

Diocese of  
Shrewsbury  
*Ad Clerum*

2022/15 September





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

## **THE HOLY YEAR 2025**

I wanted to alert you that preparations have begun in Rome for the Holy Year 2025. This Jubilee Year is now less than three years away. Pope Francis has announced the theme as "Pilgrims of Hope" inviting us to reflect more deeply on Christian hope.

This theme anticipates the 2,000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christ's Death and Resurrection which we expect to be celebrated in 2033 as a Holy Year of the Redemption. The Holy Father will announce next month two years of preparation for the Holy Year 2025. The first year of preparation in 2023 will be focused on the four constitutions of the Second Vatican Council; and the second year of preparation in 2024 will be focused on prayer.

I will keep you informed of further developments, and we might reflect this Autumn on how we can best prepare for the 2025 Holy Year as a Diocese.

## **PREDICATE EVANGELIUM**

I attach for your information, the new Apostolic Constitution for the Roman Curia, which seeks to more firmly orientate the work of dicasteries and departments in a missionary direction. This was explained to the bishops as an orientation towards explicit proclamation on the foundation of sound doctrine and in active charity.

## **DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC SHRINE DEDICATED TO PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, I will initiate the Diocesan Eucharistic Shrine at Saint Joseph's, Stockport, with the celebration of Mass at 12 Noon. The liturgical feast of Saint John Paul II will be the day for this prayerful dedication of a historic church of our Diocese, for the mission of Eucharistic Adoration and of constant intercession for new vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood.

All are welcome and if you wish to concelebrate at Mass, please inform Canon Christopher Matthews:  
[frchris.matthews@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:frchris.matthews@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

## **THE PILGRIMAGE OF THE RELICS OF SAINT BERNADETTE OF LOURDES**

I wish to record my thanks to everyone at the Cathedral, Saint Werburgh's in Chester and in the Hospitality of Lourdes, who enabled the Pilgrimage of Saint Bernadette's relics to be such a great gathering of the people of the Diocese and a time of special grace for so many. I also wish to record my thanks to our primary and secondary schools who enabled more than five hundred pupils to take part in this spiritual event.

It is estimated more than two thousand people in Shrewsbury and Chester shared in the silent prayer and veneration, in two celebrations of Mass and many Confessions which marked the pilgrimage.



Enroute to Liverpool, I was pleased that the relics were able to be brought for a private visit to the Carmel of Birkenhead where I know the Sisters were united in prayer for the needs and intentions of the Diocese.

It was a great feat of organisation undertaken under the leadership of Canon Chris Matthews, Father David Long and the organising committee allowing the pilgrimage to proceed in an atmosphere of prayer. The arrival of the relics from Swansea was unfortunately delayed on the first day, however, the people who had arrived at the Cathedral kept in good spirits and this happy atmosphere continued across the 24 hours of the pilgrimage. May it be promise of many graces for the life of the Diocese.

## **THE FUNERAL OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

Thank you for all that has been done in these past two weeks to bring so many together in a time of national mourning and to be part of many community and civic events marking the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. I was able to be present at civic commemorations of the Queen and the announcement of the accession of the new King, which brought people together from many different backgrounds and walks of life. We cannot fail to note the genuine public grief, the seriousness of people's reflection and a renewed sense of unity in the nation and across communities at this moment in our history.

## **OUR NEW KING**

I circulated on Friday, a personal expression of gratitude by King Charles for the prayers of the Catholic people of England and Wales. The King specifically asked Cardinal Nichols to convey his thanks to the people in the parishes and communities across the country. It has been heartening to hear our new King repeatedly give witness to his Christian faith and commitment as he begins his reign.

## **CLERGY**

### **DEACON GERARD DOHERTY RIP**

We received the sad news of the death of Deacon Gerard Doherty who died on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September at Wythenshawe Hospital. May he rest in peace. I will forward details of his funeral once arranged. Please keep Ged and his family in your prayers.

### **NEW DEANS**

Following consultation with the clergy of the respective deaneries, I wish to record my gratitude to the new deans who have generously accepted my invitation to undertake this service:

- **Canon Niall Mullaley** has been appointed Dean of Birkenhead and East Wirral
- **Father Paul Shaw** has been appointed Dean of Ellesmere Port and Chester



- **Father Stephen Woolley** has been appointed Dean of South Trafford and Wythenshawe.

## DEACON DAVID IRWIN

Deacon David Irwin has returned to the Diocese following a period of discernment in Ireland. David will be resident at the Cathedral as he continues his preparation for ordination to the Priesthood for the Shrewsbury Diocese.

## DIOCESE

### WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Every parish, school and community are invited to join in this moment of prayer for the worldwide mission of the Church and in offering support through collections for *Missio* to assist the work of missionaries across the world.

### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – REVISED FAITH REFERENCE

*A message from Mr Damian Cunningham –  
Diocese of Shrewsbury, Director of  
Education:*

“In consultation with the Bishop and in line with other Dioceses and the new faith references for those wishing to be Catholic School Inspectors, we have made some revisions to the ‘Faith Reference’ used in the

Diocese. In addition to asking a priest to verify that a candidate attends Sunday Mass we have also included the following question:

*To the best of your knowledge is this applicant’s personal life in keeping with the teachings of the Church?*

This will necessitate that the priest providing the reference knows the candidate well enough to respond to this question and that they may have to use their pastoral knowledge of the candidate in responding to this question. It is important that the response is based on your personal knowledge of the candidate and not on that of a third party. If you cannot answer the question using your own knowledge of the candidate, then you should indicate this on the form and inform the candidate that you are unable to answer this question.

We will ensure that candidates are aware of the changes to the reference and how important it is to engage in dialogue with their Parish Priest and seek their consent before naming a priest as a referee.”

### PRISONERS SUNDAY - 9th October

Prisoners Sunday will fall on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October this year. This is a moment to think about how we as individuals and as communities are serving those affected by imprisonment. The Prisoner’s Sunday collection, while not obligatory, offers an opportunity to support the work of PACT, the Prison Advice and Care Trust.



For more information visit:  
<https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/prisoners-sunday>

## CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

- **Saint Joseph's, Stockport** has a new email: [stockportshrine@gmail.com](mailto:stockportshrine@gmail.com)
- **Deacon Mike Denny** has a new email: [mike.denny@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mike.denny@hotmail.co.uk)

## YOUTH

*Two updates from Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team:*

### ✚ FLAME 2023

Tickets are now available for flame 2023 which takes place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at Wembley Arena, with an impressive line-up of guest speakers. This year there are two ticket options:

- £25 – Ticket only
- £85 – Ticket and Coach travel (Departure times TBC)

Places are limited so early booking is advised. To book tickets or for more information please email:  
[sophie.reed@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:sophie.reed@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

### ✚ WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023 – Lisbon

World Youth Day is the largest international gathering of young people. It is held every three years being first established by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1985.

In 2023, the Diocese of Shrewsbury will travel with other Dioceses of England & Wales, to take part in World Youth Day in Lisbon. We will be joined by young Catholics from around the world for a week-long event of catechesis, prayer, reflection, and Mass in the presence of the Holy Father.

- Dates: 31<sup>st</sup> July – 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2023
- Cost: £1,200 – inclusive of meals, travel, accommodation, and World Youth Day passes.
- Age: 18 to 35

Please be advised that places are extremely limited. For any questions, or an application form, contact:  
[clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

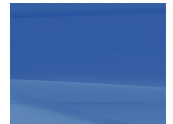
For more information visit  
<https://www.lisboa2023.org/en/>

## CATECHESIS

*Information from the Diocesan Catechist Team:*

### ✚ MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

A new Marriage Preparation Course entitled 'Betrothed' will be run as a pilot at the Cathedral over two consecutive Saturdays, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The course includes catechesis on the truth and meaning of the human person, marriage in God's plan from the beginning, marriage after the fall and marriage in the Lord. It also includes research-based relationship education and skills training, proven to strengthen marital relationships. If you have couples preparing for marriage who would benefit from this



course then please contact Cathedral Secretary, Laura Butcher for bookings: [admin@shrewsburycathedral.co.uk](mailto:admin@shrewsburycathedral.co.uk)

Telephone: (01743) 29000

For information contact Jane Deegan (details below).

## ✚ MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT

A Marriage Enrichment Retreat, *'Loving 4 Life'* is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2022, at Wistaston Hall in Crewe.

Couples can book online at <http://www.loving4life.co.uk> or contact Jane Deegan (details below).

## ✚ MISSION FOR CATECHESIS DAYS

Mission for Catechesis Days, known as *'Hearts on Fire'*, take place over two consecutive Saturdays and involve catechesis, small group sharing and an introduction to catechetical courses. There will also be a time of Eucharistic Adoration and prayer.

The next Mission is to take place at Our Lady & Saint Oswald's Parish in Oswestry on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, and then at Saint Wilfred's parish in Northwich on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.

For further information on all of the above, please contact Jane Deegan: [jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)  
Telephone: 07517 906435

## ✚ A DAY ON DISCERNMENT OF GIFTS AND SERVICE

A day on *'Discernment of Gifts and Service'* is planned for November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at Saint Alban's Parish in Macclesfield. The aim of the day is to help people identify their gifts for serving the Lord. 'There are varieties of service, but the same Lord.' 1 Corinthians 12:5. 1. Sister Hyacinthe of the Dominican Sisters of Saint Joseph will deliver the day. For more information contact Lisa Martinez (details below).

## ✚ THEOLOGY OF THE BODY AND THE CATECHISM

A day on Theology of the Body (TOB) and the Catechism has been organised in conjunction with the TOB Network UK, and will be given at Saint Wilfred's Parish in Northwich on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2022.

For more information, contact Lisa Martinez: [lisa.martinez@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:lisa.martinez@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

## COURSES AND EVENTS

### 40 DAYS FOR LIFE ~ 'STOCKPORT'

I received a letter from Steve Conlon, the lead for 40 days for life in Stockport, who sent me the following information regarding the vigil for life: *"40 Days for Life 'Stockport'* is a programme of prayerful street vigil at the clinic on Chester Road, Hazel Grove, beginning on the 28<sup>th</sup> September and



finishing on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022. It is a non-denominational, pro-life movement that has successfully saved over 20,000 lives since 2007." For further information visit: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/stockport>

## PACT MASSES

12/22 *Father Paul Devaney* (Birmingham)  
Died 05/09/22

## FINALLY ...

*As I write, we are awaiting the Government's announcement of measures to assist with the energy crisis. I know there are anxieties in the parishes at the prospect of enormous rises in energy costs. Following the initial practical guidance on ways to reduce energy costs in the last Ad Clerum, I hope these national measures will assist our parishes and indeed our parishioners at this especially difficult time.*

*Related to this crisis, the war in Ukraine appears to be tragically escalating with no end to this terrible conflict in sight. The Russian President even appears to threaten the use of nuclear weapons, which should be utterly unthinkable. Together with Pope Francis let us continue to pray for the peace of the world and entrust Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*United with you in this prayer,*

+ Mark

Bishop of Shrewsbury

*Enc.*

- *The New Constitution for the Roman Curia*
- *Flame Flyer*
- *World Youth Day Flyer*