

Diocese of
Shrewsbury
Ad Clerum

2024/03 February





Dear Fathers and Deacons,

HOLY FATHER'S MESSAGE FOR LENT 2024

I attach Pope Francis's Lenten Letter entitled *Through the Desert, God leads us to Freedom*.

LENTEN PASTORAL LETTER

I attach my Lenten Pastoral Letter *On Our Need of Prayer* to be read at all Masses on the First Sunday of Lent, February 18th 2024. I have continued the 2024 theme of rediscovering prayer in the context of the call of Lent.

CLERGY

CELEBRET GUIDELINES

I have been asked to remind you to make celebret requests to the Bishop's Office detailing dates of the required celebret and purpose of ministry outside of Shrewsbury Diocese, at least two weeks before the planned visit. A separate request must be made to the Bishop's Office for each occasion ministering outside of the Diocese. I outline below how celebret requests are processed in cooperation with the Safeguarding Office.

"Celebret Request Process-

- Clergy request submitted to the Bishop's Office detailing dates of required celebret and purpose of ministry outside of Shrewsbury Diocese. Celebrets issued by the Diocese of Shrewsbury are for specific date periods. A separate request must be made to the Bishop's Office for each occasion ministering outside of the diocese.

- Upon receipt of the celebret request, the Bishop's Office requests the following information from the Diocesan Safeguarding Office-

☉ *DBS Certificate No. & Issue Date*

In line with the CBCEW mandate, clergy DBS Certificates must be updated within the 3-year renewal period.

☉ *Safeguarding Office confirmation that there are no relevant safeguarding concerns noted on file*

In the instance that safeguarding information sharing is required on the celebret document, this will be discussed in advance by the requesting Clergy, Vicars General and Bishop.

☉ *Safeguarding Training records*

In line with the CBCEW mandate, a celebret can only be issued in the instance that the requesting clergy has engaged with diocesan facilitated or endorsed safeguarding training. Training must have been completed within a 2-year period of the celebret request.

If the above criteria cannot be met a Celebret cannot be issued. The responsibility rests with clergy to engage with advertised training courses made available by the Diocese."

SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency is undertaking safeguarding audits for all the Dioceses of England and Wales. Our own Shrewsbury Diocese is currently engaged in this process. Thank you to all the clergy who have already completed the online survey which will help inform this audit.

The online link remains open until **Friday 15th March** and it would be helpful if you were able to complete this survey as soon as possible. For your convenience the survey can be accessed at: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/safeguarding/>

CLERGY ALLOWANCES AND SUPPLY RATES

It is some time since the recommendation of the income for Diocesan priests was reviewed and I have accepted the recommendation of the Clergy Remuneration Review Committee to increase the minimum income for Diocesan priests to £9,000, an increase of 6.5%.

The Financial Secretary will be writing to you separately with examples of income and tax. Retired clergy will also benefit from the increase of 6.5% in their pension grants with effect from this month.



Please note that separate arrangements are in place for any clergy subject to UK Visa and Immigration rules, and details of their remuneration can be found in the letter of invitation issued at the time of applying for their most recent visa. Supply rates remain unchanged, further details of which will be included in the Financial Secretary's communication.

ADOREMUS - NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

The next National Eucharistic Congress' *Adoremus* will be celebrated on **Saturday 14th September 2024 at Saint Mary's College, Oscott**. Bishops, clergy and people from all the Dioceses of England and Wales will gather at Oscott for a day to renew and deepen devotion to the Holy Eucharist. I will be in contact in due course regarding the places allocated for the Diocese in the meantime, please find a poster attached.

DIOCESAN MASS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE 2024

The annual Marriage Mass will take place on **Saturday June 8th, 12 noon at Saint Columba's Church Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA**, and will be followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. I will be inviting couples who are celebrating significant wedding anniversaries this year: Silver, Pearl, Ruby, Golden, Diamond or Platinum and also newly married couples to attend.

Please send details, including the couples address and anniversary, of any parishioners who wish to receive an invitation to: theresa.stones@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

MISSIO

Our Diocesan Mission Director, Father Tony Grace writes: There are many good resources for Lent for schools and parishes on the <https://missio.org.uk/> website or for the children on <https://missio.org.uk/> The Spring edition of the Missio Magazine will be online on Friday 16th February.

THE FAITHFUL FROM HONG KONG IN OUR PARISHES

Father Bruno Lepeu has come to England with the blessing of Cardinal Chow of Hong Kong and taken residence at Salford Cathedral. I will be meeting with Father Bruno for the first time this week. It is the expressed wish of Cardinal Chow and the Bishops Conference of England and Wales that a separate chaplaincy for the migrant Hong Kong communities is not created. It has been good to see on parish visits how involved and integrated many of the Hong Kong faithful are in our parish communities.

Father Bruno is here to support the Hong Kong Catholics in their integration into the life of our parishes. Father Bruno has been issued with a celebret by the Bishop of Salford and should be afforded a welcome as any other priest domiciled in a diocese of England and Wales.

As part of the agreement with Cardinal Chow, the migrant communities are to support the work of Father Bruno. If there is a collection at any Mass celebrated by Father Bruno the money should be processed through the parish accounts, the parish should deduct a suitable offering to defray the parish costs for the celebration of Mass and the balance should be sent to Father Bruno to support his work. Cheques should be sent to Salford Diocesan Finance Office, 3 Ford Street, Salford M3 6DP and a note should be included indicating this is for "HK Support."

It is envisaged there will be occasions where the community will wish to celebrate important cultural or religious festivals and then the faithful will engage with the local Parish Priest to facilitate such celebrations. If a broader event is planned Father Bruno will co-ordinate with a small group of the community, taking into full account the policies and procedures of the diocese in which this one-off event is takes place.

Father Bruno Lepeu's contact details are: Cathedral House, 250 Chapel Street, Salford M3 5LE lepeubruno@gmail.com



OTHER COURSES AND EVENTS

MARY'S MEALS

From Anna Houghton, Mary's Meals

"I wanted to say a huge thank you to those parishes who were able to support the work of Mary's Meals through their Advent giving. The generosity from across the Diocese has contributed to ensuring children across the world will continue to receive a daily meal in their place of education.

I wanted to ask whether other parishes would please consider focusing some of your Lenten almsgiving this year on supporting Mary's Meals. We are currently feeding 2.4 million children with a daily meal in their place of education. This is especially vital now in these challenging times of conflict, food insecurity and cost of living crisis - which we know is affecting people here in the UK as well as in the countries where we work, such as Ethiopia, Syria, and Yemen. As we did during Advent, we can provide small, cardboard collection boxes that families could take home to put their loose coins in during the coming weeks and then could return to the parish at Easter. With a meal only costing 10p and the cost of feeding a child for a whole year being just £19.15, we know that small change can make a big impact. If you would like me to send some of these boxes to your parish, please just let me know how many and I can get them posted out to you as soon as possible.

If you would like a talk in your parish at any time, either during Lent or at a later date, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We appreciate commitments may have already been made for this Lent, but we would be grateful if you could consider supporting our work later into 2024. Food changes the story for these children and allows them to break the cycle of poverty and help themselves and their communities. Please contact: anna.houghton@marysmeals.org

The Mary's Meals prayer can be found here if you would like to share this with parishioners: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/churches-and-prayers>

ENDNOTE

Thank you for your kind messages and remembrances in prayer and at the Altar on the 40th Anniversary of my ordination to the Priesthood on Sunday. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady for the first time in Lourdes and to spend a few days as a pilgrim with the many thousands who came together on 11th February.

I hope Lent has begun well today in the parishes and this season of grace will be a time greatly blessed for you and all those you serve.

+ Mark

Bishop of Shrewsbury

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- *Message Of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2024*
- *Lenten Pastoral Letter 2024*
- *Adoremus – National Eucharistic Congress poster*