



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

Department of Mission and Evangelisation

Adult Formation

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

Together with a reading of the Constitutions on

DIVINE REVELATION and THE CHURCH

Offered by Miss Barbara Davies in conversation with Dr Stephen Yates

General Introduction:

1. The origin of these talks: In the Diocesan Synodal Submissions, there were many requests for on-going formation in, e.g. Scripture, spirituality, and the Second Vatican Council which took place 60 years ago. These podcasts are part of the response to these requests; each lasts approx. 30 mins.
2. Our aim is simply to offer an understanding of the teaching of the Council, to help us all to live it more consciously. There are various translations of its documents, including individual texts published by the CTS. We have used the Vatican's own translation. This, together with all 16 of the Council documents, can be accessed here: [Documents of the Second Vatican Council](#)
3. We do not aim to give an exhaustive presentation of these two beautiful texts, nor of all the issues they raise. Both are called 'Dogmatic Constitutions'; as such, they are among the richest and most important texts produced by the Council Fathers. We hope to give you enough understanding of their content and their continued importance to encourage you to read them for yourself.
4. Suggested use of the podcasts:
 - If possible, before listening to a session pause and pray to the Holy Spirit
 - There are three parts to the over-all presentation:
 - I. An Introduction to Ecumenical Councils, the Popes & the Documents of Vatican II
 - II. A Presentation of the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation: *Dei verbum*
 - III. A Presentation of the Dogmatic Constitution on The Church: *Lumen gentium*
 - Each of the three parts can be studied separately:
 - Within each part, there are sections of about 30 mins long
 - These touch on various topics within the over-all title
 - After listening to the podcast, perhaps take a few minutes to make your own notes:
What struck you? What did you find helpful? What raised a question for you...?
 - You might then find it good to listen to the section again, to consolidate what you have heard. This is not necessary, but it can prove fruitful.
5. Handouts are available for downloading and printing off. These may be used to further your reflections, either alone or in small groups.
6. A bibliography of suggested reading is provided for the same purpose.
7. An outline of individual podcasts is given below. It may be useful to print this off separately.



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

Together with a reading of **DEI VERBUM** and **LUMEN GENTIUM**

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Please note: Nos. 1-11 correspond to individual podcasts, each of approximately 30 mins.

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PART ONE: Councils of the Church

1. *Point I: What are councils? Why are they held? Who calls them?*
2. *Point II: Nature and Purpose of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65)*

PART TWO: The Dogmatic Constitution on DIVINE REVELATION DEI VERBUM

3. *Point I: The Nature and Purpose of Divine Revelation*
4. *Point II: The Transmission of Divine Revelation*
5. *Point III: Sacred Scripture in the Church and in our lives*

PART THREE: The Dogmatic Constitution on THE CHURCH LUMEN GENTIUM

6. *Point I: Why was this document necessary? What Questions does it Address?*
7. *Point II: Who is the Church?*
 - i) *Mystery and Sacrament* Chapter One
 - ii) *The People of God* Chapter Two
8. *Point III: How is the Church (structured)?*
 - i) *The Hierarchy* Chapter Three
 - ii) *The Laity* Chapter Four
9. *Point IV: Why is the Church?*
 - i) *The Universal Call to Holiness* Chapter Five
 - ii) *(Holiness in) The Religious Life* Chapter Six
10. *Point V: Where is the Church?*
 - i) *The Pilgrim and the Heavenly Church* Chapter Seven
 - ii) *The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, in the Mystery of Christ and the Church* Chapter Eight

POSTSCRIPT:

11. *Reflections on the Hopes of Pope John XXIII for The Second Vatican Council.*