



February 28, 2021

*God put Abraham to the test.
He called to him, "Abraham!"
"Here I am!" he replied (Genesis 22:1).*

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you this holy season of Lent. God pursues our whole heart no matter the situation. With His merciful heart, He waits to hear our answer, "Here I am!" We are called to share His heart with those whom we encounter.

Today, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Father Blake Britton as Parochial Vicar to serve in multiple parishes throughout Lakeland, effective March 15. He said, "Here I am!" when called. Let me introduce you to him briefly:



Father Blake Britton was born and raised in the Kissimmee/St. Cloud area, the oldest of four children to Tim and Lydia Britton. His mother consecrated him to the Virgin Mary while he was still in her womb, and Father Britton maintains a special devotion to the Blessed Mother. His parents nurtured in him a love of music and nature. While attending St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School he recalls saying he wanted to become a priest when he was 12 years old. After graduating from the Osceola County School for the Arts, he entered St. John Vianney Seminary followed by St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. He was ordained May 26, 2018 at St. James Cathedral by Bishop John Noonan. He has served as Parochial Vicar of St. Mary Parish in Rockledge since his Ordination, and also serves as an Associate Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Orlando.

Please welcome Father Britton with grace and faith. I pray with you during this time of transition.

May we respond to God, "Here I am!" with our whole heart.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John Noonan
Bishop of Orlando