

Diocese of  
Shrewsbury  
*Ad Clerum*

2024/04 March





Dear Fathers and Deacons

## THE NEW BISHOP OF CLIFTON

The Holy Father has appointed Canon Bosco MacDonald, a priest of the Diocese of Clifton, as the Tenth Bishop of the Clifton Diocese. Please pray for Bishop-Elect MacDonald as he prepares to begin his episcopal service and for Bishop Declan Lang as he comes to the end of more than two decades of service as Diocesan Bishop.

## CLERGY

### MASS OF THE SACRED CHRISM

We look forward to coming together at Saint Michael & All Angels, Woodchurch for the celebration of the Chrism Mass on Wednesday of Holy Week, 27<sup>th</sup> March, at 7.00 pm.

Chapter Canons are asked to vest in the designated classroom in the school where a stole and chasuble will be provided. Priests and Deacons are asked to vest in the school and to bring an alb and a white stole.

Deans are asked to collect the sets of Holy Oils for distribution to their parishes from the sacristy half an hour after Mass has concluded. If any Dean has yet to return their Deanery box to Canon Christopher Matthews, please can they do so as soon as is possible.

### APPOINTMENTS

#### **Saints Peter and Paul, Newport, and Saints Thomas Aquinas and Stephen Harding, Market Drayton**

I am very grateful to **Father Lee Bennett**, of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham with the blessing of his Ordinary, Monsignor Keith Newton, who has accepted my invitation to

become Parish Priest of Saints Peter and Paul, Newport, and Saints Thomas Aquinas and Stephen Harding, Market Drayton in succession to Father Anthony Wild. The announcement was made to the parishes on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, 10<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **The Pastoral Care of Albrighton, Shifnal & Wilmslow**

I am very grateful to **Father Vijay Bhupathi** for undertaking the pastoral care of Sacred Heart and Saint Teresa's Wilmslow and to **Father John Paul Raj** for undertaking the pastoral care of Saint Mary's Shifnal and Saint Joseph's Albrighton.

#### **The Pastoral care of Saint Clare's Lache**

I am grateful to all the clergy who have been supporting the community at Saint Clare's, Chester since 10<sup>th</sup> March. Father Bernard Forshaw is presently on sick leave and has stepped down as Parochial Administrator.

### SICK CLERGY

Please remember the sick clergy of the Diocese in prayer, especially:

**Father Anthony Cogliolo** who continues to regain his strength and is making good progress. Visitors would be most welcome whilst he is recuperating in Neston.

**Father William Fitzgerald** is also recovering very well from heart surgery and is currently undergoing cardiac rehabilitation and looking forward to returning to parish ministry in due course.

**Canon John Gordon** is currently in hospital due to an infection but is recovering well and remains in good spirits.

**Canon Philip Moor VG** continues to make progress and greatly appreciates our good wishes and prayers. Canon Phil still becomes



easily fatigued and respectfully requests no unannounced visitors for this reason.

**Monsignor Peter Walton** remains well in himself and visitors are always welcome at Lighthouse Lodge.

**Father Anthony Wild** is also currently doing well. Please keep them all in your prayers.

## FATHER PHILIP HEIBERG

Philip Heiberg who served in the Diocese from 1999 to 2005, has been incardinated into the Diocese of Nottingham by decree of Bishop Patrick McKinney on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Please remember Philip in your prayers.

## CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

Father Edmund Montgomery has a new email address: [pp@rcchep.co.uk](mailto:pp@rcchep.co.uk)

Father Owen Gallagher has a new email address: [parishpriest@wythenshawerc.com](mailto:parishpriest@wythenshawerc.com)

Father David Irwin has a new email address: [fr.david@wythenshawerc.com](mailto:fr.david@wythenshawerc.com)

The Wythenshawe Churches Parish Office, based at Sacred Heart Church, Baguley has a new phone number: **0161 503 2843** - and a new email address: [admin@wythenshawerc.com](mailto:admin@wythenshawerc.com)

## DIOCESE

### FATHER LEON OSTASZEWSKI R.I.P

We received the sad news of the sudden death of Leon Ostaszewski in Wallasey. Leon lived in the Diocese for many years often working in secular employment without his ministerial position being resolved. In death, let us remember him and pray for his eternal peace.

## MASS FOR THE CHINESE COMMUNITY

Many faithful Catholics from Hong Kong have arrived in the Diocese, especially in the Greater Manchester area, and a significant number are being Baptised this Easter. On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April, I will be celebrating a Bi-lingual Mass for the Chinese community and to welcome the new Catholics with their Chaplain, Father Bruno, at Saint Hugh and Saint John's, Timperley at 2.30 pm.

## DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION CATECHIST CONFERENCE ~ 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024

On the eve of Pentecost, 18<sup>th</sup> May there will be a diocesan conference with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Joseph for Confirmation Catechists and those seeking to become Confirmation Catechists. The conference will be held at Saint Mary's Parish Centre, 65 Delamere Street, Crewe CW1 2JX. The day will explore the Sacrament of Confirmation, best practice, networking with catechists across the Diocese, and inspiration to take back to your parish. Registration is essential. I attach a flyer with further information, registration and contact details.

## DIOCESAN MASS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE 2024 ~ Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June

A reminder to send the names and addresses of any parishioners celebrating a significant anniversary, who wish to be invited to the Annual Marriage Mass, which will be celebrated on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> at Saint Columba's Church Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA at 12 noon.

Please send details, including the couples' address and their particular anniversary to: [theresa.stones@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:theresa.stones@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)



## HEALTH AND SAFETY IN HOLY WEEK

*A message from Health & Safety Officer, Julie Tinsley writes:*

As Holy Week and Easter approaches, we are faced with some unique circumstances and additional risks to those present during the weekly liturgical programme. It is therefore important, once again, to consider any extra measures which might need to be in place, to ensure that all those attending services during this period are kept safe.

Last year, on the advice received from the Diocesan Insurers and Solicitors, we revised our Easter Masses and Vigil Guidance Note and Risk Assessments, to assist churches exceeding the maximum capacity set by their Fire Risk Assessments. As we prepare for Holy Week, we need to be vigilant in relation to occupancy and numbers and consider additional arrangements where appropriate, such as:

- Using church halls as overspill areas
- Providing covered areas (gazebos) outside
- Encourage parishioners to attend Mass at different times (where possible)
- Refresh stewards training in relation to occupancy and numbers

Please prepare/review your risk assessments in preparation for Easter services. The revised Guidance Note and Risk Assessments, available in your Health and Safety File, are attached for your ease of reference.

### Use of Electric Socket Outlet Protectors

It has come to the attention of the Health and Safety Officer that some parishes may be using electric socket protectors (plastic covers) in their halls. The intention being to stop foreign objects or children's fingers being inserted into socket outlets. In certain circumstances, the use of these plastic covers can overcome the safety features that are inherent in the design of socket outlets.

Electric sockets that are manufactured to BS1363 (13A wall socket outlets) must have an interlocking shutter mechanism to stop the insertion of foreign material into the socket tubes.

Plastic socket covers are not constructed to any electrical or other safety standard and may be an unsuitable size that can cause damage to the socket and defeat the existing safety design of the socket.

Although it is not illegal to use plug socket covers, for many years, the Department for Education and Department of Health have recommended that such plastic covers are not used on Early Years settings or Health and Social Care settings, for this reason.

Therefore, the Diocese would also recommend that these plastic socket covers are not installed in electric sockets within churches or parish halls.

## OTHER COURSES AND EVENTS

### CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE, STONYHURST

"The Priest as Spouse and Bridegroom" Clergy Retreat will be held at the Christian Heritage Centre in Stonyhurst from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> April. The CHC is happy to host this retreat for clergy preached by Father Anthony Doe (Westminster). For more information and to book a place, visit: [The Priest as Spouse and Bridegroom - The Christian Heritage Centre](#)

### HOLY CROSS ABBEY ~ Come and See Weekends

The Cistercian Nuns at Holy Cross Abbey, Whitland, Pembrokeshire SA34 0QX, will be holding their 'Come and See' weekends from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August to Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024. These

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weekends are aimed at single Catholic women aged 25 to 45 who are discerning a vocation and wish to experience the monastic life. A digital poster which you may wish to display in your parishes is attached.

For more information email:  
[comeandseehca@gmail.com](mailto:comeandseehca@gmail.com)

## ENDNOTE

*As happily noted earlier in the Ad Clerum, Canon Phil Moor VG continues to convalesce after being seriously ill at the start of the year. We join him in giving thanks to God for his recovery. It is good to see how he is improving but it is clear the road to recovery will be a long one. During this time, we need to give him the space to make a full recovery and keep him in our prayer. Phil wanted to thank everyone who has prayed for him since the emergency which took him into hospital after Christmas. Sadly, he won't be able to be with us for the celebration of the Chrism Mass on Wednesday but will participate virtually and be united with us all in prayer.*

*Wishing you a blessed Holy Week in all the parishes and communities of the Diocese,*

**+ Mark**

*Bishop of Shrewsbury*

*Enc.*

- *Easter Masses ~ Guidance Note and Risk Assessments*
- *Confirmation Catechist Conference ~ flyer*
- *Come and See Weekends 2024 at Holy Cross Abbey ~ flyer*