MARK
Bishop of Shrewsbury

DECREE

CLOSURE of the Parish of Saint Mary Magdalene, Much Wenlock, and of the INTEGRATION of its territory into the two adjacent parishes

Whereas for reasons appearing from the decree of my predecessor bishop reducing the parish church of Saint Mary Magdalene to secular use and the subsequent disposal of that church, the evident impracticability of sustaining that parish independently has for some years past been a cause for deep consideration;

and whereas concern for the best stewardship of resources, the right of the People of God to receive assistance from the Church (especially the Word of God, spiritual sustenance and the sacraments) normatively from their own parish priest (cc. 527-530), and the availability of priests to provide the necessary pastoral care to the communities of mid- and south-Shropshire all appear to be a just cause for and require the action hereinafter appearing;

and whereas proper consultation has been conducted and, in particular, the matter has been considered by the Council of Priests (as required by cc. 515 §2 and 127) whose informed opinions I have heard and duly weighed;

and whereas necessary information has been sought and those who may be affected have in so far as possible been heard

Now I, MARK, BISHOP of SHREWSBURY under and in accordance with canons 120 §1, 122, and 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law 1983 HEREBY DECREE as follows:

1. The Parish of Saint Mary Magdalene, Much Wenlock, shall cease to exist as a separate and independent canonical entity and is hereby suppressed. The territory of that parish shall be divided between the parishes of (a) Our Lady, Saint Peter of Alcantara and Saint Winefride, Shrewsbury, and (b) St John the Evangelist, Bridgnorth, in accordance with my decrees of even date herewith relating to those parishes, to the intent that such transferred territory shall in each case be added to and become an integral part of the relevant parish.

2. The parochial registers maintained under c. 535 relating to the parish of Saint Mary Magdalene shall be transferred to the presbytery of the parish of St John the Evangelist, Bridgnorth, or to such other place which I may determine, with a view to securing their faithful preservation and maintenance. The diocesan archivist should be consulted in relation to any registers, records and historical documents not needed for continued administration.
3. Any remaining property and assets of the parish of Saint Mary Magdalene shall be divided equally between the said parishes of (a) Our Lady, Saint Peter of Alcantara and Saint Winefrida, Shrewsbury, and (b) St John the Evangelist, Bridgnorth.

4. The provisions of this decree shall take effect from midnight at the end of Saturday 31 March 2018.

AND I DIRECT that this decree be delivered to the parish clergy of each of the parishes of (a) Our Lady, Saint Peter of Alcantara and Saint Winefrida, Shrewsbury, and (b) St John the Evangelist, Bridgnorth; and that notice of its contents be publicly communicated by affixing them to a notice board available for consultation by the faithful at each of the public Masses celebrated in those parishes on the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) and the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. I further direct that the full text of this decree be published on the website of the Diocese of Shrewsbury (http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/).

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at my Cathedral Church of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Peter of Alcantara, Shrewsbury, under my hand and curial seal this 28th day of March, in the year 2018

+ Mark Davies
Bishop of Shrewsbury

The Rev Philip White
Deacon
Chancellor