

Diocese of
Shrewsbury
Ad Clerum

2022/08 May





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

PENTECOST ANNOUNCEMENT

The Bishops of England and Wales met in Cardiff last week and have prepared a statement marking the end of the provisions regarding the Sunday Mass obligation made more than two years ago for Catholics unable to attend Mass in the conditions of a pandemic. It is an encouraging message which I happily enclose with this Ad Clerum. The bishops will also consider later in the summer, the remaining safety measures in the celebration of the Liturgy. I have personally observed in recent months a greater feeling of relaxation in the parishes and have also been made aware of the anxieties and nervousness still very much felt by some members of the faithful. It is a difficult balance for us. I would ask you to make the Pentecost statement available to parishioners and perhaps even to read it at Mass on the Sunday before Pentecost. It is an important moment for us all at the end of a long state of crisis.

INSTALLATION OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CARDIFF AND BISHOP OF MENEVIA

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Mark O'Toole of Plymouth as the Archbishop-elect of Cardiff and Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Menevia. I ask your prayers for Archbishop-elect O'Toole who will become the eighth Archbishop of Cardiff, succeeding Archbishop George Stack. I will be representing the Diocese at the Installation at Cardiff on Monday 20th June.

VISIT OF CARDINAL NICHOLS TO MACCLESFIELD

On Saturday 11th June, Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be visiting the Diocese to join us in giving thanks to God for the 200th anniversary of Saint Alban's, Macclesfield. The day of celebration will include Holy Mass celebrated by the Cardinal at 2.00pm on the school playing fields. We are very grateful to Cardinal Vincent for travelling to the Diocese for this historic anniversary.

THE CAUSE OF THE VENERABLE ELIZABETH PROUT

On Saturday I travelled to Sutton, Saint Helens to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for the life and witness of the Shrewsbury-born Venerable Elizabeth Prout. Her body rests in the shrine at Sutton together with the great Passionist Missionaries of the Second Spring, Blessed Dominic Barberi and Blessed Ignatius Spencer. I hope as we emerge from the pandemic, we will find new ways to promote knowledge and devotion to this remarkable woman of Shrewsbury.

40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VISIT OF POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II TO BRITAIN

This month will mark the 40th anniversary of the visit of Pope Saint John Paul II to Britain. It is hard to believe so many years have passed since this historic visit. I will be concelebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving at Our Lady of Grace, Prestwich beside Manchester's Heaton Park at 7.00pm on 31st May.

CLERGY

FATHER JEROME FAGAN

I have granted Father Jerome a period of sick leave effective from 2nd May. Please keep Jerome in your prayers as we look forward to him returning with his health and strength restored.

The deanery clergy, under the guidance of the Dean Father Paul Standish, have assumed pastoral care of the parish. I am very grateful to all the clergy for taking on this task ensuring the provision of pastoral care and the celebration of Mass and the sacraments for the people of Crewe.

FATHER BERNARD FORSHAW

Father Bernard Forshaw has written to me with his resignation as Parish Priest in order to recover his health and strength effective from Monday 2nd May. I wish to record my thanks for all of Father Bernard's dedicated service to the parishes of Saint Anne's, Saint



John's and Saint Luke's. Please keep Bernard in your prayers.

I am very grateful to Father Kevin Prince, Canon Paschal Byrne, Father Michael Coughlan and the Parish Deacons who have continued the pastoral care of the parishes with the oversight of Canon Philip Moor VG during these past weeks, including the celebration of Holy Week and Easter.

I will shortly be writing to the deanery clergy for the traditional consultation for a new Dean.

FATHER ANTHONY WILDE

Father Anthony continues his recovery and convalescence and please keep him in your prayers. I am grateful for the very generous assistance of Monsignor David Charters and the retired clergy in serving the parishes at Newport and Market Drayton at this time.

VOCATIONS DIRECTOR

With his new and extensive parish duties, Father Edmund Montgomery has now stood down as Diocesan Vocations Director effective from yesterday Sunday 8th May, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. I wish to record all our thanks to Father Edmund for the significant and continued progress made in the work for vocations during his years both as Vocations Promoter and subsequently Vocations Director for the Diocese. I am in the process of making a new appointment and in the meantime ask you to refer any enquirers directly to myself.

PRAYER AND MASS FOR VOCATIONS

This is a good moment to remind ourselves that every member of the clergy is a vocations promoter and director. It is also a moment to remember that new and generous vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Consecrated Life depend on our prayer. Whenever possible you might make this your Mass intention each Friday of the week. This would also be a way of reminding our parishioners to be constantly united with us in this prayer and intercession.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

● **Father David Peters** died in Manchester Royal Infirmary on 11th April 2022.

A Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 7.00 pm on Monday, 9th May, at Holy Family, Sale Moor. The Requiem Mass will be 11.30am on Tuesday 10th May at Holy Family, Sale Moor followed by a private family committal.

● **Father Robin Sutton** died on Sunday 24th April at Nazareth House, Birkenhead. The details of his funeral arrangements will follow shortly for a Vigil Mass on Sunday evening 5th June and the Requiem Mass at 12.00 noon on Monday 6th June at Saint Alban's Liscard.

Please remember Father David and Father Robin at Mass and in your prayers.

SUMMER ORDINATIONS

Next month I will be travelling to Rome for the ordination of **Sean Henry** to the Diaconate. I will be presiding at a Diaconate Ordination of eight candidates in the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls on Wednesday 15th June. I commend Sean and all the men to be ordained to your prayers.

On Saturday 16th July, I will ordain **Antony Nuttall** to the Permanent Diaconate at the Cathedral. Please keep Antony in your prayers as he prepares for the day of ordination.

JUBILARIANS AND CHAPTER MASS

I look forward to welcoming the Chapter and our Clergy Jubilarians to the Cathedral on 24th May, the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians.

If any of the Jubilarians have not yet responded to their invitation, I would be grateful if you could contact my office with your acceptance or apologies by Tuesday 17th May at the latest.

Email: Theresa.stones@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Tel. 01743 290052



CELEBRET REQUESTS

I would be grateful if clergy who are travelling outside of the diocese between now and 4th July, make their celebret requests as soon as possible - and certainly before **June 6th**. This will ensure that the celebret can be prepared, signed and sent to you before a period of time which covers Theresa's annual leave and my own engagements away from the office.

The details required for a celebret are: the dates of travel, the parish and diocese you will be visiting and one form of ID - choose either the number of your photographic driving licence/number of your passport/digital photograph).

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER SYSTEM IN ENGLAND AND WALES

I have been contacted by Margaret Butler, North West Regional Medical Examiner Officer who wanted to ensure that the Catholic Clergy and the Catholic Community are fully informed about changes in the Medical Examiner Service:

"In February 2021, the government published Working together to improve health and social care for all, the white paper which includes provisions for Medical Examiners to be put on a statutory footing. During 2022, the role of these Offices is being extended to include all non-coronial deaths, wherever they occur. Implementation of this next phase is taking place incrementally, to allow time for capacity and processes to be put in place.

Once Medical Examiners have been put on a statutory footing, no Medical Certificate of Cause of Death will be able to be issued and no registration of a death will be able to occur (unless the death has been referred to HM Coroner) until Medical Examiner scrutiny has been completed. The next of kin will be contacted by the Medical Examiner Team, following the death of a loved one, and will be given the opportunity to discuss the cause of death with the Medical Examiner or Medical Examiner Officer, who will also establish if the next of kin have questions or any concerns with care before death.

Each NHS region has a Regional Medical Examiner and a Regional Medical Examiner Officer to support

Medical Examiner Offices. Regional Medical Examiners and Regional Medical Examiner Officers oversee the provision of services and provide an independent line of advice and accountability for Medical Examiner Offices at trusts in their region. In March 2019, Dr Alan Fletcher was appointed as National Medical Examiner for England and Wales. The office of the National Medical Examiner can be contacted by emailing: nme@nhs.net"

DIOCESE

THE VISIT OF THE RELICS OF SAINT BERNADETTE OF LOURDES

In the much-anticipated national pilgrimage, we look forward to welcoming the relics of Saint Bernadette to the Cathedral on Tuesday 13th September and to Saint Werburgh's, Chester on Wednesday 14th September. Details to follow.

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

- **Father Keith Butterworth** has a new telephone number: 01612820067
- **Christ the King, Bromborough** has a new telephone number: 01512080663
- **Deacon David Cotterell's** new address is:
23 Rowan Court, Greasby, Wirral CH49 3QH.
- **Father John Feeney, Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Lourdes, Leasowe** have the new email address: parish@thecrossmoreton.com and a new website address: www.thecrossmoreton.com

FINANCE

PETERS PENCE

The Apostolic Nunciature sent a letter of thanks on 5th April for the sum of £2202.60 which had been received from the Diocese of Shrewsbury as our contribution towards the work of the Holy Father.



OFFERINGS FOR THE HOLY PLACES

I also received a letter of acknowledgement from the Apostolic Nuncio thanking the Diocese of Shrewsbury for their very generous contribution of £6774.96, which has been donated by our parishes to support the Christian community living in the Holy Land.

EVENTS AND COURSES

CATHOLICS IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE: ETHICS AND PRACTICE ~ Online Training Day

I received an email from Helen Watt from the Bios Centre (which is a new interdisciplinary bioethics centre with the aim of promoting Hippocratic practice in the health care professions), regarding an online training day for health and social care professionals. The training day is being held jointly by the Bios Centre, the Anscombe Centre and St Mary's University on Saturday 14th May from 11.30am - 4.45pm. The aim is to bring together Catholics working in health care or social care, to highlight resources available for them, and to explore topics such as ethical issues in daily practice, conscientious objection, assisted suicide, and dying well.

Although the day is primarily intended for Catholics, and Bishop Sherrington will be introducing it, those of other denominations and beliefs are more than welcome to attend. Helen has asked me to share this with members of the diocese working in health care or social care or chaplaincy

The event is already well-subscribed, but places are still available via the St Mary's University website here:

<https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2022/05/catholics-in-health-and-social-care> There is no charge for attending this event.

PACT MASSES

05/22 Rev David Peters
Died 11/04/22 (Shrewsbury)

06/22 Rev Robin Sutton
Died 24/04/22 (Shrewsbury)

FINALLY ...

I hope Holy Week and Easter went well for you in all the parishes. The reports I have received indicate a very encouraging response. I am pleased to say that I am now fully recovered from Covid-19 which struck me just before Holy Week. I was able to secure the two negative tests in order to celebrate the Mass of Easter morning in a happily crowded Cathedral.

I very much regret that Covid prevented me being with you for the Chrism Mass and I wish to record all our thanks to Bishop Stephen Wright, Auxiliary in Birmingham who was able to celebrate the Mass and bless and consecrate the Holy Oils. I was told of the dreadful difficulties many of you faced in getting to Saint Michael's with the sudden closure of the M56.

Bishop Stephen was very edified by the dedication of clergy and people who continued to arrive almost until the end of Mass. May the celebration of Holy Week and the continuing Easter celebration in our parishes be the promise of continued recovery and renewal following the pandemic years.

+ Mark

Bishop of Shrewsbury

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➤ *Bishops Statement - Returning to Mass at Pentecost. pdf*