



To the people of the parishes of
Peebles & Innerleithen, Penicuik & Loanhead

Edinburgh, 23 December 2017

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As you may know, Fr Wojciech Rybka will be leaving Peebles and Innerleithen shortly to return to his work as a missionary. In your name, I am pleased to express our deep gratitude to him for all that he has done to nourish the faith and to celebrate the Sacraments among us, especially the Sunday Eucharist.

As to his successor, since the summer I have been trying to find a priest to fill the gap that was going to be created by his departure. Unhappily, one priest who had said he was coming changed his mind, and a second I had found was also unable to come. I have found two other foreign priests who may be able to come to the Archdiocese to work, but their arrival depends on UK visa requirements and upon passing language exams, both of which are still pending. These make for delays beyond the control of any of us, but I hope that the two priests in question may be able to join us in the next couple of months.

In the meantime, Fr Tad Majcher in Penicuik and Loanhead has kindly offered to add to his own burden and is willing to help look after the pastoral needs of Peebles and Innerleithen. In these days, Fr Tad will consult with Fr Rybka and yourselves about a temporary arrangement for the celebration of Mass in your area. I would therefore ask you to give Fr Tad your support and understanding as his workload will effectively be doubled, even if only for a few months. I also count on the generosity of spirit of the people of Penicuik and Loanhead, who must share their pastor with Peebles and Innerleithen, albeit for a short time.

With every blessing in this holy season, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ Leo Cushley

+Leo Cushley
Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh