

Diocese of  
Shrewsbury  
*Ad Clerum*

2023/02 February





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

## ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

I am very happy to announce arrangements have been made for three ordinations to the Priesthood in the year ahead. The Diocese has been blessed with generous vocations and I ask you to keep the candidates, all our seminarians together with the enquirers and discerners in your prayers.

**Rev. David Irwin** will be ordained to the Priesthood on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 12.00 noon at Saint Vincent's, Altrincham (The ordination will take place in Altrincham due to works being undertaken in the Cathedral).

**Rev. Sean Henry** will be ordained to the Priesthood at the Cathedral on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 6.00pm.

**Rev. Godlove Amungwa** will be ordained to the Priesthood at the Cathedral on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 12.00 noon.

All priests in the Diocese are welcome to concelebrate at the Masses of Ordination. It would be helpful for arrangements if you could let Canon Christopher Matthews know in advance. Please pray for David, Sean and Godlove as they look forward to beginning their life-long service as priests of the Diocese.

## CLERGY

### CANON JOHN MARMION RIP

Our most senior priest, Canon John Marimion died on 20<sup>th</sup> January in Arrowe Park Hospital. John served the Diocese from his ordination on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1951. May he rest in peace. Canon Marmion's mortal remains will be received into Saint Joseph's, Upton on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February with a Vigil Mass at 7.00pm. I will offer the Requiem Mass on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at Saint Michael & All Angels, Woodchurch at 11.30am,

prior to the interment at Frankby Cemetery. Please keep Canon Marmion and his family in your prayers.

## MASS OF THE SACRED CHRISM

This year the Chrism Mass will be celebrated on the Wednesday of Holy Week, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00pm at Saint Anthony's, Wythenshawe.

Parking will be available in the school grounds (Dunkery Road, Woodhouse Park, M22 0NT).

The Chapter are invited to vest in the Guild Room near the main sacristy where a stole and chasuble will be available for you. Priests and Deacons are invited to vest in the Parish Centre and please bring an alb and white stole with you.

Canon Christopher Matthews advises us that Deans will be able to collect the bottled Holy Oils for the parishes of their deanery approximately half an hour after the Mass has concluded. If Deans aren't able to be present at the Mass please advise Canon Christopher who will collect the oils on behalf of the deanery.

## DAY FOR PRIESTS – 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH

The day for all priests serving in the Diocese is now only a few weeks away. We look forward to this post-pandemic get-together at the Park Royal Hotel on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March. I attach with this Ad Clerum a Booking Form to be completed and returned to Pauline McCulloch by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**. I also attach some questions prepared by Father Gerard Byrne, Director of Saint Luke's Centre, for our personal reflection in preparation for the day on healthy priestly life and ministry. The programme for the day will be:

- 10.30am onwards Coffee and Arrivals.
- 11.00am Welcome and Introduction.
- 11.10am Presentation by our Diocesan Clergy Welfare Officers.
- 12.15pm Concelebrated Mass



- 1.00pm Lunch
- 2.00pm Presentation and Discussion with Father Gerard Byrne on understanding and responding to our mental health and spiritual needs as priests
- 4.00pm Evening Prayer of the Church
- 6.00pm Celebratory Dinner

Rooms are available for an overnight stay with breakfast in the morning before departures. For priests who are staying overnight, check-in will take place following Evening Prayer.

## MAY DAY FOR DEACONS

The Diaconate Team has arranged a day for all the Deacons serving in the Diocese, at the Cathedral on the eve of Pentecost, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Details and programme will follow.

## FEBRUARY DEANERY CONFERENCES

I am grateful to all the Deans who met with me this week to prepare the agenda for the forthcoming Deanery Conference. I attach the agenda in readiness for your Deanery Conference in the weeks ahead.

## LENT CLERGY DAY OF RECOLLECTION

A reminder if you have not already booked, that we have our Lenten Clergy Day of Recollection on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. The day begins with at 10.30am ready for a prompt start at 11.00am allowing time for reflection on the Scriptures, Eucharistic adoration, opportunity for Confession, and ends with Evening Prayer at 3.00pm. To book please complete the Booking Form enclosed with Ad clerum 23/01 and return it to Canon Michael Gannon by **Thursday 16th February at the latest**. You may also email your booking to [michael.gannon7@ntlworld.com](mailto:michael.gannon7@ntlworld.com)

## DIOCESE

### RCIA RETREAT DAY

The Bishop's RCIA Retreat Day for catechumens, candidates, sponsors and catechists will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February at Saint Michael & All Angels, Woodchurch from 10:30am – 4.00pm. I will celebrate Mass and lead the morning reflection. Doctor Stephen Yates will provide the afternoon in-pur for those preparing to be Baptised and received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

### CATHEDRAL WORKS

The Cathedral continues to be closed on weekdays for internal works, including re-wiring. Weekday Mass and Confessions have been relocated to Saint Winefride's, Shrewsbury. Saturday Weekday Mass and Confessions, and the full programme of Masses, Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration on Sunday continues. The essential building works should be completed by the beginning of May.

### SAINT MARY'S CARITAS CENTRE

On 20<sup>th</sup> January I was happy to bless and be joined by the Mayor of Cheshire East, in officially opening the new Caritas and Parish Centre constructed on the car park of Saint Mary's, Crewe. The new building fits well on the site allowing continued parking. Please God, the building will serve for the century ahead, in the work of Caritas and as a centre for parish catechesis and community activities.

My thanks to Father Nick Kern, Father Jerome Fagan, our Diocesan Caritas Team and especially to the faithful people of Saint Mary's, Crewe and to the donors who have been so generous in their support Our Mission Together.



## PASTORAL STATISTICS REMINDER

I am grateful to the many parishes who have already returned their Annual Parish Statistics Forms for 2022 to my office. If you have not yet completed your return, please give this your urgent attention as the deadline for these returns was January 31<sup>st</sup>. If you require a paper copy to be sent to you, contact Mrs Theresa Stones: [Theresa.stones@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:Theresa.stones@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) Tel. 01743 290052.

## PACT MASS

01/22 *Father Anthony De Vere* (Birmingham)

Died 02/01/23

02/22 *Canon John Marmion* (Shrewsbury)

Died 20/01/23

03/01 *Canon Garrett Byrne* (Birmingham)

Died 21/01/23

## FINALLY ...

*The brightening days at the beginning of February, turn our eyes to the beginning of Lent in three weeks time. I look forward to sending a Pastoral Letter for the First Sunday of Lent and being with you at the gatherings which bring us together in this great season, and finally at the great Chrism Mass as we prepare with all the Church to enter days of the Paschal Triduum.*

**+ Mark**

*Bishop of Shrewsbury*

*Enc.*

- *Shrewsbury Clergy Day March 2023 Booking Form*
- *Shrewsbury Clergy Day March 2023 Preparation Sheet*
- *Deanery Conference Agenda*