

Diocese of
Shrewsbury
Ad Clerum

2023/08 September





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

THE HOLY SEE

I have received a letter from Cardinal Mario Grech asking us to keep the gatherings in Rome both this October and next in our prayers. Cardinal Grech reminds us of Pope Francis's words that a synod must above all be an event of prayer and listening. We are invited to especially entrust these meetings in Rome to Mary, the Mother of the Church.

VISIT OF THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

We look forward to welcoming the Apostolic Nuncio to the Diocese next month. The Nuncio will join us for a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration at Saint Joseph's, Stockport at 2.30pm on Tuesday 24th October followed by a reception with light refreshments. Parking will be available on site and further details will be sent out from my office by the beginning of October.

CLERGY

CANON TIMOTHY (TED) HARRINGTON R.I.P

During the summer weeks we were praying for Canon Ted Harrington and we received the sad news of his death on Tuesday 5th September 2023 in Kenmare Community Hospital, County Kerry.

The Requiem Mass for Canon Harrington was celebrated at Holy Cross Church, Kenmare prior to his internment in the parish churchyard. May he rest in peace. I was grateful that Canon Michael Gannon was able to represent the Diocese.

A Memorial Mass will be offered the Cathedral on Tuesday 31st October at 12 noon. Please let Canon Christopher Matthews know if you would wish to concelebrate.

DEACON TOM COYLE R.I.P

The Requiem Mass for Deacon Tom Coyle, who died in the Countess of Chester Hospital on Friday 28th August 2023, was celebrated on 13th September at Saint Columba's, Chester. Please keep Tom in your prayers together with Lyn and the family.

FATHER PAUL CHAVASSE C.O, R.I.P

I received the sad news of the death of Father Paul Chavasse on 14th September. May he rest in peace. Father Chavasse was ordained at the Cathedral for this Shrewsbury Diocese in 1978 before entering the Congregation of the Oratory in 1980. Father Chavasse most recently served as Parochial Administrator of Our Lady of the Assumption, Swynnerton. Funeral arrangements will be published by the Birmingham Oratory. Please remember Father Paul in your prayers.

FATHER ALBAN GREENWOOD

Please also remember in prayer, Father Alban Greenwood who was admitted to the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford and has convalesced at Montgomery House, Shrewsbury.

CLERGY SUMMER APPOINTMENTS

Thank you for all your generosity and co-operation which allowed the large number of summer appointments to proceed so well for everyone concerned. Please remember the priests beginning their new appointments this month.

In addition to the appointments published in Ad Clerum 2023/07, I am grateful to **Father Mario Ashuikaka** who will continue to serve as Parochial Administrator of Saint Anne's, Rock Ferry, Saint John's New Ferry and Saint Luke's Bebington.

Father Godlove Amungwa Angarfor following his ordination earlier in the summer, has been appointed Assistant Priest at Saint Vincent's, Altrincham.



WE WELCOME

Father Vijay Kumar from the Diocese of Vijayawada, India and **Father Samuel Thotamala** from the Diocese of Khammam, India began their service in the Diocese in August. Father Vijay has joined the Cathedral clergy and Father Samuel is serving at St Philip Neri Parish in Birkenhead. I am grateful to their bishops for their generosity in releasing Father Vijay and Father Samuel to assist the mission of the Shrewsbury Diocese.

CLERGY BRIEFING ON ACADEMISATION

I wanted to set out my understanding of academisation as a challenge and new direction for our schools before the practical briefing to be offered by our education officers in the weeks ahead.

I appreciate we have lived through many changes in education. Indeed, this has been true from the beginnings of our Shrewsbury Diocese. The Church has never been wedded to a particular system of providing schools but has sought to continue her mission amid the changes in national policy. Many of us grew up with the post-war settlement and perhaps experienced the upheavals of the introduction of a new comprehensive system and the demanding reforms in governance and curriculum which marked the end of the last century. The Church embraced these changes not because she professed to believe in a particular system but in order to faithfully continue her mission for new generations.

When the Government began to encourage the establishment of academies and academy trusts, I wanted our schools to be free to decide amid their different circumstances, what was right for their mission. The criterion was always how best we could continue and build-up the mission. It has become increasingly clear that we can expect academisation to become the way in which all schools in England will be financed and governed. I accordingly want all our diocesan schools to be ready to meet this challenge and take up the opportunities this development brings. This is not

because I am in favour of academisation rather because this is now the means to continue our educational mission.

The Diocesan officers will set out that in accord with national guidance, the Diocese has three Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) which will make possible the transition of all our schools to academy status. It is a gradual and complex undertaking in which I ask you to give every support to our Education Department in helping to make this a success for our schools. I certainly hope the bringing together of resources and leadership can serve to strengthen the mission of our 111 schools and colleges which today serve more than 43,000 students across the Diocese. Academisation can certainly fit our Catholic vision of schools, not working in isolation but helping and supporting each another. It is this vision of co-operation and mutual help which we will seek to develop through the process of academisation.

I recently came across an account of a meeting between the architect of the 1944 Education Act, R.A. Butler, and the Catholic Bishops. Butler had been warned by the war-time Prime Minister Winston Churchill that he had to find a way of working with the Catholic Church. Butler records being deeply struck by the Church's unity of purpose in education. He encountered this unity everywhere as he set a new direction for national education. Reading this account, I was reminded how vital is this same unity of purpose for us in taking the new road of academisation with its dangers and opportunities.

We know how much depends on the faith and commitment of those who serve our schools in every generation and especially those entrusted with leadership. Amid the changes to come, may we as priests and deacons who serve communion, support those dedicated to the work of Catholic Education in this unity of our mission.



CLERGY FORMATION DAY ON DELIVERANCE MINISTRY – 19th October

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.

The invitations and booking forms were sent by email to clergy on 22nd August and should be returned by Thursday 12th October at the latest to: Pauline.McCulloch@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The Advent Day of Recollection for the clergy will be held at Wistaston Hall, Crewe on Thursday 7th December and led by Father Andrew Allman, the Vice Rector of Saint Mary's College, Oscott. I would be grateful if you would please put the date in your diary.

NEW CONTACT DETAILS

Father Kevin Prince has a new address:

Flat 2
2 Beryl Road,
Prenton,
CH43 9RT

Deacon Bernard McConnell has a new address and telephone number:

Flat 1 Inveresk Court
Noctorum Lane
Prenton
CH43 7 PL
Telephone: 07724 643883

DIOCESE

PRISONER SUNDAY – 8TH OCTOBER 2023

On Sunday 8th October, the Church marks Prisoners' Sunday, the national day of prayer, action and generosity for those in prison, their loved ones, and

those who work with them. Across England and Wales, parishes are invited to join in praying for those who have taken the wrong road and ended up in prison.

MASS FOR MARRIAGE 2023

If you have parishioners who wish to be invited to the Annual Diocesan Mass for Marriage, which will be celebrated at Saint Columba's, Chester on Saturday 14th October 2023, please send their names, address and the anniversary they will be celebrating to Mrs Theresa Stones at curia@dioceseofshrewsbury.org by Friday 29th September 2023.

SHREWSBURY DIOCESE CATECHETICAL CONFERENCE

On Saturday 21st October beginning at 10am, The Shrewsbury Diocese Catechetical Conference - 'A Witness of Faith and a Keeper of the Memory of God' (Directory of Catechesis, 139) will be held at Saint Columba's Church Hall, Chester. This even will be presented by the Dominican Sisters of Saint Joseph and the Mission for Catechesis Team.

All catechists from Shrewsbury Diocese are warmly invited to attend. Please see the attached flyer for further details and to book please follow: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shrewsbury-diocese-catechetical-conference-tickets-668676157387>

ANNUAL MASS COUNT

The annual Mass attendance count which began last Sunday continues this weekend, 24th September, 1st October and 8th October 2023.

Please include all those present at all Sunday Masses (i.e., Saturday evening and Sunday) celebrated in your parish on the named weekends. Include all churches, chapels and Mass centres in your parish which have at least one monthly Sunday Mass, then add the numbers and record as one total figure for



each parish on each weekend (you do not need to calculate the average - the database will do this automatically). After recording this information, retain the form for completion on 31st December 2023 (or during the following week) - returning it to Mrs Theresa Stones at 13 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE or curia@dioceseofshrewsbury.org before the end of January 2024. Please do not send to the Curial Offices in Birkenhead.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Messages from Health & Safety Officer – Julie Tinsley

➤ **Health And Safety Files**

The primary copy of the Diocese of Shrewsbury's Health and Safety File was delivered to all parishes, in November 2022. It is important that the health and safety file is kept up to date. The intention is to undertake a review of this file twice a year and any revisions or additional documents sent to the parishes, by email.

The first of these reviews has been undertaken and the revised/additional documents were sent to all parishes. These documents should now be included in the appropriate sections of your parish health and safety file. Please refer to the attached table of reviewed documents. If you have not received these additional documents, please contact the Health and Safety Officer.

➤ **Fire Risk Assessment Reviews**

Over the last four years, at the instruction of our insurers, the Diocese has engaged external consultants to carry out the initial Fire Risk Assessment of all our churches and parish premises. This programme is ongoing, however Fire Risk Assessments are required to be reviewed over a period of time.

With the agreement of the Catholic Insurance Services, the Diocesan inhouse Health and Safety Officers are permitted to undertake reviews of the initial fire risk assessments.

The Diocese's Board of Trustees have approved a rolling programme of inhouse reviews of our existing Church Fire Risk Assessments. This programme will take place over three years. The Health and Safety Officer will begin the first year of that programme in September and will be contacting all churches which had their Fire Risk Assessments in 2019 and 2020 to arrange a visit to review these assessments.

➤ **Joint Safeguarding and Health & Safety Training Sessions.**

There will be two joint training sessions for Safeguarding and Health & Safety this year for anyone who was unable to attend any of the sessions delivered last year. They will be held at:

- ❖ Saint Anthony's Parish Centre, Wythenshawe, on Thursday 28th September
- ❖ Shrewsbury Cathedral Parish Room, on Thursday 9th November 2023

If you are interested in attending the course, and/or sending your Parish Safeguarding, Health and Safety Representatives and Parish Secretary, please complete and email the enclosed booking form using the title "**Training Booking**" to the Health and Safety Officer:

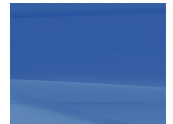
Julie.Tinsley@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

OTHER, COURSES AND EVENTS

RETREAT AT HOLYWELL

I enclose a leaflet for a retreat entitled "Mary in Scripture" with Father Neill Robb and Barbara Davies to be held at Holywell from 27th to 29th October 2023.

Contact Barbara Davies: Tel 07450 252 733 - email barbara.davies@dioceseofshrewsbury.org for more information.



ONLINE SEMINAR WITH SHERRY WEDDELL

The Diocese of Portsmouth, in collaboration with the Bishops' Conference Department for Evangelisation, have organised an online seminar led by Sherry Weddell called *Engaging the Disengaged: How to Accompany Non-Religious Persons in Daily Life*. It takes place on Tuesday 21st November 2023 from 6pm until 8pm and tickets cost £10. This seminar will be of special interest to all those in parishes and dioceses who are actively engaged in evangelisation and catechesis such as clergy, catechists, Catholic teachers, lay ministers, parish groups etc.

For more details and tickets, follow this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engaging-the-disengaged-how-to-accompany-non-religious-persons-tickets-646139539757>

SYCAMORE WEBINAR

A webinar about the *Sycamore*, a tool for evangelisation in parishes, will take place on **Thursday 5th October at 7pm**. Clare Dancaster and Natalie Orefice will provide the story of *Sycamore*, introducing the pathways, how to get started, a walkthrough of resources and support and training. This is an opportunity to discover how to use *Sycamore* in your parish. For more information or if you have any questions, please email: natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

telephone: 07730 526826 or to register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/x/sycamore-webinar-tickets-676609335737>

THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE AT STONYHURST

Praying with Saint Thérèse, 29th September – 1st October

A weekend retreat reflecting on the faith of the Little Flower of Jesus: St Thérèse of Lisieux. Led by Canon John Udris, the weekend will explore the life of the French Carmelite saint, asking what we can learn

from her faith & devotion when it comes to our own lives today.

PACT MASSES

12/23	Rev Canon Timothy Harrington
Died 05/09	(Shrewsbury)
13/23	Rev Father Keith Enston
Died 16/08	(Birmingham)
14/23	Rev Father William Edwin Cownley
Died 06/09	(Birmingham)
15/23	Rev Father Paul Chavasse (CongOrat)
Died 14/09	(Birmingham)

ENDNOTE

It was good to be part of great gatherings this summer with our Shrewsbury pilgrims in Lourdes and afterwards with Pope Francis and an estimated 1.5 million young people at World Youth Day in Lisbon.

We look forward to diocesan gatherings this Autumn, especially the time of prayer and the get-together with the new Apostolic Nuncio at Saint Joseph's, Stockport. Our newly-established shrine for perpetual Eucharistic Adoration invites prayer every day for our vocation – for new and generous vocations and for the sanctification of all priests. It has been good to follow Saint Joseph's steady and encouraging progress in this mission.

Next month you will notice the fabric of Saint Joseph's has suffered from the heavy rainfall in recent months. The interior of the church has continued to deteriorate, and we are presently working to make the building watertight as a first priority before other repairs can be considered. Some areas of the main body of the church are restricted but it will be good to be united in prayer together in this church now entrusted with a special mission.

+ Mark

Bishop of Shrewsbury

Diocese of Shrewsbury - Ad Clerum



Enc:

- *Health & Safety file Revisions Table*
- *Safeguarding and Health & Safety Training info and booking form*
- *Shrewsbury Diocese Catechetical Conference Poster*
- *Retreat on Mary in Sacred Scripture*