



+May 2-3, 2026

*To the Parishioners of
Prince of Peace Mission, Belfair
St. Gabriel Parish, Port Orchard
St. Nicholas Parish, Gig Harbor*

Dear Friends,

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

Today, I write to inform you that your parish family will be entering a time of transition in pastoral leadership beginning July 1, 2026. I am pleased to announce that, after consultation with the Priest Personnel Board, I have appointed Father Anthony Mahesh Narapamu as your new parochial vicar. Father Mahesh is a priest from the Society of the Holy Spirit in India, and he is currently parochial vicar at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Burien and Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette parishes in Seattle.

Father Mahesh is a wonderful priest who will diligently and faithfully serve you and your parish family. Be assured that he will receive all the necessary support and assistance from the Archdiocese of Seattle, Father Mark Guzman and the great parish family staff to ensure quality pastoral care for your parish family.

At the same time, I want to personally thank Father Philip Raether for his generous service and leadership these last two years as your parochial vicar. I ask you to please keep Father Raether in your prayers as he moves forward in responding to God's call in his new assignment as pastor of St. Cecilia Parish in Bainbridge Island, St. Olaf Parish in Poulsbo and St. Peter Mission in Suquamish.

Times of transition can be challenging, especially as we prepare to say goodbye to a familiar presence and welcome a new priest. However, if embraced in an open and positive way, this can be a time of blessing for the entire parish and the Catholic Church of Western Washington. I am confident that will be the case as you welcome Father Mahesh to your parish family. As always, I remain,

In The Heart of Christ,

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