

His Grace
Archbishop Leo Cushley
Diocesan Offices
Gillis Centre
100 Strathearn Road
Edinburgh
EH9 1BB

Friday, 15 June 2018

Your Grace,

Following on from your recent Letter to the Parishioners of St Mary of the Angels Camelon. I write to give you their response to the Proposal to merge with St Francis Xavier's and St Anthony's to become the Parish of St Francis Xavier, and to close St Mary of the Angels for worship.

As you can imagine there was great distress and anger on the day the letter was read out. I met with the parish committee on Wednesday 23rd May who asked me for the criteria for the proposed closure and if you would be willing to meet with the people of the parish. I did ask in an email if this meeting would be possible however, you intimated that a meeting would not be possible due to the number of parishes facing changes.

On Monday 4th June I held a meeting with the people of the parish, attended by about 70 parishioners. This was a very difficult meeting for everyone and there was a lot of hurt, anger and confusion regarding the proposal. At the meeting I summarised the process so far, from the Pastoral Letter "We have found the Messiah", the cluster meeting with the Archbishop, the cluster meetings and the subsequent meetings of the Archbishop with the Dean, priests of the Deanery and the council of priests. (A copy of this presentation is attached). By the end of the meeting there was a clear rejection of the Proposal to close the church, however, there was no clear consensus on whether to agree to the merger of parishes. (The notes of this meeting are also attached.)

On Sunday 10th June, the parishioners held a meeting in the church after the morning mass to form their own response, they did not want me to respond on their behalf. I understand that this response has been posted to you by recorded delivery. (A copy is attached). **In their response the people of the parish have rejected both the proposal to merge parishes and the closure of the church.** Again, they are asking for the criteria that was used for the proposal and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you. In addition, they have outlined what they see as positive aspects of the parish.

I trust that you will now give their response due consideration and help them to understand the criteria for the proposed merger with St Francis Xavier's and St Anthony's and the closure of St Mary of the Angels.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Jamie Boyle