



Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

DECREE

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

Good Shepherd Parish is a territorial parish serving the needs of the Catholic community in the village of Linwood, Massachusetts, a part of the towns of Northbridge and Uxbridge, Massachusetts. Its parish church is located at 121 Linwood Street, Linwood. It was established as a parish in 1904.

The Administrator of the parish, in conjunction with the Parish Council and a specially convened group of parishioners, studied ways in which the parish could more effectively minister to the sacramental and spiritual needs of the parishioners of that area amidst a greatly dwindling parish census, scarce resources, and fewer clergy to staff the parish adequately.

In view of this study, the Administrator and his Parish Council have recommended to me that Good Shepherd Parish be merged with Saint Mary Parish, Uxbridge, its neighboring parish community, under one pastoral team based at Saint Mary Parish. Also recommended is that Good Shepherd Parish Church will close, and all worship will be transferred to Saint Mary Parish Church, which can provide ample worship space for both communities.

All the requirements of canons 50, 51, 127, 166 and 515 have been fulfilled.

In view of this recommendation, and after hearing the parties mandated by law, most especially the Presbyteral Council, in accord with canon 515, §2, of the *Code of Canon Law*, which met on March 21, 2022, and voted unanimously in favor of this recommendation I, the Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester, holding before me my pastoral responsibilities to this particular church, hereby declare and decree the following:

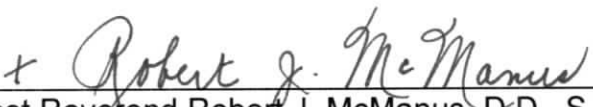
- Good Shepherd Parish, located in Linwood, Massachusetts, a village in the towns of Northbridge and Uxbridge, Massachusetts, is hereby merged with Saint Mary Parish, Uxbridge, Massachusetts, to form one parish, in accord with canon 121; Saint Mary Parish will retain its name and the title of its church, in accord with canon 1218;

- In accord with canon 121, the territory and care of souls of the territorial membership of Good Shepherd Parish, Linwood, are hereby transferred and entrusted to Saint Mary Parish, whose parish church is located at 77 Mendon Street, Uxbridge;
- Saint Mary Parish will assume the goods, assets, including property and patrimonial rights, as well as the burdens and liabilities of Good Shepherd Parish, respecting the intentions of the founders and donors, concerning the allocation of goods and the fulfillment of obligations, in accord with canons 121 and 123;
- The sacramental records of Good Shepherd Parish are hereby placed under the guardianship of Saint Mary Parish;
- Saint Mary Parish will continue to enjoy public juridic personality by the law itself, in accord with canon 515, §3.


The effective date of this decree is July 1, 2022, at 12:01 a.m.

I order that this decree be published.

Given at Worcester, Massachusetts, in the halls of the Chancery, this the twenty-sixth day of May, in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-two



Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, D.D., S.T.D.



Mr. Raymond L. Delisle
Chancellor

