



**THE DIOCESE OF LEEDS
AD CLERUM**

November 2017

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL
Not to be re-transmitted in any form

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Leeds Diocesan Trust - Registered Charity No. 249404, Company No. 2886244

Dear Reverend Fathers, Deacons and Religious,

Prayers for the Dead

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Sr Marcelline LSP, one of the Little Sisters of the Poor at Mount St Joseph's who died on 1st November 2017, aged 84 years. Sr Marcelline had been with the community at Mount St Joseph's Convent for 20 years. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her; may she rest in peace. Amen. Our sympathy and thoughts go to Mother Caroline Mary LSP and all of Sr Marcelline's Sisters within her Religious Congregation.

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell at this time, especially, Fr David Drake-Brockman, Fr Peter Clarke, Fr Peter Smith, Fr Bernard Battle, Fr Sean Leonard, Fr Bernard Ratlidge, Fr Jim Leavy, Mgr Philip Holroyd, Fr Angelo Philips and Canon Philip Fitzgerald.

I ask you to pray especially at this time for Fr Anthony Pearson who is currently recovering from major surgery.

Please pray all the priests of our diocese who are burdened with long term illnesses of various kinds and strive to continue to carry out their priestly ministry either in full-time parochial office or in retirement from office.

Mrs Jackie Baker

After over forty years working with the Bishops of Leeds Mrs Jackie Baker is to retire from her role as the Administrative Secretary on Wednesday 20th December 2017. I wish to put on record that Jackie has served with outstanding dedication, distinction and discretion from the time she began working for the Right Reverend William Gordon Wheeler when he was Bishop of Leeds, and then for the Right Reverend David Every Konstant, the Right Reverend Arthur Roche, the Diocesan Administrator, the Reverend Monsignor John Wilson during the period of *sede vacante*, and since I became Bishop of Leeds in November 2014. I wish to thank Jackie for the incredible work and the superb support that she has given to the Diocese over these years and I wish her every blessing in her retirement, as I am sure each and every one of you would also wish to do.

Miss Anne Cooke

On Monday 27th November 2017, Miss Anne Cooke will take up her appointment in preparation for her role as the new Administrative Secretary to the Bishop of Leeds. Miss

Cooke will work within the Curia Offices at Hinsley Hall on Mondays and at Bishop's House from Tuesday to Friday. Miss Cooke's contact details are: Email: bishop@dioceseofleeds.org.uk and Telephone: 0113 230 4533

CLERGY

New Canon of the Chapter of Leeds Cathedral

Fr Michael Mahady will be installed during the Chapter Mass at 12:30pm, at the Cathedral on 8th December 2017, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. If you intend to concelebrate or attend the Mass in choir dress and have not yet informed inform Fr Marc Homsey please do so as soon as possible.

Email: marc.homsey@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or Tel: 0113 245 4545

Clergy Contact Details

Please note the following changes:

St Pio's Friary, Bradford

For future correspondence regarding diocesan/friary matters addressed to the local servant

Fr Gabriel Kyte CFR: saintpioservant@gmail.com

For general friary business: saintpiofriary@gmail.com

DIOCESE

Clergy Ongoing Formation Conference February 2018

Among the opportunities for ongoing pastoral and spiritual formation within the Diocese of Leeds is a two-day conference in February. The dates set aside for this conference in 2018 are 6th to 8th February; in 2019, the dates are 12th to 14th February.

I wish to let you know that for the next two years, the formation provided at the February Conference will be only for priests who hold pastoral or administrative office, i.e. parish priests, assistant priests, priests working within the curia, religious priests exercising ministry in the diocese, priest chaplains to universities, prisons and hospitals, etc. This arrangement will not affect the Annual Diocesan Clergy Retreat, Clergy Days of Recollection, and other ongoing formation opportunities which will continue to be provided for all priests and deacons, including those who no longer hold a pastoral or administrative office.

Further information about the February Conference in 2018 and 2019 will be sent in due course to the priests who need to attend by the Ongoing Formation Coordinators, Fr Simon Bradbury and Fr Dennis Cassidy.

The monthly Deanery Conferences, Annual Diocesan Clergy Retreat and Days of Recollection, are very important because they are ways of ensuring that as clergy we do not become isolated in our ministry; they help to promote that fraternity, friendship and collaboration amongst the clergy which is so necessary to supporting our lives as priests and deacons. So please do take full advantage of these and all the opportunities for ongoing formation that are organised for us by Fr Bradbury and Fr Cassidy.

From Advent to Epiphany: Bringing the Seasons to Life.

Just to remind you that next Tuesday, 21st November, as part of the programme of ongoing formation a study afternoon for all priests and deacons will be held from 1:30pm to 6pm at Hinsley Hall. Led by Fr Joseph O'Hanlon, a priest of the Diocese of Nottingham, it will consist of a presentation of the liturgical movement of Advent through Christmastide to Epiphany. The aim is to bring the Lectionary and Missal to life in these theologically rich seasons of the Church's Year.

Dr Joseph O'Hanlon has spent most of his life teaching Scripture in colleges and seminaries. With a colleague he founded what has become the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. His books include *The Dance of the Merrymakers*, *Mark my Words* and *The Jesus Who Was and The Jesus who Is*.

If you wish to go and have not already informed Fr Simon Bradbury, please email him at peterpaulsandal@icloud.com

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress for England and Wales

I personally wish to encourage all parishes, religious communities and schools to take as full a part as they can in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress for England and Wales, called '*Adoremus*', which will take place in Liverpool, 7th to 9th September, next year, 2018.

All parishes, religious communities and chaplaincies in the diocese should have by now received a mailing from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales about this important national event. Our diocese has been allocated 425 delegate spaces at the central event which takes place on Saturday 8th September 2018 at the Liverpool Echo arena, and Fr Peter Kravos and Fr Sean Crawley, our diocesan coordinators for the Congress, have made the allocations accordingly.

Unfortunately, the letters were sent out with a very tight deadline for responses, but in any case very few have been received from our diocesan parishes, chaplaincies and communities. So, please contact Fr Peter Kravos at the University Chaplaincy in Leeds as soon as possible with your acceptance responses for your delegate allocation. The absolute deadline is 31st December 2017. Please be aware that you are not committing anybody or anything at this stage; it is just to assess whether we will fully take up our allocation or not.

In the next month or so there will be more information about the symposium which will take place on Friday 7th September 2018 at the conference centre at the Echo arena, and Fr Kravos and Fr Crawley will be in touch with all those who have requested places at the symposium as soon as this information is made known. Please contact Fr Peter Kravos about any queries you may have about this matter by Email: pmkravos@gmail.com.

Friends of the Holy Land - Christmas Crib Collection 2017

As last year, I would like to ask that parishes adopt 'Friends of the Holy Land' as the beneficiary of their crib collections. Friends of the Holy Land help the most deprived Christians in the community, especially those living in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel. During the recent Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I had the opportunity to visit one of the projects funded by the Friends of the Holy Land called 'St Martha's House'. It a day

care centre for elderly ladies in Bethlehem. It opens four days a week to provide a social environment for women who are mostly widows, living alone with no one to look after them. They enjoy a midday meal, board games, embroidery and tending their garden which provides vegetables for the House.

Friends of the Holy Land are happy to provide parishes with a collection card and photograph that they suggest will enhance and personalise the thoughts and prayers at the Crib. If you would like to receive a set of these in your parish please contact Deacon David Arblaster, email: db.arblaster@gmail.com Cheques from any resulting collections are payable to 'Friends of the Holy Land' and should be sent to: Friends of the Holy Land, 2 Station Road, Kenilworth, CV8 1JJ. Further information about the Friends of the Holy Land can be found at: www.friendsoftheholylan.or.uk

Parish Mass Schedules for Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas 2017

A number of priests have mentioned the tension of celebrating properly both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the Nativity of the Lord on consecutive days. This is particularly difficult for those of you who usually celebrate Vigil Masses of Christmas in two different churches after the Sunday schedule and, for many of you, a later 'Christmas Mass during the Night' too.

If you currently have two Sunday morning Masses, there may be an opportunity to reduce these to one celebration on this occasion. From my experience as a parish priest, when Christmas Eve has fallen on a Sunday in the past, the numbers attending on the morning of that Sunday are significantly fewer than usual anyway! I am concerned for your health and spiritual well-being. I am also very much aware of the demands on those of you who are conscientious, who have no priestly help to call upon and find it difficult to say 'no'. I am very happy for you to quote me in support of a reduction of the number of Masses you have to celebrate on that Sunday. I leave it to your own good pastoral sense to make the decisions you feel appropriate for your own parish community but I do want you to know that you have my support and understanding.

Dates for your 2018 Diary – Diocesan Celebrations and Events

Please find attached a list that I have compiled of Diocesan Celebrations and Events in 2018 which you may wish to put in your 2018 Diary. This will be updated where necessary and sent to you with each *Ad clerum*. I hope that you find it helpful.

Pastoral Statistics

I enclose the annual Parish Statistics form (in both MSWord and PDF formats). This includes the collection of the data on the number attending Masses during October 2017 as well as information on the numbers receiving Sacraments, etc. Some of the data is used in the compilation of the Report and Accounts which are filed with the Charity Commissioners. In addition the data is used for administrative and planning purposes within the Diocese so it is important that these statistics are returned in good time. Please ensure therefore that you complete and return the form to Bishop's House as soon as possible after the year end and certainly before 31st January 2018. Your cooperation with this task will be very much appreciated by me.

NATIONAL

Cycle of Prayer – Model Intercessions

The Liturgy Committee of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has produced a set of model of intercessions for the Cycle of Prayer, and other occasions. They are intended as both a simple alternative to some of the material sent out by agencies and also to include some intentions which are not promoted. For more information, go to the following website:

www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Cycle/CPIntercessions.shtml

Bible Sunday Resources

The Scripture Working Group of the Bishops' Conference has produced a series of resources for use in the Advent – Christmas season and beyond. For more information, go to:

www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Catholic-Bible-Sunday-2017

Clergy Retreat 22nd -26th January 2018

“The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of priests and Protectress of our frailty” is the title of a Marian preached retreat for clergy that will be given by Fr Armand de Malleray, FSSP. The retreat will take place in the prayerful Benedictine setting of Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 5TQ, from Monday 22nd January at 4pm, to Friday 26th January at 2pm (after lunch). Fr de Malleray is the Rector of St Mary's Shrine in Warrington (Liverpool Archdiocese), and regularly gives retreats and conferences to priests. Any priests and deacons, secular and religious, are welcome. Please see the attached booking form for more details.

Together in Recovery -15-19 January 2018

The second national annual retreat for Priests, Deacons and Religious Brothers who are in recovery from alcoholism and other addictions, called *Together in Recovery*, will be held at Oscott College Seminary from supper on 15th January, 2018 until after lunch on Friday 19th January, 2018. (The students will be away on parish placements). It will be led by Fr. Guy Sciacca from the Archdiocese of Boston, USA. Oscott is centrally placed, and holding this retreat in a seminary is an affirmation that the Church values very much those who are in recovery. The cost will be £250.00 and to preserve confidentiality payment can be made to Sacred Heart Parish and the parish will then pay Oscott. Payment is not needed at the moment and Priests, Deacons and Religious Brothers who are interested can get more information by emailing directly either

Fr Tony Norton: tony.norton@sacredheart-coventry.org or

Fr Paul Whieldon: whieldon007@gmail.com.

Assuring you of my prayers and very best wishes, I remain

Yours devotedly in Christ

+*Marcus*

✠ Marcus Stock
Bishop of Leeds