



The Redemptorist Provincialate,
St. Mary's Monastery, Clapham,
SW4 7AP

Dear Confreres, Sisters, Lay Missionaries, Associates, friends and benefactors,

I have deliberately waited until this Feast of St Joseph the Worker to write this letter as I have a great sense in the power of this man, the foster-father of Jesus. Nine years ago today I took up, with a sense of privilege and joy, the rôle of being the Parish Priest in St Mary's CSsR Church Clapham SW4. It was deliberate on my part to subject my ministry under the watchful eye of St Joseph. He is a man who knew Jesus and who knew him very well. He is a man who always had an eye on Jesus ensuring he was alright. He had a deep love for his 'boy' and alongside Mary was always there supporting the child who would grow into the man we call Lord and Redeemer.

In truth I was asking St Joseph to keep an eye on me and to support me in all of my service to the people and parish here in London. That rôle is no longer mine, however I believe that St Joseph kept me right as I did my best to be a good and decent shepherd. Today I am asking again for the protection and guidance of St Joseph as I continue to live and minister as the Provincial. I would be grateful if you would carry on offering the odd prayer for me and for all within this Province and Region asking for renewed strength and dedication to be part of the wonderful Redemptorist Family where we all belong.

During the last month I have gone up and down the country several times for different reasons. One was when I went away on retreat. This was done in Stonyhurst in Lancashire. As a result of that retreat I feel the need to 'doff my biretta' to the Jesuits as I was sitting in the beautiful church one day I looked around and saw the many Jesuit saints represented in the beautiful stained glass windows. Then I thought I was surely mistaken when I saw a bishop in the window who looked just like our Holy Father and Founder. I approached the window and then clearly saw the name, St Alphonsus Liguori! When I saw that I felt that I was in the right place making my retreat. During the week I prayed for you all individually and as communities, so know that you were not forgotten.

Fr George Webster CSsR RIP

It was on the eve of the great St George's Solemnity the 22nd April that our dear confrere Fr George Bernard Webster CSsR went swiftly to our heavenly Father. Granted George was 90 years old yet no one expected him to die at this time. So there is a sense of shock and grief that he is gone. Nonetheless we all know that is what he spent his life preparing for, the day when the Lord would call him home. The funeral arrangements will be circulated as soon as they are confirmed, however it looks like it will be many weeks from now.

I have just this minute had photographs sent from Tafara where there is a Mass just being celebrated for the repose of Fr George's soul. The whole community sang the Salve Regina in his honour. There is to be another Mass in Borrowdale at the weekend to pray for and give thanks to God for Fr George. He has left this world, but his mark has been left in many places!

EPCs NWE CSsR Kinnoull

The Extraordinary Provincial Councils (EPC) of North West Europe (NWE) met in Kinnoull from the 22nd - 24th April for further talk about all of us establishing a Federation. The date has already been chosen and it will be 1st August 2025. Much was spoken of and many questions were laid before the group; there were about 18 of us there representing our own provinces. The work done there in Kinnoull is being passed back to the 'Implementation Group' ie., the Provincials, who will work on a further developed Draft Federation Agreement.

CSsR Pilgrimage 2025

There is still some work to be done on arranging our Pilgrimage in the footsteps of Sts Alphonsus and Gerard, yet be sure that it is exciting and underway. We would like to encourage Rectors and Parish Priests to try and get some idea of how many people are interested. The website and Facebook page already has the poster displayed with an email to write to

pilgrimage@redemptorists.co.uk

I will attach a copy of the Poster and would be grateful for it to be posted wherever it will gain the most attention.

COREAM

A meeting was held on Monday 29th April with the Provincials of St Clemens, Dublin and London with Fr Gerry O'Connor CSsR, the Procurator for Africa and Madagascar, Fr Nicolas Ayoub CSsR one of our General Consultors and Fr Noel Sottima CSsR the Coordinator for the Conference of Redemptorists of Africa and Madagascar (COREAM). This was a meeting in preparation for the meeting that I

will attend in Democratic Republic of Congo, in a little town called Kola during the first week of June. This meeting involves all the Units in Africa and all the Units with strong connections with Africa.

Questions were being asked about money for the new and bigger, soon to be established, units in the continent. Our Region of Zimbabwe will be eventually united with South Africa, Kenya, Congo, Angola, Mozambique and Madagascar, all being part of the Province of Central/Southern/Eastern Africa. There are big issues to consider as we plan for the future. One such issue is some units don't have enough money to keep themselves afloat, while others are well able. However the question also comes back to ourselves and we are asked to consider how we spend money in our own Province and consider how essential that spending is compared to the urgent need in Africa/Madagascar.

After this meeting in Kola there will be much more for us to think about, reflect and decide.

Safeguarding

Tina Campbell, our Safeguarding Consultant is in Zimbabwe at this time and as such she will give further input to our confreres. Br David Nyamuronda CSsR has also gone back to Harare to play his significant part in this whole area.

There was also a two hour meeting with RLSS (Religious Life Safeguarding Service), CSSA (Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency) and the many Religious Superiors and Leads last Thursday 25th April. This was essentially bringing all the groups up to date with the news thus far.

There will be another Scottish Safeguarding meeting in Carfin on the 24th of May.

I would like to sincerely thank all our people who work so hard on this issue, ultimately ensuring that we are all safe and can know security.

Bishop Eton

Many of you will know that Fr Tim Buckley CSsR had a health scare just after Easter and has been taking things easy. Please pray for him. Please also pray for the ministry that goes on in the two Parishes that we serve. They are being well served through the ministry of Frs Andrew Burns, Michael Henesy and Anthony Cassidy CSsR. *Sincere thanks gentlemen.*

Retreat 2024

A gentle reminder that the Provincial Retreat will be in St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull PH2 from the 15th - 19th July. I am sure it will be a time of grace and peace

for all of us, so please book your place as soon as possible. The Retreat Master is Fr Piotr Chyła CSsR a confrere who has done enormous studies in our CSsR Spirituality.

While I began with St Joseph how can I not finish with Our Lady and the lovely month of May! Let us remember one another and the life and work of the Province and Congregation at large. As we hold our rosary in our hand this month let us not forget the people who make our life and our vocation the joy that they are; our confreres, our sisters, our Lay Missionaries, our associates, the people we have the privilege of serving and ministering to and the kindness and generosity of so many benefactors, we offer a sweet Ave!

Remember we never know what each one of us has to go through and endure, so let us not make life any worse for them, let us respectfully help one another along the way.

My prayers go with you.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Reid CSsR". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "CSsR" written in a slightly larger, bolder script than the name.

Richard Reid CSsR
Provincial Superior



Attached -
Stained Glass Window of St Alphonsus - Stonyhurst,
Tributes to Fr George Webster CSsR RIP,
Picture EPCs NWE Kinnoull,
CSsR Pilgrimage Poster.