

Diocese of
Shrewsbury
Ad Clerum

2022/10 June





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

A NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CARDIFF AND BISHOP OF MENEVIA

Archbishop Mark O'Toole will be installed today as the Archbishop of Cardiff and on Thursday as the Bishop of Menevia. I will be concelebrating the Mass of Installation at Cardiff Cathedral today and ask your prayers for Archbishop Mark and the mission of the Church in Wales and Herefordshire.

COVID PRECAUTIONS – ENDED AND CONTINUED

I was able to join a meeting via the internet, of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales on the eve of the Diaconate Ordinations in Rome. At this meeting the bishops agreed to end any requirement to use face masks during the distribution of Holy Communion. I am conscious there might still be situations where prudence will determine the wearing of a face covering, however, in normal practice Holy Communion can now be given without this precaution.

However, for the immediate future Holy Communion should not be given under both kinds by offering the chalice. Concerns continue regarding the passing of infections by the sharing the chalice and the necessary purification of the sacred vessel. The bishops were told we would be advised when the medical advice changed on this question. This is the one area where a precautionary restriction remains in place for us. I am sure the practical reasons for not sharing the Chalice are well understood by parishioners. At Concelebrated Masses, concelebrating priests will continue to receive Holy Communion by intinction. The only exception I can envisage is where priests live together in the same household and even then, it would be a prudential decision as to whether to share the chalice at a concelebration. I have noticed how the sign of peace has now returned in many parishes by clergy and people making a gentle, liturgical bow to the person beside you. The offering of the sign of peace remains at the discretion of the local pastor. On my visits to parishes, I have noticed that anxiety and caution have significantly lessened with each passing month. However, at a time when rates of Covid infection are rising in many places we need to remain conscious of people's vulnerabilities and sensitivities even as precautionary measures have now been largely removed.

CLERGY

NEW VOCATIONS DIRECTOR

I am very grateful to Father Anthony McGrath who has accepted my invitation to serve as the new Vocations Director for the Diocese. Tony will take up this role on 30th June. Please remember this important work in your prayer and give Tony every support in the years ahead.

DEACON SEAN HENRY

At the invitation of the Beda College, I ordained eight Deacons on the path to the Priesthood at Saint Paul Outside the Walls on Wednesday. Among the eight was Sean Henry for our own Diocese. Please keep Sean in your prayers as he completes his final year of formation in preparation for his ordination to the Priesthood next year.

FATHER PAUL HUGHES RIP

Paul died in Tameside General Hospital on the evening of Saturday 11th June. May he rest in peace. Paul has suffered a long illness bravely, with the support of the good parishioners of Saint James, his brother priests and his family and friends. It was very much his desire to remain at Saint James's Presbytery during these last years while the parish was being served by Father Philip Atkinson from Saint Peter's Stalybridge. Father Paul remained in Hattersley until his last days, when he was cared for in Tameside General Hospital. We hope to be able to confirm funeral arrangements in the week ahead.

MONSIGNOR CANON CHRISTOPHER LIGHTBOUND RIP FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Last week I circulated the funeral arrangements for Monsignor Christopher Lightbound who died in Nazareth House, Birkenhead on Wednesday 18th May. May he rest in peace.

Monsignor Chris's mortal remains will be received into Christ the King, Bromborough on Wednesday 22nd June with a Vigil Mass at 7.00pm and on Thursday 23rd June, his Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 12.30pm. The Requiem Mass will be livestreamed via this link: https://youtu.be/U2_nFVbh8yw

Clergy are asked to vest in the Parish Centre, please bring a purple stole if you wish to concelebrate. Refreshments will also be served in the Parish Centre following the Requiem Mass.



DEACON DERYCK SANKEY

Please remember Deryck who is due to undergo an operation at the Countess Chester Hospital today. We pray that the surgery will be successful and that he will make a speedy recovery.

DIOCESE

MR TONY NOBLE RIP

We have received the sad news of the death of Bishop Brian Noble's brother Tony, on 21st April. May he rest in peace. Please remember him in your prayers together with the Noble family.

MARGARET LILLIS RIP

I ask that you remember Margaret Lillis who died on 21st May in your prayers. Margaret served the Diocese by her dedicated work in the Education Department. Margaret's Requiem Mass will be celebrated tomorrow at Saint Alban's, Macclesfield, at 12 noon followed by committal at Macclesfield Crematorium at 2.00pm.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME

I have received some further correspondence from parishioners who cannot understand why diocesan properties are not being utilised under the Government's *Homes for Ukraine* Scheme. I share with you a statement I asked to be prepared which sets out simply why under this scheme it is open to individual parishioners to welcome refugee families into their homes, but the Diocese cannot act as a corporate sponsor in the way we are presently doing with much preparation and due diligence for refugees from other parts of the world.

"The Diocese of Shrewsbury warmly welcomes refugees as this local church makes visible Christ's welcome. Through our social justice agency, *Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury* we have developed extensive work as a legal sponsor in assisting many refugees, including those from Syria and Afghanistan, working with the Government to provide parish-led Community Sponsorship.

The *Homes for Ukraine* scheme has been set up specifically to support those escaping the conflict in Ukraine. The scheme is limited to, and aimed at, people applying as individuals offering accommodation in their own homes to Ukrainian families. This scheme is different to Community Sponsorship with different legal processes and procedures

even though there is a commonality in outcomes. The Diocese and Caritas are therefore obliged to operate within the rules of the scheme under which refugees come to the United Kingdom.

The Diocese and *Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury* are classified as 'organisations' for the purpose of the scheme and at present organisations cannot be a sponsor. Caritas stands ready to become the legal sponsor under the scheme as soon as it opens to organisational sponsors, with several parishes across the Diocese having registered their interest with Caritas as being able to offer support to Ukrainian refugees. In the meantime, the Diocese and Caritas continue to work closely with the Catholic Social Action Network, who are working nationally on behalf of the Church to seek an extension of the present scheme."

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

Deacon Bernard McConnell has a new email address: mcconnelljudge@gmail.com

EVENTS AND COURSES

CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF PREACHERS ~ THE MARRIAGE HOMILY: REVEALING DIVINE LOVE

I attach a notice for a free Webinar tomorrow 21st June organised by the Catholic Association of Preachers for Priests and Deacons on preaching at weddings.

SUMMER FESTIVAL AT AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE

A message from Catholic Young Adult's Charity - Youth 2000:

"Are you wanting to explore faith, improve your relationship with Jesus, and make loads of new friends at the same time? Youth 2000 are preparing to welcome hundreds of young people from all around the UK to pray and praise together over the entire Bank Holiday weekend (Fri 26th - Mon 29th August at Ampleforth College, York). Families and under 18s are welcome! Go to www.youth2000.org/events/summerfestival to book your tickets before they sell out. Sponsored places are available if money is an issue - just get in touch at events@youth2000.org.uk" Poster attached.



CLERGY RETREATS AT STONYHURST CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE

Priests in post-Covid Britain ~ Monday 3rd to Friday 7th October 2022

This silent retreat for secular and religious clergy, reflecting on the lessons of Covid and on how a bounce-back might be effected will be preached by Fr de Malleray of the Fraternity of Saint Peter. The next retreat, in April 2023, will be preached by Monsignor John Armitage (theme TBC). For more information and booking: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/clergy/>

STONYHURST SUMMER COURSES

Catholicism & Contemporary Culture ~ 4th to 7th August 2022

Explore the themes of truth, sacramentality and the symbolic in Catholicism and the challenges from contemporary culture. The second in our Faith & Reason series, this course offers a practical approach to fundamental themes of the Catholic faith. Of particular interest to senior leaders, teachers and catechist seeking a deeper knowledge of the Catholic vision in today's world. <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/faith-and-reason-2/>

The Search for Happiness ~ 26th to 29th August 2022

Explore the four pillars of the good life – the Cardinal virtues – and how they structure our search for happiness, through the philosophy and theology of St Thomas Aquinas. In partnership with CEPHAS, this course offers a fascinating engagement with this foundational theme for the Christian life through the thought of the Church's greatest theologian. <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-search-for-happiness/>

Please find posters for these two courses attached.

THEODORE HOUSE: A VENUE FOR RETREAT AND R&R

The Christian Heritage Centre has a residential facility, Theodore House, which reopens to the public from July 2022 and offers B&B stays for individuals and small groups, as well as a unique venue for retreats, conferences and meetings. Comfortable and with modern amenities on the beautiful Stonyhurst estate in the heart of the Ribble Valley. Contact manager@theodorehouse.com for enquiries.

PACT MASSES

08/22	Father Laurence Crowe	
	Died 22/03/22	(Birmingham)
09/22	Father Paul Hughes	
	Died 11/06/22	(Shrewsbury)

FINALLY ...

On this feast of Saint Alban, our congratulations to Father Peter Burke and the clergy and people of Saint Alban's, Macclesfield who celebrated the Bicentenary of this historic parish on Saturday 11th June with a Concelebrated Open-Air Mass. I wish to record all our thanks to Cardinal Vincent Nichols who very generously travelled from London to join us for this special celebration. It was a happy day to see so many people gathered in the sunshine on the school field with only a mischievous breeze to contend with. This was a moment to recall so many who have gone before us in the life of the Diocese and have left the witness of their faithfulness in times often marked by greater struggles and challenges than we know today. In the words of the Letter to the Hebrews, a great cloud of witnesses encourages us to run the race set before us (Cf. Heb. 12: 1,2).

+ Mark

Bishop of Shrewsbury

Enc.

- Catholic Association of Preachers Webinar Notice
- Stonyhurst Posters:
 - ~ Catholicism & Contemporary Culture
 - ~ The Search for Happiness
- Youth 2000 Summer Festival Poster