

Diocese of
Shrewsbury
Ad Clerum

2023/03 March





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

POPE FRANCIS ON HIS 10th ANNIVERSARY

13th March 2013 to 13th March 2023

We remembered yesterday the 10th anniversary of the election of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. In the words of the traditional prayer for the Pope may *the Lord bless and protect him, grant him life, make him blessed upon the earth and not give him up to the will of his foes.*

LENT AND HOLY WEEK

The days of Lent are now rapidly passing, and we will be entering Holy Week in less than three weeks' time.

My **Lenten Pastoral Letter** on *Our Christian Struggle* was sent to the parishes to be read at all Masses on the First Sunday of Lent, 26th February 2023.

It was great to see so many at the **Clergy Day of Recollection** on the first Thursday of Lent. I very much look forward to the get-together of all the priests at the **Park Royal Hotel, Stretton this coming Thursday** to reflect on what makes for the health and well-being of the priest.

The **Chrism Mass** is fast approaching and will be celebrated at **Saint Anthony's Wythenshawe** on the Wednesday of Holy Week, 5th April at 7.00 pm. The Mass is one of the great moments in the year when we are invited to stand together in renewing the promises of the priesthood. It is a celebration which draws together the faithful from around the Diocese even in the face of the traffic difficulties experienced last year. I will look forward to seeing you there.

CLERGY

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

We look forward with great joy to the Ordination to the Priesthood of Reverend David Irwin on the Solemnity of the Annunciation, 25th March at Saint Vincent de Paul, Altrincham at 12 noon. David will take up his first appointment as Assistant Priest at the Cathedral from 27th March. If you wish to concelebrate at the Ordination Mass, please contact Canon Christopher Matthews so provision can be made for all concelebrants.

FATHER PATRICK BREEZE

I am grateful to Father Patrick Breeze who has accepted my invitation to serve as an Assistant Priest with Canon Stephen Coonan at Saint John's Heswall and Holy Family, Pensby. Father Patrick will take up the appointment from 31st March.

FATHER CONOR MURPHY OMI ~ RIP

I ask your prayers for Father Conor Murphy OMI who died on 26th February. May he rest in peace. Father Conor was formerly Parish Priest of Saint Mary's, Crewe from 2004 to 2008. His Requiem Mass was celebrated at Mary Immaculate Church, Dublin on 1st March.

FATHER SIMON O'CONNOR'S FATHER

Please also remember in your prayers Father Simon O'Connor's father, Mr. Peter O'Connor, who died on 9th March. May he rest in peace.

CANON DAVID ROBERT'S MOTHER

Please keep in your prayers Canon David's who remains gravely ill at this time.

FATHER ANTHONY WILD

Please also keep Father Anthony Wild in your prayers as he continues his convalescence in Arrowe Park Hospital.

MONSIGNOR PETER WALTON

Please remember Monsignor Peter Walton who is also convalescing at Arrowe Park following a surgical procedure.

FATHER ALBAN GREENWOOD

Please remember in prayer Father Alban Greenwood who has been admitted this week to the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford.

FATHER OLIVER O'DOHERTY

Following our nationally agreed safeguarding procedures, Father Ollie O'Doherty has temporarily stood back from active ministry while a complaint is investigated. It is known this complaint does not relate to minors. Ollie has willingly agreed to do this without prejudice to the outcome of the investigation. Please keep Father Ollie and all concerned in your prayers.



FATHER ISIDORE MADUEKE

I am grateful to Father Isidore Madueke who has generously agreed to undertake the pastoral care of the people of Saint Mary's Duckinfield and Saint Paul's Hyde from Sunday 12th March.

MONSIGNOR DAVID CHARTERS

Following the appointment of the Nuncio to Columbia as new Nuncio to Ireland, please remember Monsignor David Charters and his many responsibilities at the Nunciature during this interim period in Bogota.

JUBILARIANS AND CHAPTER MASS

Our Shrewsbury Diocesan 2023 Jubilarian's and the Cathedral Chapter will join for a celebratory Mass at the Cathedral on the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, Wednesday 24th May 2023.

ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION

A future date for your diary: our Advent Day of Recollection which will be held at Wistaston Hall, Crewe on Thursday 7th December and will be led by Father Andrew Allman the Vice Rector of Saint Mary's College, Oscott. A reminder and booking forms will be sent later in the year.

DIOCESE

PODCASTS ON LUMEN GENTIUM & DEI VERBUM

I am grateful to Miss Barbara Davies and Doctor Stephen Yates for the podcasts which have been made available to parishes and individuals across the Diocese as we reflect on these two Dogmatic Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council on Divine Revelation and the Church. The podcasts can be found on the Diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/news-events/>

HOLY COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS

I have been grateful to receive all the feedback from the deanery discussions at the Council of Priests. It was clear there is a considerable divergence of views on this question across the parishes. The Bishops of England and Wales have granted permission for the administration of the Chalice,

according to your pastoral judgment, from the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Holy Thursday 2023. This is a permissive and prudential decision by bishops some three years after the pandemic began. **This I should emphasis is not a requirement.**

In our discussions we have recalled the teaching of the Church that "Since Christ is sacramentally present under each of the species, communion under the species of bread alone makes it possible to receive all the fruit of Eucharistic grace. For pastoral reasons, this manner of receiving communion has been established as the most common form in the Latin rite. But "the sign of communion is more complete when given under both kinds, since in that form the sign of the Eucharistic meal appears more clearly." This is the usual form of receiving communion in the Eastern rites (Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 1390). The need for renewed catechesis on the mystery and reality of the Holy Eucharist has been stressed in order to avoid the chalice ever being seen or merely referred to as "the wine."

We have also reminded ourselves of the liturgical discipline of the Church that communicants are **never permitted to "self-intinct"** by receiving Holy Communion on the hand and placing the Sacred Host into the Chalice. In considering the **concerns around the purification of the chalice** shared with the congregation we are reminded that **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may not be delegated to undertake the purification of the sacred vessels.** Questions of the health and vulnerability of Extraordinary Ministers in this regard should never arise. If a priest or deacon, due to health conditions, feels vulnerable in purifying a chalice shared by the faithful, then it would be wise to re- consider whether Holy Communion under both kinds is possible.

CARITAS SHREWSBURY

Caritas Good Shepherd Appeal

Caritas Shrewsbury are requesting help in promoting the Good Shepherd Appeal this Lent. Schools have been sent the enclosed information about the appeal in the post. Caritas would greatly value any ways you can share this information with local schools to gather support for the appeal. They ask those interested to email trish.spencer@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk for more information and to let Caritas know how they can assist with fundraising activities.

Thank you for your support,

Ben Gilchrist, Chief Executive Officer



Children going missing from Home Office hotels – please help Caritas take action

A message from Ben Gilchrist ~ Caritas CEO

Following appalling reports that dozens of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been kidnapped from a Brighton hotel run by the Home Office, a Home Office Minister has disclosed that 200 children have gone missing from hotels since July 2021. Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury is working to support families in such hotel accommodation and parishioners might consider the actions below:

- Volunteer with Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury to support those living in hotels – a wide range of skills and support is needed with roles to suit you. Email Claire Griffiths claire.griffiths@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk or call 0151 652 1281
- Write to your MP to express your concern. Caritas work in the *Together with Refugees Coalition* with the Refugee Council to support of such campaigns.
- Learn more: read the coalition joint letter to the Prime Minister calling for the Home Office to stop accommodating separated children in hotels.
- Donate to support Caritas Shrewsbury's work in this area visit <https://donate.givetap.co.uk/d/kqksg812?qr-id=website> or call 0151 652 1281

“LOVE THE STRANGER”

I also share with a document published today by the Department of International Affairs of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales entitled “*Love the Stranger.*” I hope this document may help us in our reflection on some of the challenges we presently face.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

A message from Health & Safety Officer, Julie Tinsley:

As Holy Week and Easter approach we are faced with some unique circumstances and additional risks than those present during the normal, weekly programme. It is therefore important, once again, to consider any extra measures which might need to be in place to ensure that all those attending services, during this period, are kept safe.

Following recent advice, we have received from our Insurers and Keogh (Solicitors) we have been notified that by exceeding the maximum capacity of our churches **would be in breach of our fire risk assessments.** As we prepare for Holy Week, we need to be vigilant in relation to occupancy and numbers and consider additional arrangements where appropriate, such as:

- Using church halls as overspill areas
- Providing covered areas (gazebos) outside
- Encourage parishioners to attend Mass at different times (where possible)
- Refresh stewards in relation to occupancy and numbers

The Diocese has revised the attached *Health and Safety Guidance Note* and *Risk Assessment* to assist parishes in maintaining a safe environment during these larger events for the Easter Vigil and Easter Mass. Please prepare/review your risk assessments in readiness for the Easter Services.

I would add that with the sensitivities surrounding a large congregation venerating the Cross on Good Friday you might wish to consider the option followed in previous years of the congregation approaching the Cross one by one and venerating by a genuflection or profound bow.

GENERAL

CORONATION CHAMPIONS AWARDS

I have received a message from the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire's Office regarding *The Queen Consort's Award for Volunteers* which has been launched by the Royal Voluntary Service. The awards are for volunteering heroes from anywhere in the UK who go the extra mile to make a difference. There will be 500 recipients and entries close on Sunday 2nd April. There are eight different categories, and the focus seems to be on the last five years, it is open to anyone over the age of 14yrs.

1. Supporting older people
2. Supporting young people and children
3. Crisis and welfare
4. Community
5. Sports, culture and heritage
6. Health and care
7. Sustainability and the environment
8. Animal welfare

If you know of someone that really stands out as exceptional, you may nominate them through the RVS website:

<https://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/volunteering/coronation-champions-awards/nominate-your-coronation-champion/>



LEADERSHIP LUNCHES

"Can These Bones Live?" (Ezekiel 37:3) ~ Hope for Parishes in a Post-Christian Age

Hannah Vaughan-Spruce from Divine Renovation writes:

"If you're a priest, looking for a time to casually connect with other mission-minded priests can be difficult. That's why we're inviting you to one of our (free!) Leadership Lunches for Priests, where you will connect with a small group of priests from across the UK over lunch, hear from one of our amazing keynote speakers, and engage in a lively Q&A and conversation on mission, evangelisation, and parish renewal. Be encouraged with fresh insights as you bring renewal to your parish! Register today, invite a brother priest with you! Northampton: May 4 • Swansea: May 5 • Liverpool: May 23 • York: May 24 • Edinburgh: May 25

Follow the link to your place:
<https://divinerenovation.tfaforms.net/f/Leadership-Lunch-23>

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP FORMATION PROGRAMME

The following information is from The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. I enclose a flyer which you may wish to share with the young people in your parishes. The Christian Leadership Formation Programme is for students in Lower Sixth who are committed to bringing their faith into the public forum, this Catholic programme offers philosophical and theological formation around themes relating to the common good, a framework of prayer and liturgy, besides workshops and team-building activities.

Students applying for the CLF Programme can find the application forms at <https://christianheritagecentre.com/clf> Completed forms or queries about the programme should be sent to clf@christianheritagecentre.com **Applications close on Friday 31st March.**

FINALLY ...

Clergy who have met Pope Francis during the past 10 years will remember one request: "Pray for me!" I don't think there is ever a meeting with the Holy Father where this request for the help of our prayers is not repeated. The Season of Lent does not allow Votive Masses for the Pope but let us each remember Pope Francis in our prayer conscious of the immense responsibility he daily bears for the whole Church.

+ **Mark**

Bishop of Shrewsbury

Enc.

- *Health & Safety:*
 - *Easter Services Guidance Note*
 - *Risk Assessment*
- *Caritas Good Shepherd Appeal*
 - *Letter for Schools*
 - *Donation Form*
- *'Love the Stranger' document*
- *Christian Leadership Formation flier*