

Diocese of
Shrewsbury
Ad Clerum

2022/14 August





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

THE AUTUMN AND WINTER AHEAD

As the last public holiday of the summer has now passed and our schools prepare to return next week, thoughts naturally turn to the autumn and winter ahead. Following two difficult winters marked by the uncertainties of a pandemic, we now face the challenges and anxieties of rising costs both for our parishes and for our parishioners, especially the poorest and most vulnerable.

This is surely a time to pray for our political leaders, mindful of I Tim. 2: 1-4 that wisdom will prevail in their judgments and in the difficult choices they are called to make for the common good. This must also be a time to remember the poorest and those most vulnerable in our communities. We are especially blessed in this service of those in greatest need, by the strong parish network of the *Society of Saint Vincent De Paul* and by our newly established *Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury*.

This must also a time to consider how best we can prepare our parishes for the financial pressures of the winter in order to keep costs to the minimum. I have asked the Diocesan officers to prepare a short paper with some helpful advice and practical ideas to assist parishes in weathering the anticipated energy and economic crisis. I hope this paper attached will help in beginning to prepare for the anticipated increases in all our energy costs.

PASTORAL LETTER ON THE PILGRIMAGE OF THE RELICS OF SAINT BERNADETTE

I will be sending a Pastoral Letter on the *Pilgrimage of the Relics of Saint Bernadette of Lourdes* to be read at all Masses on Sunday 11th September.

THE HOLY SEE

CARDINAL ARTHUR ROCHE

On Saturday, the Holy Father created 21 new Cardinals including our own Archbishop Arthur

Roche, Emeritus Bishop of Leeds who is presently serving as Prefect for the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Please keep Cardinal Roche in your prayers together with all those the Holy Father has entrusted with this responsibility.

CLERGY

FATHER GREGORY DOWNING ~ RIP

Father Gregory Downing died at Montgomery House, Shrewsbury on 12th August. May he rest in peace. Father Greg's mortal remains will be received into Saint George's, Whitchurch with a Vigil Mass at 7.00pm on Thursday 8th September. I will offer the Requiem Mass on Friday 9th September at 12.30pm at Saint Peter's, Stalybridge. The Mass will be followed at 2.30pm by the committal at Dukinfield Crematorium. If you wish to concelebrate at either of the Masses please bring an alb and a purple stole.

DAVID WOODIER ~ RIP

I received the sad news that David Woodier, a former priest of the Diocese, died on 9th August. Please remember David in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

ANDREA LOMAS ~ RIP

I have also received the sad news of the death of Andrea Lomas, the wife of Father Paul Lomas who died on 19th August. May she rest in peace. Let us keep Andrea, Paul and their family in our prayers.

ALEYKUTTY THOMAS ~ RIP

Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Aleykuty Thomas, the beloved mother of Father Mathew Thomas, who died on 24th August aged 84 and whose funeral will take place in India tomorrow, 1st September. May she rest in peace.



CLERGY DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The next Clergy Day of Recollection will be on 23rd November from 10.30am to 3.00pm at Our Lady & Saint Christopher's, Stockport. Canon Michael Gannon VG will be circulating further information together with a booking form in due course.

DIOCESE

2023 MISSION APPEALS IN PARISHES

I received a letter from the Catholic Missionary Union of England and Wales to say that the **Sisters Mission Committee** (which comprises of 12 different organisations based in the UK) have been allocated to the Diocese of Shrewsbury for the 2023 mandatory mission appeals. The Sisters Mission Committee writes, we are still in a period of uncertainty regarding health and safety concerns, they will be as creative and flexible as possible in seeking ways of delivering their mission appeals to parishes.

CHANCERY UPDATE ON PAPERS TO BE SENT TO THE CHANCERY OFFICE

During the Covid-19 lockdown, and, subsequently, when access to the Curial Offices was limited, it was necessary for marriage papers and other correspondence for the Chancery to be sent to the Parish of the Diocesan Chancellor.

Many parishes have experienced a backlog of weddings, receptions into the Church and baptisms since the end of the pandemic restrictions. Dealing with this backlog has placed particular pressure on the Chancery and so I am pleased to say that the Diocese is making Mr Anthony Timothy available, for up to one day per week in term time, as administrative support for the work of the Chancery. Anthony's contribution will allow for parishes to be kept up to date with, for example, the progress in the processing of wedding papers and will provide a point of contact at the Curial Offices for queries from parishes. It is intended, for the future, that on sending a set of marriage papers to the Chancery, every parish will receive an email confirming that the papers have been

safely received and a further email once the papers are completed and sent out to the parish or Diocese where the wedding is to take place. In this way, parishes will be better placed to assure sometimes anxious couples of the progress with the paperwork for their wedding.

Therefore, from the beginning of September please revert to the pre-Covid practice of sending all wedding papers and other applications for the Chancery to the Curial Offices. With these new arrangements in place, please also refrain from inviting couples to contact the Chancery Office or the Chancellor directly. If an update is needed, the Parish Clergy or Parish Office are invited to contact Anthony, anthony.timothy@dioceseofshrewsbury.org who will be able to answer any queries

CURIAL OFFICE STAFF CHANGES

I wish to record all our gratitude to the Curial staff who will be completing many years of dedicated service this Autumn:

Sue Blackwell, Governance Support Officer and **Sue Jenkinson**, PA to Director of Schools will both be retiring at the end of September.

Cath Duffy, School Chaplaincy Coordinator, **Roisin Moores**, Education Support Officer and **Julie Johnson**, Assistant Director of Schools and Acting Deputy Director of Schools, will also be completing their service on 31st August.

I would also like to welcome all the new members of staff who have already joined or will be joining the Curial Office team this autumn:

Our new Deputy Director of Schools, **Richard Woods** and School Advisor, **Rob Hughes**.

Jackie Walker of Saint James Primary School, Hattersley who will be supporting the Education Service as Schools Advisor on a part time basis.

Rahul Raman who began his employment as IT support on 1st August.

Julie English, who will begin shadowing Sue Jenkinson in preparation of her new role as PA to Director of Schools from 5th September.

Ashleigh Adonis who will be joining the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team in September.



PILGRIMAGE OF THE RELICS OF SAINT BERNADETTE OF LOURDES

The visit of the relics of Saint Bernadette to our Diocese is just two weeks away on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th September. Canon Christopher has asked me to share the following information with you:

Resources: Hopefully you will have received a set of resources in the post to be shared with parishioners to help and support our preparation for the visit of the relics. These resources are also available to download on the Diocesan website, however if you would like more paper copies, please contact Pauline McCulloch at the Curial Offices and she will happily send out further copies to you.

Bookings: All though not essential, we are asking and encouraging people to register for a time slot to visit the relics at both the Cathedral and Saint Werburgh's in Chester. Thank you to those parishes and individuals who have already done so. Registration is to minimise the queuing and waiting outside and to give the two churches advance notice of the numbers of pilgrims to expect at any one time to aid their organisation. Registration is through the national website <http://www.stbernadette.org.uk>

If parishioners don't have access to the internet, you might consider registering on their behalf.

Youth Programme: The Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team (SYMT) are hosting times of catechesis, activities and veneration of the relic at both the Cathedral and Saint Werburgh's for young people. The invitation for this has gone out via our schools, and if schools haven't yet registered, they are asked to do so by emailing Sandy Fairley youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Masses: The Bishop will celebrate Mass at 7.00pm in The Cathedral on Tuesday 13th September and 12.15am on Wednesday 14th September at Saint Werburgh's, Chester. Both Masses are open to the public but on a first come first served basis. Once the church has reached safe capacity the stewards will have to close admission, therefore unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that everyone who wishes to attend the Masses will be able to do so. Both Masses will be live streamed and details of this will follow. If priests wish to concelebrate at either Mass they are asked to

contact Laura Butcher (Cathedral Secretary) admin@shrewsburycathedral.co.uk to book their place and to ensure there is enough seating available on the sanctuary.

Confessions: It is hoped that Confessions will be available throughout the visit of the relic to the Diocese. Father David Long is coordinating this and has been in touch with priests from the Deaneries hosting the relic. If any other priests would be willing to hear confessions on either of the two days, then please contact Father David at longdv1@aol.com with your availability.

Social Media: Information and updates about the visit of the relic to our Diocese are being posted on the social media of the Diocese, Lourdes Pilgrimage, Lourdes Hospitality, Cathedral and SYMT accounts. This is a good way to keep up to date with the visit.

You should have received a copy of the programme for the two dates in the recent mailing, it is also attached for your information. You may wish to share this with parishioners.

If you have any questions, please contact Canon Christopher at admin@shrewsburycathedral.co.uk

Lourdes Hospitality Volunteers Wanted: Lourdes Hospitality members have been approached to carry the reliquary and statue and to stand on guard throughout the visit of the relics. For further details please contact the Hospitality President, Siobhan Cartwright: siobhanbc@gmail.com or phone on 07761138947.

COURSES AND EVENTS

VACANCY - CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY FEDERATION

I attach the notice and job description for a full time **Strategic Project Director** to work for the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation of England and Wales, which you may want to advertise in your parish. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on 23rd September 2022.



RETROUVAILLE: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

We have received notification of the Retrouvaille programme for couples struggling in their marriages begins with a weekend from 13th -16th October 2022. It will be held online using Zoom. The following programme will be a face-to-face weekend from 24th - 26th February 2023 in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

Retrouvaille is a Catholic programme but is open to married couples of any religion, or none. It is offered as a gift from the Catholic Church to any married couple who wishes to heal the difficulties they are experiencing in their marriage.

The programme is presented by trained volunteers who themselves have experienced the programme and want to share the benefits they have experienced first-hand in their own relationships. The presenting team on the weekend also includes a priest who has experienced the programme and believes that it has something to offer couples in difficulties. All priests are invited to come and experience the programme for themselves for free.

I have attached a poster which you may wish to display in your parishes and you can visit their website: www.retrouvaille.org.uk for further information.

PACT MASS

11/22 *Father Gregory Downing* (Shrewsbury)

Died 12/08/22

FINALLY ...

Some 300 pilgrims from the Diocese, including our new Youth Pilgrimage, re-started the Shrewsbury Diocesan Pilgrimage after an interval of three years. My thanks to Father David Long and all the team for making this pilgrimage possible.

The pilgrimage was not without its challenges in preparing during a year marked by many uncertainties and facing the delays at UK airports which were widely experienced this summer. The number of pilgrims in Lourdes may have been

noticeably fewer, yet there was a renewed spirit of genuine pilgrimage was evident.

The clergy were able to gather for a meal together during the pilgrimage. In the quietness of Batres, we spent an hour in Eucharistic Adoration where you were especially remembered together with our departed brethren of these past three years.

I hope the pilgrimage of the relics of Saint Bernadette will be a time of special grace and encouragement for us all as we continue to re-build the life of our parishes following the pandemic years.

May Saint Bernadette of Lourdes pray for us,

+ Mark

Bishop of Shrewsbury

Enc.

- *Energy Efficiency Guidance 18 August 2022*
- *Relic Tour Timetable*
- *Retrouvaille Poster*
- *CYMFED job description*