

Diocese of
Shrewsbury
Ad Clerum

2022/16 October





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

OCTOBER DEANERY CONFERENCES

I am grateful to the Deans who met with me on Tuesday to help prepare the agenda for the October Deanery Conferences. The paper for discussion focuses on the well-being of the clergy; the pastoral standards for our life and ministry; the financial pressures being experienced by parishes and beginning to revisit the 2000 'White Paper' Review that was last discussed in the deanery conferences in 2016.

DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC SHRINE FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND THE SANCTIFICATION OF PRIESTS

On Saturday 22nd October, I will formally inaugurate Saint Joseph's Church in Stockport Town Centre as our Diocesan Shrine of Eucharistic Adoration for intercession for new vocations to the priesthood and for the sanctification of priests.

I will celebrate Mass at 12 noon, followed by a short period of Eucharistic Adoration. I attach with this Ad Clerum, publicity leaflets and posters you may wish to share with parishioners. If you intend to concelebrate at the Mass, please let Canon Christopher Matthews know and bring an alb and a white stole.

GATHERING OF PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE 2023

I would be grateful if you would put in your diary **Thursday 16th March 2023** for a gathering of all the priests of the Diocese at the Park Royal Hotel, Stretton. This day will focus on well-being and support in our life and ministry.

The programme will begin with coffee from 10.30am onwards with the first session at 11.00am. The day's programme will conclude with dinner together at 6.30pm for 7.00pm. Overnight accommodation will be available for all clergy who wish to stay at the Park Royal with departures for the resident clergy following breakfast the next morning. A registration form will be sent to you in the weeks ahead.

BISHOP HOWARD TRIPP R.I.P

We have received the sad news of the death of Bishop Howard Tripp on Monday 3rd October. Bishop Tripp served as Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark from 1980 until his retirement in 2004. May he rest in peace.

OUR DEPARTED CLERGY

Father Michael Cupit R.I.P.

Last week we received the sad news of the death of Father Michael Cupit in Wythenshawe General Hospital on 30th September. May he rest in peace. Please remember Michael at Mass and in your prayers. We await confirmation of the funeral arrangements.



Deacon Gerard Doherty R.I.P

The funeral arrangements have been confirmed for Deacon Gerard Doherty who will be received into Sacred Heart, Baguley on Wednesday 12th October with a Vigil Mass at 7.00pm. I will offer the Requiem Mass on Thursday 13th October at 12 noon. May he rest in peace.

DIOCESE

PROVIDING HEATED AREAS DURING THE COMING WINTER – ‘WARM HUBS’

I am conscious that local authorities have been contacting parishes, inviting them to share in schemes to provide heated areas for those in need during the winter months ahead and the provision of hot meals where possible. I have asked Mrs Carol Lawrence to provide some guidance for the parishes on the issues and preparations which may be involved. This guidance will be sent by the end of this week. I hope it will be helpful in considering whether and how best our parishes may be able to take part in this initiative.

CATHEDRAL DEVELOPMENTS

I thought you might like to see the photograph attached, of the new (almost completed) Altar in the Cathedral, together with the completed tiled floor and the renewed mosaic in all its beauty. We received the altar thanks to the Dean and Chapter of Ely Cathedral. A new mensa is

now in preparation with consecration crosses and a place for the relics of the Saints.



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2022

Further to the reminder in the last *Ad Clerum*, we have received this note from Father Anthony Chantry:

“This year, World Mission Sunday falls on Sunday, 23 October. On this day the whole Church unites in prayer for its missionary activity, and in collecting funds to support Catholic communities across the world living in situations of poverty and privation.

The theme chosen by the Holy Father is: ‘You shall be my witnesses’ (Acts 1:8). In his message for World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis says: ‘The essence of mission is to bear witness to Christ, that is, to his life, passion, death and resurrection for the love of the father and of humanity.’

All donations go to the Universal Solidarity Fund in order to meet the material needs of Catholic communities too young, too small or too poor to support themselves.



Donations help them to live out the mission entrusted to them by the Lord.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Missio through prayer and charity. Please do all you can to celebrate this day in solidarity with the whole Church.

For more information about World Mission Sunday, please visit missio.org.uk/wms "

COURSES AND EVENTS

THEODORE HOUSE

The Christian Heritage Centre is a Catholic Retreat Centre based in the Ribble Valley near Preston. I enclose a flyer outlining the facilities and residential and day retreats from its home, Theodore House, which has now fully re-opened.

PACT MASSES

13/22 *Father Michael Burke* (Menevia)

Died 25/09/2022

14/22 *Father Michael Cupit* (Shrewsbury)

Died 30/09/2022

FINALLY ...

I attach with this Ad Clerum the document 'Caring Safely for Others' which provides pastoral stands for safe conduct in our ministry. I am conscious this document was first received by us during the first year of the pandemic and have proposed at the meeting of Deans that we should re-visit its contents at the forthcoming deanery conferences.

Cardinal Nichols notes that *"In recent years various documents have been produced, here and abroad, outlining the behaviour expected of ordained ministers and those who work closely with them. Many are helpful indeed. But this document is now presented with the full authority of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales and is therefore immediately applicable to every cleric, religious or diocesan, working in any of the parishes or ecclesiastical institutions within this territory of the Conference."*

If we first read 'Caring Safely for Others' during the early months of the pandemic, I hope it will now be helpful to remind ourselves of the contents which are intended to help each of us in the safe conduct of our ministry. I hope our reflections on Section IV on pastoral standards and safe practices will prove fruitful at the deanery meetings ahead.

+ *Mark*

Bishop of Shrewsbury

Enc.

- *St Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine Leaflet and Poster*
- *Theodore House Flyer*
- *Caring Safely for Others*