

Dear Parishioners of St. Joan of Arc Parish,

Greetings of Christ to all of you. I am thrilled to write to you for the first time as your pastor. When I was asked to take on this role, I must admit that I had not previously heard of our parish. However, upon learning about its vibrant and diverse community, I felt a sense of excitement and joy about working together and serving you.

As a first-time pastor, I ask for your patience as I familiarize myself with the pastoral and administrative aspects of parish life. Allow me to share a bit about my background. I was born and raised in the beautiful state of Kerala, India, in a family with a strong religious foundation. From a young age, I nurtured a desire to become a priest. After completing high school, I journeyed to Uttar Pradesh in North India for my priestly formation, with the aim of serving as a missionary priest. I devoted my entire formation time there and was ordained for the Diocese of Bijnor on May 7, 2012.

Before coming to Canada in late 2018, I served in my diocese for six years but sought further pastoral experience due to a lack of resources and opportunities to administer the sacraments in my home country. In the Archdiocese of Toronto, I have been privileged to serve for the past six and a half years. My first appointment was at St. Ann's Parish in Brampton, where I served as an associate pastor for three years, followed by another three years at St. Joseph Parish in Mississauga.

To my dear parishioners, please know that I am dedicated to working alongside you to rejuvenate our parish, build our community, and glorify God's name through our service. I am here to assist, support, and accompany you in your spiritual journeys. Should you wish to meet with me, please contact the parish office to arrange an appointment. I am always available for you.

Let us collaborate to strengthen our parish and build God's kingdom together. May God bless you, your families, and our parish community. May the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, all the angels and saints, and especially St. Joan of Arc, guide and protect us all.

Fr. Anish Alex, Pastor

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." — Jeremiah 29:11