

DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY

Agenda for the October Deanery Conferences February 2023

1. THE POST PANDEMIC ERA

It was with some relief that we can address in this conference the final issues relating to the pandemic of 2020-2022. The Bishops of England and Wales are considering the reintroduction of Holy Communion “under both kinds” from Easter 2023 in parishes and communities where this is judged appropriate. In Shrewsbury Diocese I invite you to exercise local pastoral judgment as to whether this is desirable or feasible in the circumstances of the parish.

It might be helpful to reflect in the Deanery Conference on some of the practical considerations and preparations for those parishes where the administration of the chalice is considered:

- How best to determine the number of chalices and the quantity of wine to prepare for consecration when it may be uncertain how many of the faithful will approach the chalice.
- How to provide for the purification of the chalices following the administration of Holy Communion where there may be concerns about infection or vulnerability by priests and deacons.
- For priests concelebrating and for deacons assisting at Diocesan Masses are we ready to return to sharing the same chalice or to continue with the practice of intinction for concelebrants?
- This time might also provide an opportunity for renewed catechesis on receiving the chalice mindful both of the “fuller form of the sign” of the Eucharistic banquet and that Christ is received “whole and entire” under one species (Cf. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal Nos. 281 – 286). This may also be a time to consider how we best administer and receive the chalice with reverence and fostering devotion to the Precious Blood of Christ.

The post-pandemic era leads us to consider whether the Sign of Peace should be encouraged as a handshake or a bow and whether there are any other sensitivities which remain in your parish following the pandemic period.

2. CARING SAFELY FOR OTHERS – PASTORAL STANDARDS AND SAFE CONDUCT IN MINISTRY

In this Deanery Conference we invite one member of the conference to lead the clergy in reflecting on “*Defend, Protect and Safeguard*” (Page 13/14) in the standards set out to assist us in the safe conduct of our ministry.

3. RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults has been part of the practice of parishes for several decades. It would be helpful to reflect in the post-pandemic period on the provision and challenges in preparing and accompanying candidates for Baptism as adults and reception into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Is it possible to follow and sustain RCIA in your parish context?

What supports are needed?

Is the provision at Diocesan level of the retreat day and the celebration of a Diocesan Mass of Thanksgiving supportive of the parish itinerary?

4. PREPARATIONS FOR THE HOLY YEAR 2025

This year Pope Francis invites us to reflect on the four constitutions of the Second Vatican Council namely the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (4th December 1963); the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (21st November 1964); the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (18th November 1965) and the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (7th December 1965). Would it be feasible during the course of this year for us all to re-read these four texts and in this way return to the teaching of the Second Vatican Council?

Sacrosanctum Concilium - (I attach a link to the text of the first constitution on the Sacred Liturgy). *Lumen Gentium* and *Dei Verbum* might follow as Dogmatic Constitutions and finally the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*:

https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19631204_sacrosanctum-concilium_en.html