

# Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary

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**June 20, 2019**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **For immediate release**

Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish requested permission from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary for Father Dominic Valanmanal to lead a parish retreat. Father Valanmanal is a priest from the Diocese of Kanjirapally.

The required letter of good standing from his Bishop for the granting of permission to minister in the Diocese was received. Permission was granted to Father Valanmanal on June 6, 2019 to facilitate the parish retreat in July.

Information about statements and claims that Father Valanmanal has made regarding autism spectrum disorder (“ASD”) was brought forward as a concern prompting the Diocese’s reconsideration. Father Valanmanal’s statements about ASD did not reflect the pastoral care and concern that the Church has towards children and adults living with autism and their families. Therefore, effective June 19, 2019, the permission granted by the Diocese to Father Dominic Valanmanal has been rescinded. This decision has been communicated to the Pastor of the Parish, and the parish event has been cancelled.

This matter will prompt a review of the Diocese’s internal processes to ensure that, as much as possible, any information which impacts the granting of permission to visiting priests is collected for thorough consideration. We regret any offence, and we renew our support for people living with autism, their families, and care-givers.

### **Media Contact:**

**Nadia Hinds**  
**Director of Communications**  
[nadia.hinds@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:nadia.hinds@calgarydiocese.ca)  
403-218-5520