

Diocese of
Shrewsbury
Ad Clerum

2022/09 May





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

A HAPPY FEAST DAY

May I wish you all a very happy feast day on the patronal feast of our Shrewsbury Diocese. It is with special joy that I will welcome the Chapter and many Jubilarians, who have celebrated anniversaries during the pandemic, back to the Cathedral on this Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. We will be remembering the whole Diocese in the celebration of Mass at 12 noon and then gathering for a celebratory meal with the jubilarians who are giving thanks to God for the best part of a thousand years of priestly life and ministry!

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Bishops of England and Wales invite all parishes on Sunday 5th June 2022 to offer prayers for Her Majesty the Queen on the historic occasion of her Platinum Jubilee. The prayers are to be included as an intention in the Universal Prayers for Pentecost and by reciting at the end of Mass (following the Post- Communion Prayer and before the Final Blessing) a special prayer for the Queen. I attach copies of these prayers which were also circulated to the parishes last week. Parishes may also wish to sing the liturgical chant *Domine, salvum fac* and/or the National Anthem which takes the form of a prayer for the monarch.

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY

World Communications Day this year is on Sunday 29th May. A second collection is one of the three mandatory collections in all the dioceses of England and Wales. I attach a message from our Holy Father Pope Francis, who has set the theme: *Listening with the ear of the heart*. I also attach letter from Bishop John Arnold outlining the importance of this collection.

CLERGY

MONSIGNOR CHRISTOPHER LIGHTBOUND RIP

Last week we received the sad news of the death of **Monsignor Christopher Lightbound** who died at Nazareth House on Wednesday 18th May 2022. Chris is one of our longest serving diocesan priests who began his service in the Diocese in 1955. May he rest in peace.

FATHER ROBIN SUTTON R.I.P

Confirmation of the funeral arrangements have now been sent to the parishes. Robin's mortal remains will be received into English Martyrs, Wallasey on Sunday 5th June with a concelebrated Mass at 6.00pm and whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at Saint Alban's Liscard at 12 noon on Monday 6th June. Please note the two churches for the evening reception and then for the Requiem Mass.

SAINT MARY'S CREWE

On Sunday I wrote to the people of Saint Mary's, Crewe to inform them that Father Jerome has stepped down as Parish Priest effective from 22nd May to support his continued recovery during his time of sick leave. I wish to first and foremost record my thanks to Jerome for his dedicated service of the parish. I also ask your prayers for his continuing recovery. I hope Father Jerome will soon be able to return to lighter duties in the Diocese. In the meantime, I will be seeking to appoint a new Parish Priest for Saint Mary's; and remain grateful for the very generous help of the deanery clergy in supporting the Catholic community in Crewe.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Last week you will have received notification of the mandatory safeguarding training for clergy under the auspices of the new regulatory body. The training will be held this summer via Zoom which I hope will prove helpful. Thank you to all the members of the clergy who were very promptly in touch to sign up for the training. If you have any questions regarding the dates or accessing Zoom, please contact our Safeguarding Co-ordinator: Andrew.O'Brien@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

DIOCESE

PILGRIMAGE OF THE RELICS OF SAINT BERNADETTE

The Relics of Saint Bernadette of Lourdes will be with us at the Cathedral from 1.00pm on Tuesday 13th September until 9.00am on Wednesday 14th September, when the Relic will travel to Saint Werburgh's, Chester until 4.00pm that same afternoon. A Diocesan programme is being drawn up and the complete schedule for the visit will be available soon. The visit is already awakening much public interest and I hope this pilgrimage will be an especially blessed moment of prayer and new evangelisation.



DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2022

It is an encouraging to see a late surge in bookings for our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes following an anxious beginning to the year which disrupted so much planning and preparation. Our pilgrimage will be significantly smaller than in previous years. However, I am sure this pilgrimage of 2022 will be marked by the special joy of our return. The hesitations and anxieties of the pandemic didn't allow us to promote the youth pilgrimage very extensively. If you have young people in the parish who may be interested in joining the pilgrimage then please be in contact with Sandy Fairley and the youth team.

MR GED SIMPSON

Our Senior Grants and Foundation Officer, Ged Simpson will be leaving the Diocese of Shrewsbury at the beginning of June. During his three and a half years at the Curial Offices, Ged has helped directly and given support to parishes in raising some £3 million towards projects in our Diocese and for Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury. I wish to record our thanks to Ged for his work and commitment and wish him well for the future.

EVENTS AND COURSES

VOCATIONS TO THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

If you know of anyone in your parishes who may be thinking of becoming a Permanent Deacon, the Diaconate Formation team are holding a time of reflection on Sunday 26th June 2022 at Saint Anne's Church, Nantwich at 2pm. For more information, contact **Deacon John Penny**: Tel - 07973 375422 Email: johncpenny@gmail.com or **Deacon David Hill**: Tel -07407 407606 Email: David2007hill@hotmail.co.uk

PACT MASSES

07/22 Mgr Christopher Lightbound
Died 18/05/22

(Shrewsbury)

FINALLY ...

It has been wonderful on my journeys round the Diocese to see so many coming back together with a sense of joy after the two long years of the pandemic. It has been especially impressive to see our young people night after night who've persevered during those same, troubled years in a desire and commitment to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. I know we are all presently facing many demands in this post-pandemic time not least with long-

delayed events and celebrations. I hope we too can share this joy after our two anxious and restricted Eastertides.

In the beautiful Novena of Pentecost which begins on Thursday let us pray for that lasting joy which Pope Francis often reminds us is the hallmark of the Church's life and mission. The joy which is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

United with you in this prayer,

+ Mark

Bishop of Shrewsbury

Enc.

- *Prayers for the Queen*
- *Pope Francis' message: 'Listening with the ear of the heart'*
- *World Communications Day message from + John Arnold*