

Dear Friends,

October is now upon us! *Winterfylleth* was the Anglo-Saxon or Old English name for the month of October, it marked and celebrated the beginning of winter. As the seasons change, I always find an excitement about what lies, yes in the cooler, windy and rain-filled days, but also the remnants of summer fading, still to be enjoyed. So I encourage you to make the most of being outdoors, enjoying the garden, in walking and in sport and changing the kinds of food we eat according to the new season.

With the harvest in recent memory, we now look forward to living off the fruits of our labour, giving thanks to God as we enter into the autumn season proper, with bronzed trees and a baptism of leaves. But remember, though it is autumn in the Northern hemisphere, it is spring in the Southern hemisphere. Our world in the 'macro' is bigger than our own personal experience in the 'micro'. This is something we should always bear in mind in being open to what is happening in the season around us, especially in our faith. There are different seasons in life, and this autumn I would like to warmly invite you to attend one of our Harvest Festivals nearest to you. You might just be surprised how ordinary people gather to say thank you to God for all the good and provision in our lives, and how we can also responsibly look after His creation for the common good of humanity.

In the next season ahead for our Benefice and Deanery, we await news from Bishop Tim and the Diocesan team about the deployment of Clergy and how we can embrace possible changes ahead. We expect to know for sure by the end of this year. For now I leave you with a prayer for this October:

*This month, Father God,  
may my eyes be opened  
to see the beauty  
in all that is ordinary – yet special –  
around me.  
May the glory of all that you have made  
remind me of your presence  
and lead me closer to you. Amen.*

Pax Christi

**David**

*The Reverend David Roche  
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