second, many of you will have learned that I have suffered a further set-back regarding my health, which for the moment has rendered my current incapacity. It has been a long haul since contracting the Virus back in March last year. I had hoped that having a lighter load might do the trick. It seems that I am pretty much back where I was last year. I am blessed with a fantastic medical team, who have done their best to keep me afloat during this time. I continue to be very grateful to them. I am now advised that I need to take time out, completely, to have a chance at recovery.

This is not good news. I am so sorry for having to spread it. I have communicated the situation to the Diocese and await further guidance. In the meantime, I remain indebted to Brother Hugh and the Pastoral Council for overseeing matters until further notice. They will keep you updated as we go.

God bless you all.

Fr John