

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, Pastor

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Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

Grace and peace be with you!

I am humbled and filled with gratitude as I write this letter to you today, introducing myself as your new pastor. It is with great joy that I join this remarkable community of faithful individuals who have been the bedrock of Our Lady of Peace Parish. Whether you have been a steadfast member for years or have departed the parish for various reasons, I extend my heartfelt welcome to each and every one of you.

To those who have remained steadfast in their commitment to this parish, I want to express my deep admiration and appreciation for your unwavering dedication. I look forward to standing alongside you, as together we continue to grow in faith, worship, and service to one another and the wider world.

To those who have left our parish for whatever reason, I want you to know that you are not forgotten. Life's journey can take unexpected turns, and we understand that circumstances change. Please know that this community has always held you in its prayers and continues to do so. Our doors are open wide, and we eagerly await the day you choose to return home. You will always be welcomed back with open arms and open hearts. As your new pastor, it is my earnest desire to foster an environment of warmth, acceptance, and spiritual growth within our parish. Together, let us embrace the diversity of our congregation, recognizing that each person brings unique gifts and experiences to share with one another. Let us create a safe space where we can seek comfort, find inspiration, and explore our faith in meaningful ways.

In the coming days and months, I intend to listen deeply to your stories, hopes, and dreams. Your voice matters to me, for it is in understanding your needs and aspirations that I can best serve you. I encourage you to reach out, whether in person, through letters, or any other means, to share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. Let us embark on this journey together, hand in hand, as we nurture a strong and vibrant parish community.

My vision for our parish is one of inclusivity, compassion, and outreach. I believe in the power of our collective efforts to make a positive impact not only within our own walls but also in the wider community. Let us strive to be a beacon of hope, a sanctuary for those seeking solace, and a source of light in times of darkness. Together, we can create lasting change and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

My dear parishioners, as we embark on this new chapter in the life of Our Lady of Peace, let us remember that we are bound by a shared faith, a shared mission, and above all, a shared love for our Lord Jesus Christ. I am excited and filled with hope for what lies ahead, knowing that, with God's grace and your continued support, we can achieve great things together.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always and may His blessings guide and strengthen us as we journey together.

In faith and fellowship,

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha

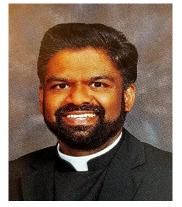
Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, Your New Pastor.

## OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH

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## Our Pastor

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, the sixth child of Anthony and Mariam Kannampuzha was born on January 2, 1973, in the enchanting land of Kerala, India. From the very beginning, his parents instilled in him a deep love and reverence for Christ and the Church, nurturing his spiritual growth. Growing up within the embrace of the Catholic school system, he was immersed in an environment where he witnessed firsthand the remarkable impact

of priests in both the educational institution and the wider community. Their noble calling resonated deeply within him, igniting a profound sense of inspiration and allure.

At the tender age of fifteen, Fr. Biju embarked on a transformative journey, joining the revered Carmelite seminary located in a neighboring city. Guided by his unwavering commitment and fueled by his thirst for knowledge, he pursued studies in Philosophy, Psychology, and Theology, culminating in his sacred ordination as a priest on December 29, 2001. Initially, he devoted himself as an associate pastor to the Christ the King Parish in Kerala, India, until God led him across oceans to the shores of Canada in 2005.

In Canada, he assumed the role of associate pastor at the esteemed St. Patrick's and St. Lawrence churches in Hamilton, Ontario, where his compassion and spiritual guidance touched the lives of many. Furthermore, he selflessly served as the devoted Priest-Chaplain at St. Joseph's Villa, a cherished long-term care home nestled in Dundas, Ontario. Prior to gracing the sacred grounds of Our Lady of Peace, Fr. Biju had the honor of shepherding the devoted flock of St. John Vianney parish in Barrie for a remarkable span of twelve years.

Beyond his divine calling, Fr. Biju's passions extend to a multitude of captivating pursuits. He finds solace and enlightenment in the pages of books, seeks adventure amidst the awe-inspiring beauty of hiking trails, and rejuvenates his spirit through the rhythmic embrace of jogging. Additionally, his heart resonates with the melodies of Indian classical music and finds solace in the profound wisdom of Philosophy.

With a life enriched by spirituality, intellectual curiosity, and a profound commitment to his community, Fr. Biju considers it a tremendous honor to have been chosen as the shepherd of Our Lady of Peace.