



Office of the Bishop

April 29, 2026

DIOCESE OF NELSON Pastoral Appointments June 1, 2026

To the Priests, Religious and Faithful of the Diocese of Nelson

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am pleased to make the following Pastoral Appointments:

Fr. Biju Antony, CMI is appointed Administrator at St. Edward Parish in Lake Country (he will continue as Pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Kelowna).

Fr. Shaiju Kunjuvareed, CMI is appointed pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Revelstoke and its mission Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Nakusp.

Fr. Jim McHugh is appointed pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Creston, its missions of Holy Redeemer in Riondel and the Lower Kootenay Reserve.

Fr. Lawrence Kanickaisamy is appointed Rector of Cathedral of Mary Immaculate in Nelson, and its missions of Sacred Heart Parish in Kaslo and Sacred Heart Parish in Procter.

Fr. Ferdinand Bayarong is appointed pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Trail.

Fr. Sylvester Ibekwe is appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Kimberley and its missions of St. Anthony in Canal Flats and St. Joseph in Jaffray.

Fr. Manoj Pathiyil George is appointed the Hospital Chaplain at Kelowna General Hospital.

Fr. Jojo Augustine, MST has been recalled by the Missionary Society of St. Thomas the Apostle and is returning to India.

Fr. Xaviour Chakku, CMI term has ended and he is returning his religious community, the Congregation of Carmelites of Mary Immaculate in Preshitha Coimbatore Province, India.

I am grateful to both Fr. Augustine and Fr. Chakku for their ministry in the Diocese of Nelson and wish them both safe travels home and God's blessing for their continued ministry in the Church.

Deanery Boundary Change: St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Revelstoke, St. John the Baptist Mission in Fauquier and Our Lady of Lourdes in Nakusp will be moved from the North Okanagan Deanery to the East Kootenay Deanery on June 1, 2026.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Bittman', with a small cross symbol at the end.

✠ Gregory J. Bittman
Bishop of Nelson