Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to you with profound sadness as we mourn the loss of your Pastor, Fr. Gerard Plant.

I wish to extend my condolences to all of you, the parish faithful of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Russell, and to Fr. Gerard's family, and to all who knew and loved Fr. Gerard.

I give thanks to God for Fr. Gerard Plant's faithful ministry and his devoted service to the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall, and to the parish community of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. He will be greatly missed.

Please be assured of my prayers, and those of my auxiliary Bishop Yvan Mathieu, during this very emotional and difficult time for all.

I will be presiding at the funeral Mass for Fr. Gerard at Notre-Dame Cathedral on Saturday November 21, 2026, at 10:30 am. Further details regarding funeral arrangements will be shared as soon as they become available.

Obviously, everyone is wondering who will provide pastoral care in the future at the parish. At this point we have temporary solutions but are still working on a long-term appointment.

In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to Deacon Allan Carpen or Fr. John Whyte, Episcopal Vicar for Parishes, if you require support.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

In Christ who is the Resurrection and Life,

✠Marcel Damphousse
Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall