

Diocese of  
Shrewsbury  
*Ad Clerum*

2023/05 June





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

## CLERGY

### THE HOLY FATHER

Immediately after the General Audience on Wednesday, the Holy Father was taken into hospital for an operation. Please keep Pope Francis in prayer as he continues to make a good recovery from this recent surgery.

### THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

The new Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia is visiting dioceses across the country as an expression of the closeness of the Holy Father to the clergy, religious and lay faithful. We look forward to welcoming the Apostolic Nuncio in October.

May I ask you to reserve in your diaries, Tuesday afternoon, 24<sup>th</sup> October, for a time of Eucharistic Adoration and an opportunity to meet and welcome the Apostolic Nuncio at our newly established Eucharistic Shrine of Saint Joseph's, Stockport.

### ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

This year we are celebrating the ordination of four new priests for the Shrewsbury Diocese and also share the joy of the ordination of two young men from the Diocese for the Dominican Order and the Institute of Christ the King, Sovereign Priest respectively.

Deacon Moses Ibeh joined us three years ago due to his links with the Diocese. Following the disbanding of the new missionary community to which he belonged, Moses has now completed a lengthy discernment and all the required assessments while actively serving as a Deacon at Our Lady and the Apostles, Stockport. Following consultation with his home diocese and the Holy See, I am delighted to be able to call him to

ordination to the Priesthood at the Cathedral on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, the Vigil of the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul at 7.00pm with his 'First Mass' at Our Lady's, Stockport the following day. All priests are very welcome. Please let Canon Christopher Matthews know if you wish to concelebrate.

The next ordination of the summer will be Deacon Sean Henry's Ordination to the Priesthood at the Cathedral on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 6.00pm. Again, all priests are welcome and please let Canon Christopher Matthews know if you wish to concelebrate.

### VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Thank you for your continued prayer and support for vocations. I am pleased to see enquirers and discerners coming forward for the Diocese and am grateful for the work of Father Anthony McGrath, our Vocations Director.

We look forward at the end of this summer to having two new candidates beginning their formation.

### PRIESTLY JUBILEES

It was good to welcome priest jubilarians to the Cathedral for Mass and lunch together on the Diocesan Feast Day of Our Lady, Help of Christians.

I look forward to joining Father Gerard McGuinness in celebrating his Diamond Jubilee at the Cathedral at 7.00pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June. Father McGuinness extends an invitation to the priests of the Diocese to join him and please let Canon Christopher Matthews know if you wish to concelebrate. I also look forward to joining Canon John Gordon in celebrating his Golden Jubilee of ordination at Saint Bede's, Weaverham for 12 noon Mass prior to Sean Henry's ordination later that same day.



## DIACONATE DAY

It was also good to welcome our permanent Deacons to the Cathedral on the Eve of Pentecost, for Mass, a formation day and a get-together. My thanks to the Diaconate Team for arranging this day of prayer, study and fraternity.

## DIOCESE

### PARISH EVENTS, FÊTES AND FUN DAYS

*A message from Julie Tinsley – Health and Safety Officer:*

For parishes considering holding an outdoor event such as a fête, garden party or other fun day, as the summer months arrive. The Catholic Insurance Service have produced an information bulletin to provide advice on how to run the events successfully and safely. This gives advice on planning and organising the event, licences and/or insurance that may be required and working with suppliers or other third parties.

In addition, a new Diocese Risk Assessment Proforma has been prepared to assist you with the completion of the documentation needed for your events. These are attached for your information and action.

### CARITAS DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY ~ 'Love the Stranger'

*I share with you the following message sent to me by Ben Gilchrist, Chief Executive of Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury:*

'Love the Stranger' presents a Catholic response to refugees and migrants. The document offers 24 guiding principles calling to action both the Catholic community and the Government in welcoming those who come to our country. We encourage reflection on *Love the Stranger* and have compiled this call-to-action as a toolkit to inform and assist the community as we aim to fulfil our obligation to love the stranger in the way that God intends. Caritas

Diocese of Shrewsbury as members of CSAN have helped to create this toolkit and are keen to support its use across the diocese and in parishes. Please email [ben.gilchrist@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk](mailto:ben.gilchrist@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk) for more information.

### DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND 2024

I hope to lead the first Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land since the pandemic, which will take place early next year, from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February (Please note that this includes Ash Wednesday and special transport arrangements are being made to allow parish clergy to return on Shrove Tuesday for the beginning of Lent). A circular email including the brochure and booking was recently sent from my office to all parishes. A copy of the brochure can also be found on the Diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/diocesan-pilgrimage-to-the-holy-land-2024/>

## GENERAL

### FRADULENT REQUESTS

It is sad that we have received requests in the past couple of weeks for Mass Stipends and financial assistance for worthy projects in two continents, including a war-torn diocese in Ukraine, which following enquiries have proved to be fraudulent. The requests came with official documentation and were sophisticated in their presentation. May I ask you to be vigilant regarding any such requests you receive.

### SEA SUNDAY ~ 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023

*A message from Roland Hayes of Stella Maris:*

Sea Sunday will be on 9<sup>th</sup> July this year. It is a day when we ask for your prayers and financial contributions to support the work of Stella Maris, the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church. This mandatory second collection is vital for the



future of Stella Maris and its support of seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world. We kindly ask that you observe this Sunday in your Ordo and second collections please.

## INTERCESSION FOR PRIESTS RETREAT AT HINSLEY HALL, LEEDS

**Guest Speakers: Father Pablo Escriva de Romani & Sister Briega McKenna, OSC**

The Intercession for Priests will be held at Hinsley Hall, 62 Headingley Lane, Leeds, LS6 2BX, from Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> August to Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. As accommodation is limited, early booking is strongly recommended. Please contact Hinsley Hall by email: [info@hinsley-hall.co.uk](mailto:info@hinsley-hall.co.uk) or by phone: 0113 261 8000.

## CATHOLIC HERITAGE CENTRE SUMMER COURSES

*From Gabriel Stirling at The Christian Heritage Centre, Stonyhurst:*

### Catholicism and Contemporary Culture, 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Explore the themes of truth, reality and sacramentality, and the differences in the Catholic and secular conceptions of these. The course will be of particular support to teachers of RE, catechists and those working with youth and young adults.

### Human Nature, Gender and Identity, 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> August

This course will explore how Saint Thomas Aquinas's anthropology provides the framework for the Church's understanding of what and who the human person is. The course will be of particular interest to those teaching theology in secondary and higher education and those providing training and CPD to other educators and catechists.

Residential and non-residential options available. No prior theological knowledge or training required. For more information, see [www.christianheritagecentre.com/events](http://www.christianheritagecentre.com/events)

## PACT MASS

05/23 **Rt Rev David Christopher McGough**  
Died 25/03/23 (Wrexham)  
06/23 **Father Anthony Davies**  
Died 21/05/23 (Birmingham)

## ENDNOTE

*The days of June are passing quickly and next Friday will be the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests. Following the Chrism Mass this has become a day to especially pray for each other in our priestly vocation. May we all continue to strive for holiness and so truly become shepherds after His own heart (Jer. 3: 15).*

*United with you in this prayer,*

+ Mark

**Bishop of Shrewsbury**

Enc:

- CIS Parish Fêtes, Fairs a& Fun days Bulletin
- Parish Fêtes Fairs & Fun Days – Risk Assessment Form