



Rt Rev Michael Campbell OSA  
*Bishop of Lancaster*

Bishop's Office  
The Pastoral Centre  
Balmoral Road  
Lancaster  
LA1 3BT

***To all Priests in the Diocese***

5 December 2017

Dear Father,

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you that **Monsignor Patrick O'Dea** died on the morning of Wednesday 29 November 2017 in Lancaster. May this long-serving and highly-respected senior priest of the Lord rest in the peace of the Risen Lord!

Patrick Gerard O'Dea was born on 20 June 1923 in Killeely, County Limerick, Ireland, where he later attended Killeely National School and then the Christian Brothers School, Sexton Street, Limerick. He then studied for the Priesthood at St Peter's College, Wexford.

On 6 June 1948 in Wexford, he was ordained to the Priesthood for the Diocese of Lancaster. Following priestly ordination, he was appointed Assistant Priest to St Margaret Mary, Carlisle (1948-1951); The Sacred Heart, Barrow (1951-1955); St Walburge, Preston (1955-1963). In 1963, he was appointed to found the Diocesan Youth Service based at Lakeside House, Keswick, later alongside serving as Parish Priest at Our Lady & St Charles, Keswick (1967-1969). In 1969, the Youth Service moved to Castlerigg Manor, Keswick where Father Paddy remained on for one year.

Monsignor O'Dea was then appointed Parish Priest at Our Lady Star of the Sea, St Annes on Sea, (1970-1985) – during which period he was instrumental in introducing the Diocese and his own parish to the Permanent Diaconate; St Joseph, Preston (1985-1991); St Anthony, Preston (1991-1998) and Mater Amabilis, Ambleside (1998-2006). He served as Vicar General from 1985 until June 2000 and was then elected Diocesan Administrator after Bishop Brewer's death and before Bishop O'Donoghue's appointment to Lancaster from June 2000 until July 2001. He served as Vicar General again from 2001 until 2003 displaying as always his devotion, his discretion and his creative talent.

Monsignor O'Dea officially retired in 2006 and yet moved to live and serve as a devoted Chaplain at Nazareth House, Lancaster. He will be remembered as a dedicated priest in the service of the Diocese. He had a great rapport with people and was a man of great prayer and love of God and his people.

***The funeral arrangements have been communicated to me as follows:***

**There will not be a Deanery/Vigil Mass on Wednesday 13 December 2017 but there *will* be Mass for the Sisters and community at Nazareth House at 9.30am on Thursday 14 December 2017, prior to the Requiem Mass at St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster.**

**The Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster on Thursday 14 December 2017 at 11.30am, followed by burial in Ireland.**

Priests who wish to concelebrate at the Requiem Mass at the Cathedral are most welcome but are requested to bring an alb and purple stole or they may, of course, attend in choir (cassock and cotta). Please do let the Cathedral parish office know beforehand of your intended attendance: Tel: 01524 384820 or [Clergy@lancastercathedral.org.uk](mailto:Clergy@lancastercathedral.org.uk)

My deepest condolences go to Monsignor Paddy's nephews and nieces and wider family in Ireland, his former parishioners, his priest friends, the residents, Sisters and staff at Nazareth House, and indeed to all who have lost a dear friend and brother priest.

With every good wish and prayer,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

*+ Michael Campbell OSA*

✠ Michael G Campbell OSA  
Bishop of Lancaster