

Diocese of
Shrewsbury
Ad Clerum

2022/19 December





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

ARCHBISHOP CLAUDIO GUREROROTTI

Pope Francis has appointed the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain as the new Prefect of the Dicastery for Oriental Churches. We record our thanks to Archbishop Gugerotti for representing the Holy Father in our country through the difficult times of the pandemic and the historic moments of the long reign of Queen Elizabeth II coming to its close and the beginning of the reign of King Charles III.

We have all been grateful for the encouragement Archbishop Gugerotti brought to the Church in our land as the Pope's personal representative and we pray for his new service of the Universal Church.

RESIGNATION OF BISHOP ROBERT BYRNE

On Monday we received the sad news of the resignation of Bishop Robert Byrne as Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle. Bishop Byrne has explained in a letter to the clergy and lay faithful of the Diocese, that he has found the office of Diocesan Bishop "too great a burden" and no longer felt he was able to serve the people of the Diocese in the way he would wish.

We pray for Bishop Robert and for the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. The Holy Father has appointed Archbishop Malcolm McMahon as Apostolic Administrator until a new bishop is appointed.

NEW AUXILIARY BISHOP FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

Pope Francis has appointed Monsignor Philip Moger as a new Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Southwark. A priest of the Diocese of Leeds, Monsignor Moger has been most recently the Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Please remember

Bishop-elect Moger in your prayers as he prepares to begin his episcopal service.

I hope to attend the Episcopal Ordination at Southwark Cathedral on 21st February.

NEW BISHOP OF EAST ANGLIA

In the face of wintry conditions and transport disruption, it was a great and joyful celebration at the Cathedral Church of Saint John Baptist, Norwich, for the ordination and installation of Bishop Peter Collins as the new Bishop of East Anglia. It was also a moment to give thanks for the years of Bishop Alan Hopes service of the Diocese. It was particularly moving to see the statue of Our Lady brought from Walsingham to the Cathedral for that day.

UKRAINIAN WELCOME CENTRE AND WINTER APPEAL

His Majesty, King Charles III, made a special visit to the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral to formally open the Welcome Centre and see the work that Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski and his team have undertaken in supporting Ukrainian families since the beginning of the war. The First Lady of Ukraine, Mrs Olena Zelenska, also attended this official opening. Details of the visit can be found on the CBCEW website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/king-charles-iii-and-ukraines-first-lady-visit-eparchys-ukrainian-welcome-centre/>

I also attach Bishop Kenneth's letter explaining the **Ukrainian Winter Appeal** supported by the Eparchy of the Holy Family across the country. I commend this appeal to your attention as we pray for the people of Ukraine this Christmas.

SISTER JO BIRD R.I.P

We received the sad news on Wednesday of the death of Sister Jo Bird at the Cenacle Convent in Liverpool. May she rest in peace. Sister Jo will be



remembered by many in the Diocese not least in latter years for her service of Religious Sisters in the Episcopal Vicariate for Religious and as a Parish Sister in Wallasey. Please remember Sister Jo in your prayers.

CLERGY

CHAPLAINCY AT THE COUNTESS OF CHESTER HOSPITAL

I am grateful to all the clergy who generously assist in the pastoral care of the Countess of Chester Hospital. I am very grateful to Deacon Tony Nuttall who will take up the appointment as the new Catholic Chaplain on 1st January 2023.

ANNUAL PASTORAL STATISTICS - 2022

Please find attached a copy of the Annual Pastoral Statistics form to be completed for every parish and returned to Mrs Theresa Stones before the end of January 2023. I would be most grateful if these returns could receive your urgent attention at the beginning of the new year. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this important matter.

LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION 2023

The Lenten Day of Recollection will take place at Wistaston Hall, Crewe, on Thursday 23rd February 2023 and will be led by Father Andrew Robinson who teaches Scripture at Oscott College.

SAINT BEUNO'S CLERGY RETREAT 2023

Saint Beuno's Diocesan Clergy retreat will be held from 12th to 16th June 2023 and will be led by Father Philip Caldwell, a priest of the Salford Diocese. Further details to follow.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN MASS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE: *Saturday 7th October 2023*

I am pleased that, following the years of the pandemic, the Annual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage will be celebrated next year on 7th October at 12 noon. The venue is to be announced. As has been the custom for many years, I will be inviting you in the summer, to send names and addresses of couples who are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2023, and those who celebrated significant anniversaries in 2021 and 2022.

CONFIRMATION DATES FOR 2023/2024

Easter 2023 – Easter 2024

I would be grateful if parishes who have not already done so, could please contact Mrs Theresa Stones with their Confirmation requirements for the period Easter 2023 to Easter 2024 so that the next cycle of dates can be completed.

VENERABLE ELIZABETH PROUT.

I would like to draw your attention to the invitation for continued prayers for the Cause of the Venerable Elizabeth Prout, a great woman of Shrewsbury. I hope we can continue to promote this Cause within the Diocese.

DIOCESE

CURIAL OFFICES

Please note the Curial Offices will be closed from 5.00pm on Thursday evening 22nd December 2022 and will reopen at 9.00am on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.



DIOCESAN ORDO & YEARBOOK 2023

The 2023 Diocesan Ordos and Yearbooks have now been distributed to the parishes and there will also be the opportunity to purchase the National Catholic Directory at a reduced price from the Curial Offices in January.

I wish to record our thanks to Mr. Anthony Timothy, Canon Christopher Matthews and to all who have helped prepare and complete these two important publications. If you have not yet received copies, please refer to the distribution points set out below to arrange collection or delivery:

- LPA 1-3 Cathedral – Parish Office
- LPA 4-5 Saint Mary's, Telford
- LPA 6-7 Sacred Heart & Saint Teresa, Wilmslow
- LPA 8-9 Saint Mary's, Middlewich
- LPA 10-11 Saint Werburgh's, Chester
- LPA 12-13 Saint John Henry Newman, Warrington
- LPA 14 St Anthony's, Wythenshawe
- LPA 15 -16 Saint Vincent's, Altrincham
- LPA 18 Saint Mary's, Duckinfield
- LPA 19 -20 Our Lady and the Apostles, Shaw Heath
- LPA 21 St Alban's, Wallasey
- LPA 22 Our Lady of Pity, Greasby
- LPA 23-24 Saint Anne's, Rock Ferry
- LPA 25 Saint Joseph's, Birkenhead

'BELOVED' ~ MARRIAGE PREPARATION

The first Shrewsbury Diocese marriage preparation course of 2023, called 'Beloved', will be held at Saint Vincent de Paul, Church Hall in Altrincham. The course will be run over two Saturdays on the 25th February and the 4th March from 9.30am to 5.00pm. For more information and to register for the course please contact jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org (registration is essential).

DIARY DATES FOR 2023

✦ Lenten Clergy Day of Recollection

- ❖ Thursday 23rd February ~ Wistaston Hall, Crewe

✦ Meeting of Deans

- ❖ Tuesday 31st February ~ 11.30am
- ❖ Tuesday 3rd October ~ 11.30am

✦ Deanery Conferences

- ❖ Week beginning 20th February
- ❖ Week beginning 23rd October

✦ Council of Priests

- ❖ Tuesday 14th March ~ 11.30am
- ❖ Tuesday 28th November ~ 11.30am

✦ Gathering of priests serving in the Diocese

- ❖ 16th March ~ Park Royal Hotel, Stetton

✦ Diocesan Trustees

- ❖ Wednesday 15th February ~ 4.00pm
- ❖ Wednesday 17th May ~ 4.00pm
- ❖ Wednesday 20th September ~ 4.00pm
- ❖ Wednesday 29th November ~ 4.00pm

✦ RCIA

- ❖ RCIA Retreat Day ~ Saturday 11th February
- ❖ Rite of Election ~ Sunday 26th February
- ❖ Mass of Thanksgiving ~ Sunday 28th May

✦ Chapter/Jubilarians Mass

- ❖ Wednesday 24th May

✦ Marriage Mass

- ❖ Saturday 7th October 2023

✦ Saint Beuno's Clergy Retreat

- ❖ Monday 12th June to Friday 16th June

✦ Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

- ❖ 28th July to 3rd August (by air); 27th July to 4th August (overland)



'SHARING THE CHURCH'S STORY' CONFERENCE

Mr Brenden Thompson of Catholic Voices has sent me the following information regarding a rescheduled event, which was postponed following the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II:

"Catholic Voices and Word on Fire are hosting a one-day conference called 'Sharing the Church's Story'. Come and join 1300 Catholics who are passionate about the renewal of the Church in the UK and a host of dynamic speakers including the internationally renowned speaker and author, Bishop Robert Barron. So whether you are a volunteer, parent, catechist, clergy, religious, or just want a boost for your faith life, then this conference is for YOU."

The conference is on Saturday 11th February 2023 from 10am-5pm at the QEII Centre, Westminster, London, SW1P 3EE. For more information and to register: www.sharingthechurchsstory.com

FINALLY ...

2022 has been a year when have all been catching up with so much that was put on hold during the pandemic. In catching up with the programme of Parish Visitations, it has been good to share together the hopes and challenges we face and witness the re-building of the life of the Church across the Diocese.

Tomorrow, we enter the last days of Advent which will lead us to the celebration of Christmas 2022 in more normal conditions than we have known since Christmas 2019. I hope it will be a time greatly blessed in all our communities and the days which follow might allow some quietness and rest.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year,

+ Mark

Bishop of Shrewsbury

Enc.

- *Letter from Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski – Ukrainian Appeal*
- *2022 Annual Parish Statistics Form and Guidance Notes*