

# The Priest as Man

**Thornycroft Priests' Conference**

5th-7th June 2023



## Speakers

**The Right Reverend David Oakley** is the Bishop of Northampton. He was ordained as a priest in 1980 and has served in several parishes within the Archdiocese of Birmingham. He studied catechetics at the Maryvale Institute, where he was awarded a MEd degree. He was appointed Pastoral Director and Procurator at Oscott College in 1994. During this time he researched a PhD thesis in Pastoral Theology, which was later published. As Parish Priest at Maryvale, Fr David directed the diocesan Department for Parish and Family Catechesis, developing resources in collaboration with CaFE. At the same time, he undertook licentiate studies in the Pontifical University of St Patrick's, Maynooth and was awarded the STL degree. He was Rector of Oscott from 2013-2020 and was ordained bishop on 19th March 2020.

**Kerri Christopher**, MA, STL, directs the Humanum Institute, a project dedicated to equipping Christians with a true anthropology. She is a popular speaker and has taught theology at the University of Dallas, Oscott Seminary, and St. Mary's Twickenham. Her areas of expertise include the thought of John Paul II in the "Theology of the Body"; the theology of marriage; and human sexuality in light of Christian anthropology.

**Rev Stephen Wang** is Rector of the Venerable English College in Rome. Since his priestly ordination in 1998 for the Archdiocese of Westminster, he has served in various London parishes, schools, hospitals and prisons. He has been Dean of Theology at Allen Hall Seminary, Visiting Lecturer in Philosophy at St Mary's University and Visiting Lecturer in Theology at Heythrop College. Most recently he worked as Senior University Chaplain at Newman House Student Centre and Catholic Chaplain at the London School of Economics. He is the author of Aquinas and Sartre, A Way of Life for Young Catholics, How to Discover Your Vocation, The New Evangelisation, and The Christian Faith. His most recent book is Sycamore: The Catholic Faith Explained. He is involved in various evangelisation projects including the Sycamore programme and the Pause for Faith YouTube channel.

**Ciro Candia** is the founder of ProParent, an organisation which delivers family programmes in schools and in the community. He also works as a consultant for the PACT Educational Trust, which runs a number of schools in Great Britain. Prior to this he was the headmaster of Oakwood School in Purley for 25 years. He and his wife Caroline have seven children. He is a sought after speaker about fatherhood and the upbringing of children and has spoken at various conferences around the UK. In his talk **Ciro** will be exploring how we, as educators and priests, can exercise a positive influence on our young people's lives and the decisions they make.

**Rev Michael Docherty** is Episcopal Vicar for Education and Formation for the Diocese of Lancaster, parish priest in Hornby and Kirkby Lonsdale, and Catholic chaplain to the University of Lancaster. A native of West Cumbria, he was head of Religious and Personal Studies at a Catholic comprehensive school in the Archdiocese of Southwark prior to seminary formation at the Venerable English College. Ordained in 2004 he has served in a number of parishes across the Diocese of Lancaster and, since 2006, in various roles within the Diocese of Lancaster Education Service.

## The Programme

### Monday 5th June

- 12.30 Registration and lunch (1pm)
- 14.30 *From Lost Sheep to Shepherds: engaging with young people in an upside-down world.* **Ciro Candia**
- 16.00 Tea
- 16.30 *What do (and should) women expect from priests? The gift of spiritual masculinity.* **Kerri Christopher**
- 17.45 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 18.45 Dinner
- 20.00 Get-together led by Revv. Michael Docherty and Stephen Wang

### Tuesday 6th June

- 7.45 Morning prayer, meditation and concelebrated Mass
- 9.25 Breakfast
- 10.30 *Friendship in the life and ministry of the priest.* **Rev Stephen Wang**
- 11.30 Coffee followed by discussion
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 *The Priest as Man - using a biblical anthropology to take our humanity seriously.* **The Right Reverend David Oakley**
- 16.00 Tea
- 17.45 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 18.45 Dinner
- 20.00 Get-together led by Bishop David

### Wednesday 7th June

- 7.45 Morning prayer, meditation and concelebrated Mass
- 9.25 Breakfast
- 10.30 *Duty and Sacrifice: scholastic formation in an age of 'toxic masculinity'.* **Rev Michael Docherty**
- 11.30 Coffee followed by discussion
- 13:00 Lunch and depart

---

## Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The cost of the conference is £325 for the three days including meals and accommodation. The non-residential day rate is £90 which includes lunch and dinner. To register, please follow either option **one** or **two** below:

**Option one** (preferred): send a transfer with the full £325 fee or a deposit of £100 to "HCF Priests" at Lloyds Bank, Sort Code: 30-98-97; Account Number: 67655368, and email Fr Joe on frjoe153@gmail.com informing him you have done so, stating your full name, parish and address, and a contact phone number.

**Option two:** send this application form together with the full £325 fee or a deposit of £100 (payable to "HCF Priests") to Fr Joe Evans, Greygarth Hall, 1 Lower Park Road, Manchester M14 5RS.

For further information, please email Fr Joe at the above address or ring him on 07790 100402.

Masculinity in general is ever more contested in Western society, and even more the figure of the celibate male priest. This year's Thornycroft priests' conference will consider how the priest can be a true man in imitation of and identification with Christ, living out his Sacred Humanity in our own lives. In so many ways, the priest is called to be another Christ, and particularly Christ the leader. But how should the priest live out and protect his own masculinity and promote the manliness of other men? How does this affect his dealings with women? What does it mean to be a man today, and specifically a man-priest?

Activities at Thornycroft Hall are directed by the Opus Dei prelatore ([www.opusdei.org.uk](http://www.opusdei.org.uk)). Thornycroft Hall is owned and operated by The Siddington Trust Limited.

Thornycroft Hall Conference Centre  
Pexhill Road  
Macclesfield  
SK11 9JN  
Tel: 01260 224 518  
[www.thornycrofthall.org.uk](http://www.thornycrofthall.org.uk)

