

Dear Friends,

February 28, 2021

In 2002 Kathleen and I arrived in this (then) small town to purchase a home. I had come out on my own for an interview and, as a result, Kathleen had never seen Cochrane. While we were driving down the Big Hill over-looking the mountains and the beautiful valley, she turned to me and said, “good choice Greg.” A lot has evolved over these 20 years, but that view is as beautiful as ever.

It is incredible that it has been almost twenty years since we arrived here. We are very grateful for the time we have had here and for the graciousness of our parish community. Even during this difficult time of the pandemic, I have been amazed by the kindness, faithfulness and prayerfulness of God’s people here.

Next month I will turn 65 and so am eligible for retirement. I can also see that despite the pandemic and a secularizing culture (or precisely *because* of those things) we have new and timely opportunities to bear witness to the life, death, resurrection and coming in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the town of Cochrane and in the surrounding area. This lively witness will require renewed energy and vision. Having carefully considered all of this, prayed and sought guidance from people that I trust, I have come to the conclusion that this is the right time for me to retire and for the parish to seek a new Incumbent. Therefore, I have informed the Archbishop, the Archdeacon and the wardens that I would like to begin this new stage in my life, and the parish’s life, on June 1 of this year.

This has been a very difficult decision. We love this parish and the people in it. And I do, of course, wish that the time of my retirement had not coincided with the time of the pandemic. But God will bless our “going out and our coming in” as Psalm 121 says, even in this unusual situation.

The process for choosing a new Incumbent will be clearly outlined to the parish by the wardens. They will be working closely with the Archdeacon who will be guiding this process. This process will provide an opportunity for everyone to pray and reflect as you move into the future that Christ is preparing for you. At the culmination of this process the parish will recommend a candidate to the Archbishop. This process will be outlined for you by the wardens during the upcoming week.

In the meantime, I am delighted that Fr Tony Hilling has agreed to act as Priest-in-Charge (that is as a sort of Incumbent between Incumbents), that Fr Matthew will continue throughout the summer to be Curate, and that Pastor Faith Brace and Rev. Deacon Elizabeth Short will continue as part of the clergy team. I feel confident that I am leaving you in good hands with these remarkable clergy.

As you also know, you have outstanding lay leadership with Floyd and Ruth-Anne as your wardens and an extremely capable and active parish council. I am grateful that we also have in place exceptionally capable and dedicated parish staff. Sonya, Anne and Rose are conscientious and faithful servants of God in this parish. And beyond that we have many very dedicated leaders. I feel confident that All Saints is continuing forward with a strong faithful and dedicated group of leaders. You are so blessed to have such remarkable leadership going forward.

Our family will continue to live in Cochrane. Kathleen will continue in her work of caring for people dealing with dementia, and also studying as she increases her knowledge in this area. Our daughter MaryKate also has a home here. She will continue to work and also continue her studies. I hope, God-willing, to continue to work with the diocese in a couple of areas and will also continue to study, as I hope to have opportunities to assist in adult education in the diocese. I also hope to take this opportunity to spend more time at the Friary (Mt St Francis).

The dog and the cat are very pleased with the news of my coming retirement. The infamous dog Milo, in particular, anticipates a lot of walks and expeditions. (We'll see how he behaves himself). This is an amazing place to be able to spend more time outside in general. The beauty of this part of the world alone makes has made this a very good choice.

You are a delightful, faithful Christian community. It has been more than an honour to be a part of this parish, it is a joy. Bless you as you continue forward, following Christ into the future that he is preparing for you, which he is.

We will have opportunities to celebrate in some form before the beginning of June. Until then, thank you for your faithfulness and Christ's blessings on all of you.

The Rev. Greg Clark  
Incumbent