



To the parishioners of St John the Evangelist, Portobello  
[to be read publicly at the Sunday Masses on 18 November 2018]

Edinburgh, 30 October 2018

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As you know, after the publication of my pastoral letter *We have Found the Messiah*, I met with the parishioners of your cluster on 13 February 2016 so that I could set out before you my pastoral priorities for the future planning for the Archdiocese and learn of your own experiences and concerns.

After our meeting, there followed the parish cluster meetings and from these I received your cluster report on 22 May 2017.

Further to my meeting with you, I have also had meetings with the priests of each deanery, the deans and individual parish priests. Most recently I have had three important meetings with the Council of Priests so that I could have their recommendations on the way ahead for every parish of the Archdiocese. I have considered all that has been put before me and I am now making certain proposals to a number of our parishes.

From the beginning of this process I was of a mind that many of our churches would be considered for closure. Following the extensive consultation, and understanding your commitment to our places of worship, I decided that, where possible, this should be reconsidered. However, it also became apparent that the commitment to maintain such buildings would have to be accompanied by a simplified pastoral structure and so I have considered each case individually.

In the case of St John the Evangelist, I am not minded to make any substantial changes at this time. However, I hope that you will understand that this may have to be reviewed at some point and so I ask you, together with the other parishes of your cluster, to continue your cooperation insofar as is possible.

In recent months, across the Archdiocese other parishes have been informed of my proposals and I know that, for some, this had been a difficult moment. Mindful of this, let us remember each other in prayerful charity as we face this time of change that lies ahead, always asking that God's will be done in all things.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

✠ Leo Cushley  
Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh

