

Diocese of
Shrewsbury
Ad Clerum

2023/04 March





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

THE HOLY FATHER

Following the General Audience on Wednesday this week, Pope Francis was admitted to the Gemelli Hospital in Rome. We pray for his health and strength as the Holy Father prepares for the celebration of Holy Week.

DEATH OF BISHOP DAVID MGOUGH

We received on Monday, the sad news of the death of Bishop David McGough, the retired Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham. May he rest in peace. Please remember Bishop David in your prayers and Masses.

RETIREMENT OF BISHOP TOM WILLIAMS

On Saturday 25th March, the Holy See announced that the Holy Father had accepted the resignation of Bishop Tom Williams as Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool, on reaching the age of 75 years, in accordance with Canon Law. Please remember Bishop Tom as he begins an active retirement.

CLERGY

MASS OF THE SACRED CHRISM

We look forward to the great gathering for the celebration of the Chrism Mass at Saint Anthony's, Wythenshawe. A reminder that parking will be available in the school grounds (Dunkery Road, Woodhouse Park, M22 0NT).

Chapter Canons 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 asks that Deans (or their representative) collect the pre-filled oil bottles for the parishes in their deanery, which will be available to collect approximately 30 minutes after the end of Mass. We are asked not to present oil stocks for filling.

PARK ROYAL GATHERING

It was wonderful to see the great gathering of priests serving in the Diocese at the Park Royal Hotel on 16th March. It was a very happy occasion. More than one priest commented to me on how good it was to be together with the different generations of clergy and priests from a great diversity of backgrounds who are serving in the Shrewsbury Diocese today.

I wish to record all our thanks to Canon Michael Gannon VG and Canon Philip Moor VG for bringing us together for this day. I also wish to record our thanks to Pauline McCulloch and Sue Blackwell in ensuring this event was so well-organised and also for being present to help us throughout the day. It was good that Andrew O'Brien was able to spend the day with us and we are very grateful to our speakers Father Gerard Byrne, Director of the Saint Luke's Centre and our own Clergy Welfare Officers Mrs Margaret Evans and Mrs Nualla Dutton. Father Gerard, Margaret and Nualla are, of course, much more than speakers and we thank them for their generous support and availability to the clergy.

ACTING DEAN FOR STOCKPORT AND TAMESIDE

I am grateful to Father Philip Atkinson who has accepted my invitation to serve as Acting Dean for Stockport and Tameside during Father Ollie O'Doherty's absence.



ANNUAL CLERGY RETREAT

Saint Beuno's, 12th to 16th June 2023

The Diocesan Annual Clergy Retreat will return to Saint Beuno's again after a four year break due to the Covid pandemic. This year's retreat will be led by Father Philip Caldwell, a priest of the Salford Diocese who led the Clergy Day of Recollection for Lent at Saint Anthony's, Wythenshawe in 2022. Booking forms and a letter of invitations were circulated to clergy last week.

DIOCESE

THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES

III - Saturday 6th May

The Catholic community in England and Wales are invited to keep a triduum of prayer for the King from Wednesday 3rd May to Friday 5th May in whatever form each community considers best.

- On Friday 5th May, it is proposed that a Mass for the intentions of the King should be celebrated on the eve of his coronation. Liturgical texts are attached with this Ad Clerum, together with suggested readings (please note the references in the text refer to the present Lectionary in Jerusalem Bible translation whereas the printed version of the readings comes from the English Standard Version (Catholic Edition).
- On Sunday 7th May, the day after the coronation, a prayer of intercession for the King should be included in the Universal Prayer at Sunday Masses along with the option of singing the traditional prayer for the Monarch *Domine, salvum fac* in Latin or English and/or the National Anthem which takes the form of a prayer for the King.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN MASS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

The Annual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage will take place at Saint Columba's, Chester on Saturday 14th October this year.

After Easter, I will be inviting you 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, who would like to join this Mass of Thanksgiving. Traditionally these anniversaries have been 25, 30, 40, 50, 60+ years, as well as 1-year anniversaries.

STATEMENT ON THE ILLEGAL MIGRATION BILL

Ben Gilchrist, Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury writes:

Caritas Shrewsbury, as members of the national Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) of over 50 Catholic charities, are supporting the statement CSAN have issued on the Illegal Migration Bill, signed off by the Chair of CSAN, Bishop Terence Draine, which can be found online:

<https://www.csan.org.uk/news/csan-statement-on-the-illegal-migration-bill/>

If you would like to get more involved in the response to the Bill in the Diocese, contact ben.gilchrist@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

NEW CONTACT DETAILS

The Parish of St Mary and St Paul, Dukinfield and Hyde has a new email address:

stmaryandstpaulrc@gmail.com



GENERAL

THORNYCROFT PRIESTS' CONFERENCE

"The Priest as Man" ~ 5th to 7th June 2023

A conference for diocesan priests on how identification with the Sacred Humanity of Christ can help us as priests meet the challenges facing masculinity in the contemporary world at Thornycroft Hall, Macclesfield, Cheshire, a retreat and conference centre promoted by the Opus Dei prelature. Keynote speaker: Bishop David Oakley, Bishop of Northampton. Other speakers: Father Stephen Wang, Father Michael Docherty, Kerri Christopher, Ciro Candia. For more information, email Father Joe Evans on frjoe153@gmail.com I enclose a brochure with the schedule and booking form for this conference.

CATHOLIC COLLEGE OF PREACHERS

I have received from Father Dominic Robinson SJ, the attached notice for a Conference for Priests and Deacons on preaching. The event, to be hosted at Ushaw College from 18th to 21st September, will have speakers including Archbishop John Wilson of Southwark, and Lewis Ayres, Professor of Catholic and Historical Theology at Durham University.

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE

The following information has been sent to me by the Christian Heritage Centre, Stonyhurst:

➤ **Building Catholic Culture in Education Course**

Amongst a great line-up of speakers, Monsignor Michael Nazir-Ali will give the keynote address at our new course for leaders of Catholic schools and multi-academy trusts from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th May 2023. For governors, CEOs, heads and senior leaders, the course will discuss

how Catholic schools can respond to the growing challenge of secularism by creating and sustaining a Catholic culture in educational institutions today.

As well as talks, the weekend will include time for prayer and Mass, whilst evening socials will offer the chance to unwind and network with likeminded educationalists. More information: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/building-catholic-culture-in-education/>

➤ **A Great Mystery: Marriage Enrichment Retreat**

Pope Francis encourages us to "rediscover the meaning and value" of marriage. The CHC will hold a retreat for married couples from Friday 19th to Sunday 21st May 2023.

The retreat will offer couples the Church's beautiful vision of marriage as an icon of Christ and His Church, as a guiding light for building a lasting and loving relationship.

The weekend will be structured around a series of talks and discussions in small groups, along with Mass, Adoration and time for Confession.

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/a-great-mystery-marriage-enrichment/>

➤ **Clergy Retreat**

There is still availability on our next clergy retreat - 'Priesthood: Ever Ancient, Ever New' - led by Mgr John Armitage from Monday 17th to Friday 21st April.

For more information, head to <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/clergy-retreat-apr23/>

PACT MASS

04/23 *Father Shaji Punnattu Thomas* (Wrexham)

Died 22/03/23



FINALLY ...

By a happy development which followed the Second Vatican Council, the Chrism Mass has become a great gathering of clergy and people, for the blessing of the Holy Oils and the deeply poignant moment of the renewal of priestly promises. The Chrism Mass belongs to Holy Thursday, the day when the Priesthood was born, but for greater ease and convenience we come together on Wednesday of Holy Week, the Eve of Maundy Thursday.

I very much look forward to being united in prayer with you at Saint Anthony's as we all prepare to celebrate the Paschal Triduum.

Wishing you a blessed Holy Week,

+ Mark

Bishop of Shrewsbury

Enc.

- *Coronation of King Charles - Liturgical texts*
- *Thornycroft Priests' Conference 2023*
- *Ushaw Preaching Conference for Priests and Deacons - Poster*
- *CHC – Building Catholic Culture in Education Flyer*
- *CHC – Marriage Enrichment Retreat Flyer*