

Diocese of
Shrewsbury
Ad Clerum

2022/12 July





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

THE HOLY FATHER

I attach a link with this Ad Clerum for the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis *Desiderio Desideravi on the Liturgical Formation of the People of God*. The letter will reward our reading especially with the Holy Father's emphasis on our own interior participation in the Mass. This letter ends with the words of Saint Francis of Assisi, "Let everyone be struck with fear, let the whole world tremble, and let the heavens exult when Christ, the Son of the Living God, is present on the Altar in the hands of a priest!" https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/20220629-lettera-ap-desiderio-desideravi.html

THE FUTURE OF SAINT JOSEPH'S, STOCKPORT

I promised to write to you about the future of this historic and much-loved church of our Diocese. During the past decade I have often thought of our need for a place of Eucharistic adoration that would specifically and continuously intercede for the sanctification of priests and for new vocations to the priesthood. I have invited Father Sean Davidson to undertake this mission by establishing Saint Joseph's as a place of Eucharistic adoration and intercession for priests and for new vocations to the priesthood.

It is a mission which builds upon the charism of the Sacred Heart Fathers who have served the parish during the past four decades and upon the enduring mission of this 'church with open doors' in Stockport town centre. I will share further details as plans are made and, in the meantime, ask your prayers that this place of adoration and intercession may flourish at Saint Joseph's.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

MONSIGNOR DAVID CHARTERS

Monsignor David Charters has received a new appointment in the Papal Diplomatic Service. David will take up the post of Secretary to the Apostolic Nunciature in Colombia and will be travelling to Bogota on 26th July. We are very proud of David's service as a priest of this Diocese, of the Holy See and the Universal Church, previously in the Central African Republic and at the United Nations in New York and now beginning his years of service in Colombia. It is a happy obligation for us to accompany David with our prayers.

FATHER NICK KERN

I am grateful to **Father Nick Kern** for accepting my invitation to become the new Parish Priest of Saint Mary's, Crewe in succession to Father Jerome Fagan. Nick will take up this new appointment from 1st September.

WYTHENSHAW TEAM MINISTRY

I am also grateful for **Father Owen Gallagher**, who has accepted my invitation to become Team Leader of the Wythenshawe Team Ministry and to serve as Parochial Administrator of the Wythenshawe Parishes from 1st September. I am grateful to **Father Stephen Roberts** who will continue as member of the Team Ministry in support of Father Owen. Owen has served in Wythenshawe alongside Father Nick Kern for the past two years and brings this experience to the challenge of adapting arrangements, as Wythenshawe is now served by two Diocesan Priests with the generous assistance of the Syro-Malabar Chaplain, Father Joseph Anchanickal Sebastian.

FATHER SEAN DAVIDSON

I am delighted to share the news that **Father Sean Davidson** was incardinated into this Shrewsbury Diocese on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, 24th June. We welcome Father Sean as a priest of this Diocese and following his service in the Cheadle parishes will take up a new appointment as Parish Priest of Saint Joseph's, Stockport from 1st September.

FATHER LOUIS CHARUVILA PUTHENVEEDU PAPPY

Father Louis Charuvila Puthenveedu Pappy, the Chaplain to the Syro-Malankara faithful in the Diocese and the North West of England, has generously accepted my invitation to serve as Parochial Administrator of Saint Ann's, Cheadle Hulme and Saint Chad's, Cheadle from 1st September.

FATHER LEE BENNETT

I have recently been in discussion with Monsignor Keith Newton, the Bishop of Brentwood, and **Father Lee Bennett** of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. Father Lee needs to relocate northwards for family reasons from the parish he has been serving in Essex. I have invited him to undertake the pastoral care of Newport and Market Drayton as Parochial Administrator from 1st September. We are delighted to have a second priest of the Ordinariate together with Father David Mawson, now retired, in the Diocese.



Father Lee will take residence at the presbytery at Market Drayton with his wife Helen who is a schoolteacher. Please pray for Father Lee's service in the Diocese which will bring stability to these parishes. I am grateful to all the clergy who have generously helped to support the parishes during the past few months and ask you to continue to remember for Father Anthony Wild in your prayer as he continues his convalescence.

ROCK FERRY, NEW FERRY AND BEBBINGTON

I hope to be able to make an announcement very shortly on a new appointment to these parishes and am grateful to Canon Phil Moor VG and to all the clergy who have been supporting the parishes during this interim period.

NEW DEANS

Following Father Nick Kern's move to Crewe, Canon Niall Mullaley's move to Birkenhead and Father Bernard Forshaw's extended sick leave, I would be grateful if the clergy of Birkenhead and East Wirral Deanery, the Ellesmere Port and Chester Deanery and the South Trafford and Wythenshawe Deanery could submit their nominations to Canon Michael Gannon VG either by e-mail: michael.gannon7@ntlworld.com or in writing by 5th August.

I wish to record my gratitude to Canon Niall Mullaley and Father Paul Shaw who have been acting as interim Deans.

MEETING DATES

A reminder that the next **Meeting of Deans** will take place at the Cathedral on Tuesday 4th October at 11.30am (tea and coffee will be served from 11.00am).

The **Deanery Conferences** are scheduled for the week beginning 24th October.

The **Council of Priests** will meet at the Cathedral on Tuesday 29th November at 11.15am.

ORDINATIONS

It is always a happy moment in the year to be able to share news of recent ordinations for and from the Diocese:

DEACON ANTONY NUTTALL

Antony Nuttall was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate at the Cathedral on Saturday 16th July. I have invited Antony

to serve as Deacon in the Parishes of Ellesmere Port and Hooton. Please remember Antony in your prayers as he begins his ministry.

ABBE LIAM DODDS

Liam Dodds from Christ the King, Bromborough was ordained Deacon for the Institute of Christ the King, Sovereign Priest on 29th June. Please keep Liam in your prayers as he prepares for the Priesthood.

BROTHER THOMAS MANNION OP

Please also remember **Brother Thomas Mannion** from Our Lady Star of the Sea & Saint Joseph, Seacombe who was ordained Deacon in the Dominican Order on Sunday 10th July. Please keep Thomas in your prayers during his final year of preparation for the Priesthood.

SEMINARIANS

I am also pleased to announce that two men will be going to Saint Mary's Oscott for the Shrewsbury Diocese in September. Please pray for **Mark Dilworth** who has spent a pastoral year in the Diocese and for **Tomás Miller** who has completed the discernment programme at the Cathedral.

POLICE GUIDANCE ON SACRAMENTAL ACCESS

In light of the tragic stabbing of Sir David Amess M.P., the Archbishop of Westminster and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner undertook to establish a working party to assess how the needs of the police at a crime scene could be balanced against the rights of a victim to have a priest minister the sacraments. Updated guidance has now been issued by the police, and a summary of the main points is attached.

Although each situation will be different, certain principles have been established as detailed in the document. These guidelines should ensure that, wherever possible, priests would be allowed access to the individual to give absolution, anointing and the prayers of accompaniment as appropriate.

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/world/english-police-allow-priests-give-last-rites-crime-scenes>



DIOCESE

SYNODAL PATHWAY

The National Synthesis has been prepared and very shortly the Discernment of the Bishops of England and Wales will also be published as a contribution to the continental discernment phase of this pathway. The documents will be available on the website of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

CATHEDRAL DEVELOPMENTS

It is good to see the Cathedral returning to a semblance of normality after being something of a building site during the past two to three years. It seemed strange at the ordination on Saturday, to find myself standing on firm ground rather than standing on builders' boards!

We have greatly benefitted in this time by generous grants which have helped us undertake the restoration of the 'East Window' and repairs to the 'East Wall.' The interior renewal of the Cathedral will continue for some time in fidelity to the Second Vatican Council and in harmony with the historic character of this Pugin building. We have set out to recover something of the historic beauty of our Mother Church and to increase its capacity so that it can serve more effectively as our Cathedral.

I had envisaged very costly work to re-build the Altar as the focus of the whole Cathedral. However, heritage advisors directed us to the ancient Cathedral of Ely where the cathedral authorities were seeking to re-locate a 19th Century Altar of special beauty (designed by the architect Philip Coldwell Thicknesse 1860-1920, I believe born in Lancashire and living latterly in our own Diocese at Eastham).

Canon Christopher Matthews and myself visited Ely to see the Altar with our architect and heritage advisors. I think you will agree the Altar fits well into the sanctuary of the Cathedral as if it had always been there. Historic Churches have approved the design of a new ambo in harmony with the Altar design – a mock-up of which is presently being used in the Cathedral. I hope we will have an occasion to record our thanks publicly to the Dean and Chapter of Ely.

The Altar was designed to be East-facing so a new mensa is presently being sourced and prepared in due course with consecration crosses and a sepulchre for relics. The original mensa of the Thicknesse Altar is made of fine purple marble and I hope this will form part of the reconstruction of the Shrine of Saint Winefride in the Cathedral's side chapel. The early 1980's Altar constructed with Portland Stone will, I hope, also be used in the construction of a new Shrine

celebrating the Saints and Blessed of the 'Second Spring' of the Catholic Church in England, including Saint John Henry Newman, Blessed Dominic Barberi and the Servant of God Elizabeth Prout as the Cause of this great woman of Shrewsbury progresses. However, as with many aspects of the development we will need to await the availability of funds and the help of grants and donors. Work on the 'hidden essentials' of re-wiring and updated fire safety measures will be the next priority.

I have often written in the past decade of how I see the Cathedral increasingly serving the Diocese and the New Evangelisation. It has been good to see the post-pandemic return of many visitors and 'pilgrims' following the disruption of the pandemic.

CATHEDRAL DAY PILGRIMAGES FOR PARISHES

Parishes and parish groups are very welcome to book a pilgrimage day at the Cathedral. This will include a tour of the Cathedral where you will see how the interior and exterior renewal of the Cathedral is developing, including the restored east window and the original, recently uncovered encaustic tiles, (which are being matched and recast by 'Craven Dunnill Tiles', whose manufacturing background began in Ironbridge in 1872).

Mass will be celebrated at 12.15pm and followed by a light lunch provided by the on-site Orchard Café. The cost of the day is £10 per head.

The enclosed flyer and booking form have more information and if you would like to book a pilgrimage or have any questions, please contact Cathedral Events Officer, Richard Keddie directly:

Telephone: 01743 290077

Email: events@shrewsburycathedral.co.uk

ORCHARD CAFÉ EXTENDED OPENING TIMES

Following the pandemic years, we have also been able to more fully re-open the Orchard Café facilities for our visitors. The Orchard Café is now open Monday to Sunday from 10.00am until 3.00pm.

HIRING OF PARISH HALLS FOR PRIVATE CELEBRATIONS

A message from Diocesan Health and Safety Officer – Mrs Julie Tinsley:

The Catholic Insurance Services have provided new guidance and rental agreements which include the hire of halls for private celebrations, with the stipulation that no



inflatables, bouncy castles or fireworks will be allowed on church premises; inside or outside.

The CIS guidance also states that hirers should have their own event insurance and that, as the liability remains with the hirer, they should check their House Insurance Policy to ensure it contains legal cover which would be sufficient for the purpose of such events.

Following a number of requests from parishes to allow their parish halls to be hired for private celebrations such as birthday parties, the matter was raised with the Diocesan Trustees at their last meeting.

After some discussion the Trustees agreed that the halls could be opened for hiring for private celebrations subject to the prohibition of inflatables, bouncy castles and fireworks.

The Diocese H&S Guidance Note for 'Hiring of Church Premises to Third Party Organisations' and the associated risk assessment form have been revised in accordance with the recent advice from our insurers and are both attached for your guidance and information.

PACT MASSES

10/22 *Father George Grynowski*
Died 27/06/22 (Birmingham)

FINALLY ...

We are certainly bearing 'the heat of the day' as I write! I hope you will all take special care in these exceptionally high temperatures.

As all the schools finish this week and summer holidays begin, I hope you will also manage to have some quieter days in the weeks ahead. It has been an especially intense and demanding period in the life of our parishes. Since the beginning of Lent, we have been catching up with so much that was delayed by the pandemic.

Thank you for all you have been doing. It has been good to join you in the parishes for many events and celebrations. I hope you will be able to take some time away before everything begins anew in the Autumn. I very much hope the new academic year will allow us to enjoy a more normal pattern of parish and diocesan life.

+ **Mark**

Bishop of Shrewsbury

Enc:

- *Hiring of Church Premises to Third Party Organisations ~ Guidance Form*
- *Third Party Use of Church Premises RA Form*
- *Cathedral Pilgrimage Day ~ Leaflet and Booking Form*