

Diocese of  
Shrewsbury  
*Ad Clerum*

2022/07 April





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

## **MASS OF THE SACRED CHRISM**

We will be coming together 'in person' for the first time in three years to celebrate the Chrism Mass on Wednesday at Saint Michael and All Angels, Woodchurch. I know Canon Christopher Matthews has already sent details of the celebration and arrangements for the distribution of the Holy Oils.

## **SOLEMN INTERCESSION FOR PEACE ON GOOD FRIDAY**

I attach an additional intercession in Latin and English translation "For the peace of the world" to be included as an eleventh intercession in addition to the ten orations in the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion this year.

## **UNION OF PRAYER WITH THOSE SUFFERING IN TIME OF WAR**

The bishops have recommended that our parishes should be united in prayer with those suffering as a result of war and violence and have suggested that the Solemn Watching on Holy Thursday or on the evening of Good Friday with prayer around the Cross or the contemplation of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady might be appropriate moments.

## **COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND**

This collection traditionally takes place on Good Friday and supports not only to maintenance of the Holy Places but also the needs of the local Christian Communities who, more than ever, need our assistance. I have received a letter from the Holy See urging us to respond very generously this year to the urgent needs of these communities.

## **PASTORAL LETTER AND CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

A Pastoral Letter *On Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary* was read at Masses on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022. I am grateful to all the priests of the Diocese who, in union with the Holy

Father and all the bishops of the world, shared in this prayerful entrustment of humanity and especially of Russia and the Ukraine.

## **DIOCESAN LISTENING PHASE**

The closing celebration of the Diocesan Listening Phase took place at the Cathedral on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Copies of the Diocesan Synthesis together with the Episcopal Discernment were distributed to the parishes at the beginning of last week together with my thanks to all who have participated in prayer, in local meetings or by personal written reflections.

## **CLERGY**

### **FATHER ANTHONY WILD**

Please keep in your prayers this Holy Week, Father Anthony Wild who has suffered a serious breakdown in health. Anthony is receiving help and treatment and will be on sick leave for the foreseeable future. I am very grateful to our Diocesan Welfare Officers and the local Dean, Father Michael Hartley, for their support of Father Anthony at this time.

### **MONSIGNOR DAVID CHARTERS**

Monsignor David Charters has been spending a period of leave at Shrewsbury Cathedral following the completion of his mission at the United Nations. I am very grateful to David who has generously agreed to serve the parishes of Newport and Market Drayton during Holy Week and Easter.

### **FATHER JOSEPH O'CONNOR**

Please also remember in your prayers Father Joe O'Connor, a retired priest of the Lancaster Diocese, who has been serving the Neo-Catechumenal community in Wythenshawe and will begin a course of chemotherapy. Father Joe will be out of action for the months ahead and we pray for his full recovery.



## **FATHER LOUIS CHARUVILA PUTHENVEEDU PAPPY**

We welcome Father Louis Charuvila Puthenveedu Pappy, as the newly appointed Syro-Malankara Chaplain who arrived on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Father Louis will be resident at St Anne's, Cheadle. We record our thanks to Father Kuriakose Madathirampil his predecessor for his generous service of the Syro-Malankara community and in the parishes of the Diocese.

## **THE COUNCIL OF PRIESTS**

The Council of Priests held the first face to face meeting since the beginning of the pandemic, at the Cathedral on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Dates for future meetings:**

*Meeting of Deans* ~ Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 ~ 11.00am for **11.30am** at the Cathedral

*Deanery Conferences* ~ week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022

*Council of Priests* ~Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022 ~ 11.00am for **11.15am** at the Cathedral

## **DIOCESE**

### **MRS MARGARET EVANS**

I am very pleased to report that Margaret has decided to defer her retirement and will remain in post as the Diocesan Clergy Welfare Officer. Margaret will be reducing her hours to 1½ days per week with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

### **EASTER HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDANCE**

*A message from Julie Tinsley - Diocesan Health and Safety Officer*

The Easter Services bring some unique circumstances and additional risks. It is therefore important, once again, to consider any extra controls which need to be in place to ensure that all those attending the services during this period are kept safe.

The Diocese has a Health and Safety Guidance note to assist parishes to maintain a safe environment during these larger events and an associated risk assessment for the Easter Vigil. Please review your risk assessments, also consider the controls you have put in place to reduce any potential transmission of the Covid-19 virus which, unfortunately, is still present in the community. The Guidance note and risk assessment are attached for ease of reference.

### **CURIAL OFFICE EASTER CLOSING**

The Curial Offices will close for the Easter break on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm and will reopen as normal on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

## **FINANCE**

### **MISSIO AND RED BOX RESULTS FOR 2021**

The Missio and Red Boxes results for 2021 from the Diocese of Shrewsbury raised a total of £227,065 which is over £50,000 more than last year! I wish to record my thanks to Father Tony Grace, Diocesan Director, to all clergy, local secretaries, promoters and the people of the parishes for this very generous support for the worldwide mission of the Church.

Please see the enclosure for the totals of what each parish was able to raise.

## **GENERAL**

### **INTERNATIONAL PRAYER FOR EASTERN CHRISTIANS**

Archbishop Longley has asked us to circulate the attached information for the Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians which takes place on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, the Sixth Sunday of Easter.



## MARRIAGE CARE

### *Marriage Care Announces Return of Face-to-Face Relationship Support Services:*

“After nearly two years of running services via webcam alone, we are gearing up and looking forward to seeing and serving couples in-person again. We will be following Government COVID-19 guidance and encouraging all involved to adopt the recommended COVID safe behaviours, where appropriate. In supporting couples and families. You can visit the Marriage Care website at: [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk)

## MARY’S MEALS

### *From Anna Houghton - Mary’s Meals UK*

Mary’s Meals will be running our ‘Pray in May’ campaign again this year. Mary’s Meals has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support us. We are inviting churches across the UK to join us in prayer to celebrate the wonderful work of Mary’s Meals and give thanks that we are now reaching more than 2 million children with a nutritious meal in 20 countries every school day.

Mary’s Meals will be contacting churches and schools that they already work with in the Shrewsbury Diocese. For more information, resources and contact details: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/prayinmay>

## COURSES

### **ANCIENT BYZANTINE ICONOGRAPHY COURSE - STONEYHURST**

A full, 7-day immersion in the spirituality and discipline of writing an icon in the Byzantine style, led by Deacon Nikita Andreyev, of the Prosopon School of Iconography. Residential and non-residential options, with the course taking place from Saturday 25th June to Friday 1st July inclusive at The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. For more info and to book,

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/iconography-course/>

## FINALLY ...

*I am conscious that Covid infections are presently numbered in millions around the country, however, I didn't expect to become ill with Covid-19 as this Holy Week approached. We are all looking forward to a Holy Week without the restrictions and the shadow of a pandemic and hopefully it will also be a week free of Covid infections among the clergy. I am hoping two negative tests will allow me to celebrate the Chrism Mass on Wednesday evening. However, the course the infectious stage is of course beyond our control.*

*In the event of tests remaining positive, I am grateful to Archbishop Longley and for the generosity of Bishop Stephen Wright, the Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham, who has agreed to celebrate the Chrism Mass if this Covid infection persists.*

*Canon Philip Moor VG has also tested positive for Covid and while hoping to be ready to celebrate the parish Paschal Triduum is unlikely to be with us for the Chrism Mass on Wednesday.*

*I hope you will all keep free of Covid for the Holy Week and the Easter celebration and pray the days ahead will be a time of spiritual renewal in all our parishes.*

*United with you in this prayer,*

+ Mark

*Bishop of Shrewsbury*

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- *Good Friday Prayer for Ukraine*
- *Easter Health and Safety Guidance and Risk Assessment Form*
- *Missio and Red Box Results 2021*
- *Eastern Christians ~ Letter of Cardinal Fitzgerald*
- *Eastern Christians ~ Parish Leaflet*
- *Eastern Christians ~ Poster*