

Dear Friends in Christ,

Recently Father Brett Judkins met with me and requested a leave of absence from the active ministry. Father Judkins then later followed up on our meeting with a letter formally requesting a leave of absence. I have granted him a leave from the parishes he serves and other active priestly service effective October 1, 2020.

During this time, Father Judkins remains a Catholic priest of our diocese but will not be living in a rectory, wearing clerical dress or celebrating publicly Holy Mass and the sacraments.

I thank Father Judkins for his pastoral ministry. I invite you to join me in asking the Holy Spirit to guide and protect Father Brett as he discerns over the coming months the future direction of his life. Please keep Father Brett in your prayers.

I will be working with your Pastor, Father Mark Stec in arranging for help in providing pastoral ministry for your communities in the coming months. Please support Father Stec and one another in this important time.

Please know of my prayers for all of you. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, keep us close to her Son.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Bishop Michael McGovern
Diocese of Belleville