



THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM
ONGOING FORMATION for CLERGY

"I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you"



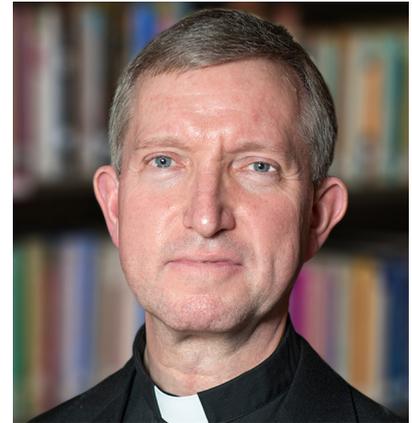
NEWSLETTER

Issue 8 - May 2025

Welcome to a shorter edition of our Ongoing Formation for Clergy Newsletter!

I am looking forward to welcoming many of you to **The Conference for Priests** which is taking place on Tuesday 10th June at Birmingham Newman University. As His Grace mentioned in his recent invitation, this one-day event will be a wonderful opportunity for the priests of the Archdiocese to spend time together and to reflect on the roots of co-responsibility in our lives as priests.

During the day, Monsignor Paul McPartlan – Rector of Mater Ecclesiae College at St. Mary's Twickenham – will explore the relationship between the Eucharist and our celebration of the liturgy. Drawing on the writings of Mgr. James Crichton, Mgr. Paul will then reflect on the role of the lay faithful in co-responsibility, before thinking about how this relates to the Final Synod Document. Released last year, this emphasised that: *"There is a close link between synaxis and synodos, between the Eucharistic assembly and the synodal assembly"* (n.27).



*Mgr. Paul McPartlan,
Rector of Mater Ecclesiae College,
our keynote speaker at this year's
Conference for Priests.*

Looking towards the summer, we have our annual **Retreat for Priests** at St. Mary's College, Oscott from Monday 7th to Friday 11th July. This year we look forward to welcoming Abbot Cuthbert Brogan OSB of Farnborough Abbey who will be leading the retreat. This is a wonderful opportunity to be in the familiar surroundings of our diocesan seminary, and well worth thinking about if you've not been before!

The Conference for Deacons will take place on Saturday 27th September at St. Mary's College, Oscott. The day will be an opportunity to reflect on how our parishes and communities can be safe places of welcome. Bishop Timothy Menezes will lead **The Retreat for Deacons** at Wistaston Hall in Crewe from Friday 31st October to Sunday 2nd November.

As always, please do check the diary of events at the end of this newsletter for dates of upcoming events. Booking is essential to avoid disappointment.

Once again, I continue to encourage us all to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and the religious life.

Please be assured of my ongoing prayers for you.

Fr Craig

Rev. Fr. Craig Szmidt
Director of Ongoing Formation for Clergy

www.vocations.org.uk/ongoing-formation



MAIN EVENTS

Tuesday 10th June 2025 - THE CONFERENCE FOR PRIESTS - Birmingham Newman University *
The Roots of Co-responsibility in the Life of the Priest (Mgr. Paul McPartlan)

Saturday 27th September 2025 - THE CONFERENCE FOR DEACONS - St. Mary's College, Oscott *
Topics & Speakers: Inclusion (Dcn. Mark Paine), Safeguarding (Mrs. Claire Reay)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024-2025

JUNE

- Sat 7th - **MASS TO RENEW DIACONAL COMMITMENT** - St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, B4 6EX *
- Tues 10th - **THE CONFERENCE FOR PRIESTS** (Mgr. Paul McPartlan) - Birmingham Newman University, B32 3NT - £90 *
- Sat 21st - **ONGOING FORMATION DAY FOR DEACONS: PILGRIMS OF HOPE**
- Immaculate Conception & St. Egwin, Evesham, WR11 4EJ - £30 *

JULY

- Mon 7th - Fri 11th - **THE RETREAT FOR PRIESTS** (Abbot Cuthbert Brogan OSB - Abbot of Farnborough)
- St. Mary's College, Oscott, B73 5AA - £395 *Note earlier dates from previous years.*

SEPTEMBER

- Sat 27th - **THE CONFERENCE FOR DEACONS** - St. Mary's College, Oscott, B73 5AA - £40 individual / £60 with wife *

OCTOBER

- Date TBC - **SAFEGUARDING INVESTIGATIONS: SUPPORTING PRIESTS WITH FAIRNESS AND CARE**
(Canon John Poland JCD - Judicial Vicar, National Penal Tribunal of England & Wales)
- St. Mary's College, Oscott, B73 5AA
- Fri 31st - Sun 2nd Nov - **THE RETREAT FOR DEACONS** (Bp. Timothy Menezes) - Wistaston Hall, Crewe, CW2 8JS - £195



** Attendance at these events is highly encouraged by His Grace, the Archbishop.*

***Fraternity of the Recently Ordained** events are for diocesan priests ordained under 10 years.*

*Deacons ordained under 3 years are expected to attend **Ongoing Formation Days for Deacons**, but all are welcome.*

For further details on these events and to book, visit:

www.vocations.org.uk/ongoing-formation



We are able to accept payments online by debit or credit card, via BACS, or by cheque. All Ongoing Formation for Clergy events are legitimate parish expenses. They are free-of-charge for retired clergy.