

Fr. Matthias – Message of appreciation and farewell

On the 8th November 2018 I arrived in the Archdiocese of Dublin, my first time on the island of Ireland. Based on the good history of the Irish missionaries in my country, Uganda, it was an exciting moment. On arrival, I was attached to Holy Trinity Donaghmede and St. Paul's Ayrfield parishes. Thanks to the Clergy: Fr. Gerry - Moderator, Fr. Gerard, Fr. Paddy, Deacon Gerard; the Religious- Sr. Margaret and Sr. Mary; parish Secretaries – Noreen, Anne, Freda, (not forgetting Tamine who recently left us for another job), the PPC members; Sacristans, Eucharistic ministers, Ministers of the Word, Choirs, musicians, our lovely volunteers, and teachers with whom I closely served God's people for a period of three years. I heartily thank all the people in our two parishes as well as others for the love, hospitality, friendship, care and all the good shared with me. It has been an enriching faith experience. Please, allow me express my appreciation to the members of the Legion of Mary. Their devotion to Mother Mary and apostolate brought me closer to many people in our parishes.

I remain indebted to you all.

While here, you allowed me share some of your social moments; of joy and sorrow! I never lacked a cup of tea, a chocolate, bread, etc..! You allowed me join in those challenging moments; of sickness and grief! Some of the people I got to know so well have gone to the Lord. May they rest in peace! Covid 19 also exacerbated the sad moments! Thank you for the support during the lock-downs.

Friends, to you I have been a priest serving you, but in reality a human being with my limitations. For those moments I did not meet your expectation, please accept my sincere apologies! A special thank you to those who in a friendly way advised me in a number of ways! God bless you. While with you, as St. Paul says in 1Cor 3,5-9 I have merely made a small contribution to God's work. Please, rest assured of my prayers. Please, remember me your prayers. Blessings!

Fr Matthias

(Leaving Mid Jan 2022)