

August 17, 2016

Dear friends in Christ,

This past Sunday, I celebrated at St Barnabas in Tomahawk. I have been going up to Tomahawk for a 1 pm Eucharist for just short of 2 years, and Sunday was my last Sunday at St Barnabas. In two weeks, I will be celebrating my last regular Eucharist at St James in Mosinee, after about 8 years.

Why am I ending my visits to these two congregations? It was time. Time to encourage both congregations and the diocese to plan for the future. I had been in both places simply to make sure in the present the Eucharist was celebrated in those communities on a regular basis. I never intended to be a long term solution to the need for a priest in either place (though 8 years is pretty long!). Both congregations are now working with the diocese to plan a future. In the case of Mosinee, Deacon Amanda Sampey is exploring with the congregation the possibility of becoming a priest for that congregation.

What will I do with all my time on Sundays now? I'm sure I will find lots to do. One thing I am excited about, after sharing the idea with our vestry, is to have a short, 15 minute, parish meeting on the first Sunday of each month. The vestry will help choose one topic we can do a presentation on, and leave about 5 minutes for questions and comments. The goal is communication and transparency, without sacrificing the parish family brunch on the first Sunday of the month.

All this is part of living as a community, and living in a larger community with other congregations. I want to thank St John's for your support of me, and of the two congregations in Mosinee and Tomahawk. Together we proclaimed how important the Sunday Eucharist is, not just for the people of St John's, but for the smaller congregations around us. We made it possible for God's presence and love to be known and celebrated. I do thank you, and am thankful for you.

Fr David