



COMMUNIQUE

To the Reverend Clergy and the Lay-faithful of the Eparchy of the Holy Family of London.

Prot.N. 082/2021

27 November 2021

Dear Reverend Fathers, Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I want to thank and acknowledge receiving Bishop Hlib Lonchyna's letter of 26 November to us in which he responded to some of the rumours and misinformation that have been circulating amongst our community. I too want to provide you with additional facts and information regarding the things being said over the last few weeks about our Eparchy and especially about our clergy. I realise that not all of you will be aware of these rumours but I hope that this information can give you some clarity and certainty if you become aware of the rumours.

1. As you heard from Bishop Hlib's letter, Fr Irineu Kraiczzi OSBM was assigned to serve in Ireland and indeed he commenced his assignment in February 2020. In early autumn 2020, discussions then began about his future in Ireland and within the next few weeks he decided that he wished to return to the Basilian Fathers in Rome. He was accepted back into the Basilian Order and my understanding is that he was happy.

In February 2021, I received a letter from Fr. Irineu's superior general in Rome in which he advised me that Fr. Irineu would be traveling to the United Kingdom for personal reasons; and that it was not anticipated that he would provide any pastoral support or ministry in the Eparchy during his visit (this meant that he would not be visiting parishes in the Eparchy or substituting for clergy). I was informed that Fr. Irineu was going to be assigned elsewhere but that that pastoral assignment would not be in Great Britain. Neither Fr. Irineu nor his superior requested that the Eparchy provide Fr. Irineu with housing or any other type of assistance. When Fr. Irineu arrived in London he did not request housing at the Cathedral, which would have been provided to him, as he had chosen to reside at a friend's home. During this time in London, I arranged to meet with Fr. Irineu twice. I invited him to concelebrate Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy (25 April) with me at our Cathedral and also preach the homily. I invited him for dinner to my place on 26 May and offered to assist him in any way I could. To this date, Fr. Irineu has not contacted me for any assistance. It has been my understanding that he is about to be assigned to a pastoral position in Portugal by his superiors.

page 1 of 2

2. In July 2020, Fr. Mykhailo Soloviy informed me that he and his wife who had been lodging at the Cathedral Clergy House residence were departing as they had found a place of their own. He also advised me that he would not be able to offer pastoral ministry at the Cathedral because he had to work in a secular position to provide for his family in Ukraine. Sometime later, he asked if he could again begin to celebrate Divine Liturgies at our Cathedral in London. I said he would be very welcome to do so if he could provide a letter from his bishop in Ukraine giving him leave to do so (this is required as he is not a priest of the Eparchy of the Holy Family of London). To date, he has not provided such a letter, nor has he been in contact with me.
3. Fr. Carlos Mekekiuk had been given permission from the Holy See to be dispensed from his monastic vows in the Basilian Fathers. Bishop Hlib accepted him temporarily into the Eparchy of the Holy Family of London where he served at the Cathedral. While on holiday in Argentina in December 2019 he received information that his permit for employment in the United Kingdom had been revoked. Nevertheless, Fr. Carlos, using his Argentinian passport, entered back into the United Kingdom. As he was already here and the pandemic quarantine lockdown had come into effect he was not able to depart London. Finally, with the assistance of the Argentinian Consulate he was given permission to return to Argentina, his homeland. The Eparchy provided Fr. Carlos with financial assistance for his flight to Argentina where he was given instruction as to what he should do regarding his future pastoral ministry. Since his departure to Argentina, he has not been in contact with me and his current whereabouts are unknown.
4. I want to reassure you that the financial allegations brought forward against the Eparchy have been taken very seriously and there is still an ongoing independent investigation. For this reason, it is not possible for me to make any comments or provide any information to you currently. I will be providing you with an update once the investigation is complete.

I am placing all of you under the protection of the Holy Family, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Most Holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, and the holy and righteous St. Joseph the Betrothed.

I remain, sincerely yours in the Lord,



+Kenneth
Eparchial Bishop