

Diocese of
Shrewsbury
Ad Clerum

2024/09 September





Dear Fathers and Deacons

HOLY YEAR 2025

Pope Francis has announced that he will open the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve to mark the beginning of the Jubilee Year 2025. The Holy Father has asked the bishops of the world to open the Holy Year in the Cathedral of each Diocese on the Sunday after Christmas, 29th December. I will celebrate the 11.00am Mass on the Feast of Holy Family to formally open the Jubilee Year in the Shrewsbury Diocese and will travel to the Eucharistic Shrine Church of Saint Joseph's, Stockport on Sunday 12th January for Mass at 11.30am to celebrate the beginning of the Jubilee Year.

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF-MENEVIA

On this Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary, Pope Francis has decreed the definitive merging of our neighbouring dioceses of Cardiff and Menevia to become the new Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia with Archbishop Mark O'Toole as the Metropolitan Archbishop.

Please pray for Archbishop Mark and all the clergy and faithful of this new Archdiocese.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

On Saturday I will be travelling with 44 members of the Diocese who have received the allocated tickets for the National Eucharistic Congress at Saint Mary's, Oscott.

On Sunday, it would be good to remember the intentions of the congress both at Mass and in times of Eucharistic Adoration, that we may deepen our faith and love of the Holy Eucharist.

EUCHARISTIC SHRINE, SAINT JOSEPH'S, STOCKPORT

We will soon be celebrating the second anniversary of the Eucharistic Shrine at Saint Joseph's, Stockport, dedicated to prayer for vocations to the Priesthood and for the sanctification of all priests. I am pleased to report that following extensive and continuing works, the church is now re-opened.

From the week beginning Sunday 29th September there will be Eucharistic Adoration Monday to Friday from 7.00am extending until 9.00pm each night with Confessions from 11.00 am to 11.45am and Mass celebrated at 12 Noon.

I would be grateful if you could let parishioners know of this opportunity for prayer, confessions and Mass whenever they are in the Stockport area of the Diocese.

VISIT OF THE RELIC OF THE HEART OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

The Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis will be brought on pilgrimage to the Diocese from 20th and 23rd September 2024 at Saint Anthony's Wythenshawe.

A young man born in London in 1991 and dying in 2006 has inspired remarkable devotion as an apostle of the Eucharist.

The programme is attached for Mass, Confessions, times for quiet prayer and veneration of his relic in Saint Anthony's Wythenshawe.

There will also be inspirational talks on Saturday and Sunday from Monsignor Anthony Figueirido STD, who has followed the life of the soon-to-be Saint Carlo Acutis.

Registration for veneration is now open and can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/relic-of-blessed-carlo-acutis-tickets-1010291297467?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

or by scanning the QR code:



I also enclose a poster with the QR code which you may want to display in your parishes.

CLERGY

FATHER ALBAN GREENWOOD RIP

On Sunday 8th September, we received the sad and unexpected news of the death of Father Alban Greenwood. May he rest in peace. I will write once funeral arrangements have been made. In the meantime, let us keep Alban in our prayers.

FATHER TOMASZ MAMELKA

I am very happy to record after many years of devoted service in the Diocese, **Father Tomasz Mamelka** was incardinated as a priest of the Shrewsbury Diocese on 1st September.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Father Bernard Forshaw, after a period of sick leave, will take residence from 25th September at Saint Wilfred's, Northwich to assist Father Paul Standish in the Parish of Saint John Vianney.

I am grateful to **Father Stephen Roberts** who has accepted my invitation to serve as Parochial Administrator of Holy Spirit, Marple and Saint Bernadette's, Brinnington following the retirement of Father Bill Fitzgerald.

INCOMING CLERGY

We welcome **Father Sleevappa Medikonda** from the Diocese of Khammam, India who arrived in the Diocese last month. Father Sleeva (as he

would like to be known) is presently resident at the Cathedral.

ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The Advent Day of Recollection for clergy will be at Wistaston Hall, Crewe, on Thursday 5th December and will be led by Father David Potter, a priest of the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

RETIRED PRIESTS MEETING AND LUNCH

Canon Michael Gannon VG and the Clergy Welfare Team are re-launching the twice-yearly 'Retired Priest's Meeting and Lunch'. The first will be held in Northwich on Wednesday 9th October. These gatherings provide an opportunity for our retired clergy to meet, discuss any issues affecting them, receive updates and advice from the welfare team and enjoy a social get-together.

An email with a registration form has gone out, but if you have not received this, please contact the welfare team.

Julie.parry@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Tel: 07547 105123

Nuala.dutton@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Tel: 07809 409163

RECENTLY ORDAINED PRIESTS

Our recently ordained priests will resume their programme of regular gatherings at the Cathedral on Tuesday 22nd October.

DEANS' MEETING

The Deans will meet with me at the Cathedral on Tuesday 8th October in preparation for the Deanery Conference later that month.



PRIESTS 'WELLBEING' MEETINGS

A message from Julie Parry, Diocesan Clergy Welfare Team

The welfare team are launching a new initiative to support our serving clergy with their health and wellbeing. The first 'wellbeing pop-up' will be held at St Joseph's Upton Parish Hall on Tuesday 10th September between 10.00am and 3.00pm. The second will be at Shrewsbury Cathedral on Wednesday 6th November between 10.00am and 3.00pm. Light refreshments will be available so please call in, have a chat, meet the team, and maybe take away some information that will help you to look after yourself in these challenging times. All clergy, both priests and deacons are welcome.

MAKING A WILL

Diocesan Solicitor, Georgina Ford, has asked that all clergy be reminded of the importance of making a Will. If you would like details of the Wills service offered by Walker Wise, please contact: georgina.ford@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

NEW CONTACT DETAILS

Father Peter Dutton has asked that I share his new contact details with the clergy:

*24 Greendale Drive,
Middlewich
Cheshire
CW10 0 PH*

Email: duttonpeter47@yahoo.com

Mobile: 07565 674490

Father Michael Coughlan has a new email address:

fmichael.coughlan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

DIOCESE

MR PETER O'BRIEN ~ RIP

We were sad to receive the news of the death of Peter O'Brien who was a dedicated servant of the Church and of this Diocese as property manager and latterly as Secretary of the Northwest Historic Churches Committee. Peter's Requiem Mass was celebrated on Wednesday 28th August at English Martyrs Church, Wallasey. Please remember Peter together with his wife Lynda and their family in your prayers.

APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY

We welcome Mr Michael Rooney as a new Director of Property for the Diocese. He will take up his appointment on 1st November 2024.

Michael is formerly from 'AtkinsRéalisis' and brings with him a wealth of experience, having worked with the Diocese for more than a decade in his current role.

Richard Crawford will remain with us in the role of a full-time consultant until the end of the year in order to support Michael as he takes up this extensive role across the Diocese.

MASS COUNTS ~ 28th September to 12th October

A reminder that the first of the four annual Mass counts will take place on the weekend of 21st September, followed by 28th September, 5th October and 12th October.

Please include all those present at all Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. Include all churches, chapels and Mass centres in your parish which have at least one monthly Sunday Mass, even if they do not come under your jurisdiction as Parish Priest. Add up the number of all attendees at all Masses and enter as **one**



total number for each weekend. You do not need to make any additional notes or separate the figures.

Once this is completed, please keep the pastoral statistics form to be completed after 31st December 2024 and returned to the Bishop's Office before 31st January 2025.

THE NEW LECTIONARY

I hope all has gone well with ordering the new Lectionary through the Catholic Truth Society. The new Lectionary will come into use in all liturgical celebrations on Sunday 1st December. Catechetical materials to support the introduction of the new Lectionary are also available from CTS.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES 2025

Betrothed is a Marriage Preparation Course offered by the Shrewsbury Diocese. It is aimed to help couples to prepare for marriage from a spiritual/faith and relational perspective and to help them to understand marriage in the teaching of the Church and prepare you for the promises they will make on the altar.

Jane Deegan, the Diocesan Director of Catechesis and Promoter of Christian Marriage will be running this course at the following locations in 2025:

- St Clares Chester: 15th and 22nd February 2025
- St Vincents Altrincham: 22nd and 29th March 2025
- Our Lady of the Rosary & St Luke Telford: 10th and 17th May 2025
- St Vincents Altrincham: 13th and 20th September 2025

For more information contact jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

CARMELITE MONASTERY, BIRKENHEAD ~ BENEDICTION FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX

I enclose a poster regarding *Benediction in honour of Saint Thérèse of The Child Jesus and The Holy Face*, which will be held at The Carmelite Monastery, Birkenhead on Sunday September 29th 2024.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY ~ 4th October

A reminder that the annual CAFOD Family Fast Day is on 4th October, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Parishes should have received the resources for this initiative directly from CAFOD for more information visit:

<https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/parish-fundraising>

MISSIO ~ WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

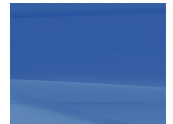
October 20th 2024

I have received a letter from Archbishop Emilio Nappa, President of the Pontifical Mission Societies and Secretary-Adjunct of the Dicastery for Evangelisation, thanking the Diocese for its support throughout the year and particularly our Diocesan Director and volunteers for Missio '*for their commitment and zeal*'.

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday October 20th this year. I encourage you to support the Holy Father's annual appeal for spiritual and financial support to help the life-giving work of overseas mission and of missionaries to continue across the world.

RADIO MARIA

Radio Maria has now expanded its broadcasting to the areas of Stockport, Greater Manchester, and Tameside.



As the station grows into more parts of the country, a public blessing of the new antenna was held on Saturday, 20th July at the Hyde Cricket & Squash Club in Stockport.

Radio Maria England can be accessed through various platforms:

- DAB+ Digital Radio: In London, Cambridge, Bristol, South Birmingham, Norwich and now Stockport, Greater Manchester, and Tameside areas.
- Smart-Speakers: Just ask for 'Radio Maria England'.
- Radio Maria Play App: Available for smartphones and tablets.
- Website: <https://radiomariaengland.uk/how-to-listen-to-us/>
- Podcasts: Anchor, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and others.

OTHER COURSES AND EVENTS

PILGRIMAGE TO THE NORTHERN SHRINES OF FRANCE

Saint Therese of Lisieux, Chartres Cathedral and Sacre Coeur, Paris from 15th to 22nd October 2024.

Northampton Diocese are widening this tour out to all other dioceses.

For detailed information and booking visit: <https://www.jcjourneys.com/northampton-diocese-pilgrimage-retreat>

PACT MASSES

05/24	Rev Father Peter Leo Blundell
Died 24/08	(Birmingham)
06/24	Rev Father Alban Greenwood
Died 08/09	(Shrewsbury)

ENDNOTE

As the mid-point of September approaches, we look forward to many events and renewed activities in parish and diocese. We have a full contingent for the National Eucharistic Congress at Oscott; and we look forward to the Pilgrimage of the relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis as the promise of many graces.

At the end of July, it was good to journey to Lourdes with a growing number of Shrewsbury pilgrims and wish to record my thanks to Canon Christopher Matthews and all who shared in the leadership and organisation of the pilgrimage. I was struck by the deepened sense of prayer and devotion among all the pilgrims gathered in Lourdes and it was especially good to see the joyful commitment of the growing number of youth pilgrims from the Diocese.

I hope next year we can continue to build-up our Diocesan Pilgrimage, making this a special focus of our celebration of the Jubilee Year.

+ Mark

Bishop of Shrewsbury

Enc:

- *Blessed Carlo Acutis Programme*
- *Blessed Carlo Acutis Booking Poster*
- *Carmel ~ St Therese Benediction Poster*