



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saint John

CLERGY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Most Reverend Christian Riesbeck, CC, Bishop of Saint John, announces the following clergy changes:

Fr. Daniel Melanson – Fr. Melanson has resigned as Pastor of Our Lady of the Rivers Parish in Red Bank and Sevogle for health reasons. Fr. Peter Igwe will continue to serve as the Parochial Administrator of Our Lady of the Rivers, with full pastoral responsibility for the Parish.

Fr. Owen Burns – Following a time of prayer and discernment I have decided to discontinue the position of Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Services as of July 1, 2025. I am also re-evaluating the Diocese's vocations strategy and while this is happening, I will assume the functions of vocations director. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Burns for his generosity and service in these roles for the past five years. I am grateful for Fr. Burns' continued pastoral leadership at St. Mark's Parish in Quispamsis.

On this Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus we remember all our priests who, in a particular way embrace the vocation to love the people of God with the heart of Jesus. Because of this, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is also the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests. I ask that you remember our priests as they work diligently, praying that the Lord will strengthen them in his love and give them hearts after the Shepherd's own heart. We pray also for our two seminarians, Joseph Desmond and Ryan Tapley, and those discerning a vocation to the priesthood.

Let us continue to pray for our Diocese as we pursue our vision as pilgrims of hope in this Jubilee year.

Issued on Friday, June 27, 2025, by + Most Reverend Christian Riesbeck, CC, Bishop of Saint John.