

Meet our Next Pastor: Fr. Nicholas Glisson, M.A., M.Div., Ph.D.

On Friday, April 21st, for the first time in history, it was the Bishop of Oakland who appointed the pastor of St. Mary Magdalen parish, and not the Provincial of the Western Dominican Province. The first



Fr. Nick in Wellington, New Zealand

diocesan priest ever to minister to our parish, Fr. Nicholas Glisson hails from Central Florida, where he served in the Diocese of St. Augustine from the time of his ordination in 1979 until 1991, when he first came to Berkeley to pursue his doctoral studies at the GTU. Known as a liturgist (he received his M.A. in liturgics from the University of Notre Dame), he has experience in campus ministry at the University of Florida, and has been a pastor in a small town in Florida as well as in his current position in the Laurel District of Oakland.

Fr. Nick (as he likes to be called) already has a connection with our parish: he wrote his doctoral dissertation under the direction of our own beloved Fr. Michael Morris, O.P. In

fact, Fr. Michael's connections enabled Fr. Nick to do extensive research in England on his topic, "The Architect as Liturgist," about the English Gothic Revival architect, Augustus Pugin.

Fr. Nick was granted his doctorate in 1998. However, during his six years at the GTU he realized that he felt more at home in the Bay Area than in Florida. After spending a year teaching at his alma mater (St. Vincent de Paul seminary in South Florida), Fr. Nicholas was "incardinated" in our Diocese, where he has served as Parochial Vicar of Saint Francis in Concord and the Catholic Community of Pleasanton. He is currently in his 12th year leading the church and school communities of St. Lawrence O'Toole-St. Cyril of Jerusalem in Oakland. He also served on the diocesan committee that oversaw the planning and construction of the Cathedral of Christ the Light.



Fr. Nick at the Forbidden City in 2015

Dear Saint Mary Magdalen parishioners and friends:

May God's grace be with all of us as we embark on a new era for our parish, even as we honor the venerable tradition of the Dominican community. I look forward to meeting you in the near future and many happy years working and praying together.

Fr. Nick

What can we expect of our new pastor? When he was assigned to his current parish twelve years ago, Carrie McClish interviewed him for the *Catholic Voice*. At that time Fr. Nick reported that he was "learning people's names and getting a sense of how things are done here so that I don't find myself undoing something that is working well."

As for his avocations, Fr. Nick loves to hike and (motor)cycle, and has a fascination with railroads and model trains. He is an avid reader (perhaps he will continue Fr. Cassian's Book Group?), a watercolorist, and a classical music lover. (He is in for a treat with Andy's baroque concerts!) His mother's family hails from both Naples and Ireland, and his ancestors on his father's side emigrated to Virginia from Southwest England in the 1650s. Informed of Fr. Carl's beautiful prayer that we had been praying at Mass since January, Fr. Nick responded, "I deeply appreciate prayer however I can get it; even when I'm unnamed. My prayers are with the people of Saint Mary Magdalen during this time of transition."