

Diocese of
Shrewsbury
Ad Clerum

2023/07 July





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

THE HOLY FATHER

Pope Francis has sent a message for the 3rd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly to be celebrated next Sunday 23rd July. I attach the Holy Father's beautiful words with the theme "His mercy is from age to age" (Luke 1:50).

A NEW BISHOP FOR HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Stephen Wright, formerly Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham, in succession to Bishop Robert Byrne as the 15th Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle. I look forward to concelebrating the Mass for Bishop Wright's Installation at Saint Mary's Cathedral on Wednesday 19th July.

Please remember Bishop Stephen in your prayers as he begins his episcopal service of the Hexham and Newcastle Diocese.

CLERGY

FATHER RUSSELL COOKE RIP

We received the sad news on 30th June of the death that morning of Father Russell Cooke whose mortal remains will be received into Saint Winefride's Church, Neston on Tuesday 25th July with a Vigil Mass at 7.00pm. The Requiem Mass will be offered on Wednesday 26th July at 11.30am, followed by interment at Frankby Cemetery. Vesting for both Masses will be in the Parish Hall. Concelebrating priests are asked to bring an alb and purple stole.

ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

In a message to the clergy last week I alerted you that I have brought forward the ordination to the Priesthood of **Deacon Godlove Amungwa Angarfor** to allow him to offer the Requiem Mass for his dear father who died on Friday 7th July. Godlove will be ordained to the Priesthood at the Cathedral on Friday 21st July at 7.00pm. If you wish to concelebrate, please let Canon Christopher Matthews know by the end of Wednesday 19th July.

It was a great joy to celebrate the ordination to the Priesthood of **Father Sean Henry** at the Cathedral on Friday, 7th July. The following day I had the joy of ordaining to the Priesthood **Father Thomas Mannion OP** (a parishioner of Saint Joseph's Seacombe) in Oxford.

NEW SEMINARIANS AND ENQUIRERS FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

Please remember in your prayers **Eammon Kennedy** from Holy Angels, Hale Barns, who will begin his training for the Priesthood at the Royal English College, Valladolid in September; and for **Kevin Hogan** from Our Lady and Saint Christopher's, Romiley (formerly part of the Diocesan Education Team), who will begin his training for the Priesthood at Saint Mary's College, Oscott. Please also pray for **Johnson Edeh** who was formerly with the Dominican Order, who will complete his training for the Priesthood at Saint Mary's College, Oscott.

It has been very positive and encouraging to see the number of enquirers for the Priesthood coming forward in the past year. I would wish to thank and encourage you in your prayer and intercession for vocations in the parishes and at our Diocesan Eucharistic Shrine.



CLERGY SUMMER APPOINTMENTS

I am always edified by the generous willingness of priests to take up new appointments and by the readiness of our retired priests to continue to help in every way possible. This is truly a grace of our vocation. I am grateful for the counsel and co-operation which has made possible the following appointments at the end of the summer.

Father Tony Elder will be retiring as Parish Priest of Saint Winefride's, Lymm. I wish to record the gratitude of the whole Diocese to Tony for his long years of service and wish him every happiness in this new chapter of his priestly life and ministry.

I am grateful to **Father David Long** for accepting my invitation to serve as Parish Priest of Saint Winefride's, Lymm together with Saint Vincent's, Knutsford.

Father Alban Greenwood will be retiring as Parish Priest as Saint Patrick's Wellington and Our Lady and Saint Luke's Telford. I wish to record the gratitude of the whole Diocese to Alban for his long years of service and wish him every happiness in this new stage of his priestly life and ministry.

I am grateful to **Father Ravi Bosco** who has accepted my invitation to become the new Parish Priest of Saint Patrick's Wellington and Our Lady and Saint Luke's Telford.

I am grateful to **Father Emeka Nwachukwu** who has accepted my invitation to become the new Parochial Administrator of Divine Saviour Parish, Runcorn.

I am grateful to **Father Bernard Forshaw** returning from sick leave, who has accepted my invitation to serve as Parochial Administrator of Saint Clare's, Chester.

Father Bill Kilkenny will be retiring as Parish Priest of Saint Mary's Congleton. I wish to record the gratitude of the whole Diocese to Bill for his

long years of service and wish him every happiness in this new chapter of his priestly life and ministry.

I am grateful to **Father Francis Nnadi** who has accepted my invitation to serve as Parochial Administrator of Saint Mary's, Congleton.

My thanks to **Canon Michael Gannon VG** who has agreed to serve Sacred Heart Whaley Bridge from Our Lady and Saint Christopher, Romiley.

I am grateful to **Father Humphrey Agbim** who has accepted my invitation to assist Canon Michael Gannon VG at Our Lady and Saint Christopher Romiley.

Please also remember in prayer those recently ordained as they take up their first appointments in the Diocese:

Father Moses Ibeh will take up his first appointment as Assistant Priest at Our Lady and the Apostles, Saint Ambrose and Saint Vincent de Paul, Stockport.

Father Sean Henry will take up his first appointment as Assistant Priest at the Cathedral.

Father Humphrey O'Connor will take up a new appointment as Assistant Priest at Christ the King, Bromborough.

All new appointments begin on the first Sunday of September.

We also welcome **Father Febin Thomas CMI** who has taken up his appointment as Chaplain to the Syro-Malabar community on the Wirral and is now resident at Saint Joseph's, Birkenhead.

SHREWSBURY CLERGY TRAINING DAY

"An Introduction to the Ministry of Deliverance and Exorcism with practical guidance for deliverance of places and people"

The day will be led by representatives from the Liverpool and Shrewsbury Dioceses. This Shrewsbury Clergy Training Day will take place



on Thursday 19th October 2023 at the Park Royal Hotel, Warrington from 10.30am to 3.15pm. Canon Michael Gannon VG will send more details and booking forms to the clergy later.

NEW CONTACT DETAILS

Father Jim McGrath has a new address and contact details: 26 Allans Meadow, Neston, Cheshire, CH64 9SG

Tel: 0151 336 3258

Email revjimmcgrath@icloud.com

DIOCESE

DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

The Annual Diocesan Mass for Marriage will be celebrated at Saint Columba's, Chester on Saturday 14th October 2023 at 12 noon.

I have received a number of requests from clergy regarding invitations for their parishioners celebrating special anniversaries during this year (and also during the pandemic period).

These invitations will begin to be sent out next week. If you have parishioners who wish to be invited, please send their names, address and the anniversary they will be celebrating to Mrs Theresa Stones as soon as possible: Theresa.stones@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

SUMMER PILGRIMAGES

Lourdes

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes departs to Lourdes on Wednesday 27th July by coach and Thursday 28th July by air.

May I commend to your prayers the intentions of our Diocesan Pilgrimage of 2023:

- For Pope Francis and the youth of the world, including our Shrewsbury pilgrims gathered in Lisbon for World Youth Day 2023.
- For all our fellow pilgrims who come to Lourdes, that we may sincerely respond to Our Lady's call to prayer, repentance, service of the frailest and renewed Eucharistic faith and love.
- For the peace of the world which Pope Francis repeatedly invites us to entrust to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- For the New Evangelisation of our country where so many no longer know Christ or the hope of the Gospel.
- For all Christian vocations, especially to marriage, to the priesthood and diaconate and to the consecrated life.

I have been invited to preside at the International Mass on Sunday July 30th in the Basilica of St. Pius X at 10.30am UK time.

The Diocese will also be celebrating Mass at the Grotto of Lourdes on Monday 31st July at 9.00am UK time. These can both be watched via the Lourdes website <https://www.lourdes-france.org/en/tv-lourdes/> You may wish to publicise this in your parish newsletter.

World Youth Day, Lisbon

Canon Jonathan Brandon with our Diocesan Youth Mission Team, will lead the contingent of young people from the Diocese to World Youth Day, Lisbon. I will join our young people travelling at the end of the Lourdes Pilgrimage to be in Lisbon by the evening of 3rd August.

Please keep all our Shrewsbury pilgrims in your prayers.



GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY PLACES

Canon Philip Moor VG has received a letter of thanks from the Commissariat of the Holy Land for the £9,336 raised by the Diocese in support of the Holy Places and the Church's presence in the Holy Land.

GENERAL

SYNODS ON SYNODALITY

The first of the synods in Rome exploring synodality will take place in October. I attach the Working Document for the first synod for your information. In the light of this two-year process of deliberation by the bishops and those nominated by the Holy Father, outcomes may perhaps be anticipated following the second of these meetings in October 2024. Please pray for the participants who will gather in Rome and as always for our Holy Father and his intentions.

UKRAINIAN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

I thought it would also be helpful to share with you the Decree and Pastoral Letter from Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski announcing that the Holy Family Eparchy in the United Kingdom will adopt the Gregorian Calendar from 1st September 2023. This decision is in line with the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine.

NEW RECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

On my pilgrimage with the Union of Catholic Mothers to Walsingham there was much anticipation of the appointment of a new Rector at the National Shrine. It was announced this past week that Father Robert Billing of the Lancaster Diocese has been appointed as the new Rector of

the Shrine of Walsingham. Father Robert will be well-known to many as Private Secretary to the Bishops of Lancaster and is presently Parish Priest of Carnforth. Please pray for his new mission and service at Our Lady's Shrine.

COURSES AND EVENTS

MARYVALE INSTITUTE

BDiv Degree and Licence in Divinity

From Dr Catherine Knowles, Maryvale Institute Programme Director:

Maryvale Institute are running Bachelor of Divinity (BDiv) and Licence in Divinity courses. Both are part time, distance learning programmes. The degrees may be of interest to parishioners or clergy. I attach a suggested newsletter insert and information folder.

CATHOLIC HERITAGE CENTRE SUMMER COURSES

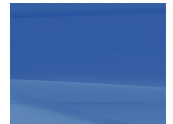
From Gabriel Stirling at The Christian Heritage Centre, Stonyhurst:

- Catholicism and Contemporary Culture, 3rd - 6th August 2023
- Human Nature, Gender and Identity, 25th - 28th August

Information for the above courses can be found in Ad Clerum 23/06

- **Restoring a Priestly Spirituality, 18th - 22nd September**

A silent retreat for clergy, preached by the Canons of the Institute of Christ the King. The retreat will offer a series of meditations on some of the fundamental themes of priestly life and spirituality, including prayer, spiritual warfare, friendship, and Our Lady. Participants are welcome to celebrate or concelebrate according to



preference, making use of the historic Saint Peter's Church, as well as Theodore House's own Oratory.

For more information and to book:

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/renewing-a-priestly-spirituality/>

LOOKING AHEAD – A CATHOLIC HANDBOOK FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

I think you will have received from CTS a notification of the publication of a helpful handbook for school leavers and young people starting at secondary school. It is a beautifully produced book containing catechesis and prayers with a foreword by the Archbishop of Southwark. I think it might be considered as a gift for those beginning their secondary school years.

PACT MASSES

07/23 Died 24/05	Rev Canon Nicholas Jenkins (Menevia)
08/23 Died 31/05	Rev Canon John Gunn (Birmingham)
09/23 Died 21/06	Rev Father Bernard Garratt (Birmingham)
10/23 Died 30/06	Rev Father John Darley (Birmingham)
11/23 Died 30/06	Rev Father Russell Cooke (Shrewsbury)

ENDNOTE

The school holidays begin at the end of this week, and next week I set out with our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes and then on to Lisbon to join the Holy Father and our young Shrewsbury pilgrims for World Youth Day.

I am grateful to Canon Chris Matthews and the whole team who have prepared our second return to Lourdes

since the pandemic years. I am also grateful to our Diocesan Youth Mission Team for bringing together the group of young people for World Youth Day 2023 and to Canon Jonathan Brandon for leading our Shrewsbury contingent to Lisbon. I hope the weeks of the summer holidays will bring many graces for our pilgrims and for us all.

+ Mark

Bishop of Shrewsbury

Enc:

- *Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly*
- *Synod - Paginated Eng Instrumentum Laboris*
- *Decree Gregorian Calendar*
- *Pastoral Letter re liturgical calendar reform*
- *Maryvale Degrees Newsletter Insert*
- *Maryvale Degrees Information Folder*