

S E D E V A C A N T E

DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON

Notice from Diocesan Administrator to Storrington Parishioners

I have to share with you the news that, after twelve years, the Chemin Neuf community have taken the difficult decision to leave Storrington in about a year's time, at the end of June 2027. I know that we are all very grateful for everything they have done in Storrington, both for the parish and for the wider community, and I know that you will join me in praying for them and for their continuing work elsewhere in England and throughout the world.

This announcement will arouse concern because it raises serious questions about the future use of the church by the parish; because Chemin Neuf leases the whole priory site from the Norbertine Fathers, and the diocese subleases the church, sacristy and car park from Chemin Neuf. The situation is further complicated because we currently do not have a bishop, and major decisions cannot be taken by the diocese until a new bishop is appointed.

It is important that parishioners are involved in discerning how to respond to this new situation. To this end an open meeting for all parishioners will be held on **Wednesday 17 June at 7.30pm in the The Priory Hall, Storrington**. I will attend in my role as Diocesan Administrator, along with the parish clergy and Sarah Kilmartin, the diocesan Chief Operating Officer. The meeting will present more details of the situation; there will be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have; and we can begin the process of discerning the best way forward.

For the present, let us keep everyone involved – parishioners, diocesan authorities, Chemin Neuf and the Norbertine Fathers in our prayers – and commend everything to the prayers of Our Lady of England.



Canon Jonathan Martin
Diocesan Administrator