

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Bringing all people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FUND SECOND COLLECTION
Sunday 15 November 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

Retirement brings hopes and fears for all of us at a time when we may be feeling excited and at the same time anxious or worried about what the future may hold. Our priests experience all those feelings too.

The usual age of retirement for priests is 75, often after a lifetime of serving the church and ministering as Father to our diocesan communities of faith.

The diocese has always supported our retired priests, and we will continue to do that, but we need your help. We currently have 37 retired diocesan priests. Over the next five years, that number will increase, therefore your support is vital to ensure that we can continue to provide them with a dignified and well-deserved retirement.

On the weekend of Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 November, we will hold our first Second Collection for our Priests' Retirement Fund.

Whether you have been a Catholic since birth, or joined the Church in later life, you will have memories of priests who have now retired. Perhaps you remember one who shared the joy of your wedding, or baptising your son or daughter, or helped your family through a difficult time.

Our priests have walked alongside us on our journey of faith, and many are still part of it when they retire from active ministry. They continue to contribute so much to the life of our Church. Retirement may mean a less busy lifestyle than being full time

in a parish, but many retired priests continue to offer a listening ear, pastoral support or continue to assist in busy parishes.

I hope you will be generous in your support for the Priest Retirement the Fund on Sunday 15 November. Please visit the Priests' Retirement Fund page on our website (see the QR code below), where you will be able to read more about how your donation will make a difference to the lives of our retired priests, and consider setting up a regular payment to support the fund in the future.

You might also take a little time to hear a personal message from Canon John Nelson, the chairman of the priest retirement fund committee which oversees the way in which funds are used.

This is a real opportunity for us to show that our retired priests are still part of our Church family.

Thank you for your generosity.

In Corde Iesu

+ Philip

Bishop of Portsmouth