



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM  
ONGOING FORMATION FOR CLERGY



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2022

# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2022



Welcome to this year's Programme of Events for the Ongoing Formation of Clergy within the Archdiocese! As you can see, there is a wide variety of different opportunities to come together and focus on the areas of spiritual, pastoral, human and intellectual ongoing formation. I hope that you will be able to take advantage of these opportunities.

In this year's calendar, you will notice that a number of the events are highlighted with two asterisks to emphasise that these are the main events within the calendar and that attendance is highly encouraged by His Grace, the Archbishop.

As Vocations Director I would also like to encourage us all to continue praying for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood, the Permanent Diaconate and the Religious Life. I include the Diocesan Prayer for Vocations on the back of this booklet.

Please be assured of my ongoing prayers for you.

God bless,

Rev Fr Craig Szmidt

Director for Ongoing Formation

---

## Sat 22nd January

### DEACONS UNDER 5s \*\*

St Mary's College, Oscott  
Chester Road, Birmingham B73 5AA

**AN EVENT FOR DEACONS ONLY**

### CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING TO CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION

A Reflection on Laudato Si' and the Climate Crisis led by David McLoughlin (Emeritus Fellow, Newman University) and James Trewby (Justice and Peace Education Worker – Columbans)

The cost of the day is **£30**.

---

## Tues 15th February

### GATHERING FOR PRIESTS \*\*

Edgbaston Cricket Ground  
Edgbaston Road, Birmingham B5 7QU

**AN EVENT FOR PRIESTS ONLY**

### NURTURING SAFE SPACES IN PASTORAL MINISTRY

This is an opportunity for priests to gather and explore ways of ensuring that we can nurture safe spaces within pastoral ministry.

The day will be led by Mr Alan Hassall, Head of Safeguarding, Mr Pete Smallwood, Human Formation Coordinator and Fr Ray Corbett.

The day will focus on promoting and developing a culture of Safeguarding within our parishes, whilst also exploring ways that we can do this safely in all areas of our ministry.

The cost of the day is **£75**.

Free parking at the venue.

---

## Sun 20th March – Tues 22nd March

### UNDER 10s GATHERING \*\*

Woodland Grange  
Leamington Spa, CV32 6RN

**AN EVENT FOR PRIESTS ONLY**

### CARING FOR OURSELVES IN PASTORAL MINISTRY

Formerly held at Hothorpe Hall, these gatherings for priests ordained fewer than ten years offers a wonderful opportunity for us to share our experiences and offer fraternal support. This will be the first gathering as young clergy since before the start of the pandemic. Mr Pete Smallwood will help us to reflect on the requirements of the ratio fundamentalis and the four integrated dimensions of ongoing formation with special attention to the foundation that human formation can provide.

This event is **free**.

---

## Weds 6th April

### LENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION

St Mary's College, Oscott  
Chester Road, Birmingham B73 5AA

**AN EVENT FOR ALL CLERGY**

#### REFLECTIONS ON THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST LUKE

A wonderful opportunity as we approach Holy Week to reflect on the Passion Narrative found in the Gospel of St Luke. This day is a repeat of the excellent day held three years ago, and will once again be led by Fr Andrew Robinson, priest of the Archdiocese of Liverpool and New Testament lecturer at Oscott.

The cost of the day is **£40** which includes a hot lunch and refreshments

---

## Weds 13th April

### CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISM MASS

St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

**AN EVENT FOR PRIESTS ONLY**

This will (hopefully!) be the first time since the start of the pandemic that priests will have been able to gather at the Mother Church of the Archdiocese to celebrate the Chrism Mass with His Grace, the Archbishop. During Holy Mass priests will renew the promises they made on the day of their Ordination. Following Holy Mass there will be the usual opportunity for time together in the Grimshaw Room.

---

## Tues 3rd & Weds 4th May

### MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

St Mary's College, Oscott  
Chester Road, Birmingham B73 5AA

**AN EVENT FOR ALL CLERGY**

Every year, one in four British adults experience a diagnosable mental health problem and often clergy are the first choice for someone to talk to. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a recognised way to learn how to spot the early signs, have confidence to act, help to prevent someone harming themselves or others and how to guide someone towards additional help and recovery. Following the very successful one-day introduction course last year we are pleased to offer this two-day training event which will help those attending to become mental health "first-aiders".

The cost of the day is **£100**

---

## Sat 11th June

St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

**AN EVENT FOR DEACONS ONLY**

### MASS TO RENEW DIACONAL COMMITMENT

This annual gathering of permanent deacons from around the Archdiocese is a moment to renew their diaconal commitment. This will be the first time that deacons have been able to gather at St Chad's since 2019 and will be a wonderful opportunity to formally welcome those who were ordained to the diaconate during the restrictions of the pandemic. Following Holy Mass there will be a social gathering in the Grimshaw Room.



## Tues 14th – Thurs 16th June

### ANNUAL PRIESTS' CONFERENCE \*\*

Woodland Grange  
Leamington Spa, CV32 6RN

**AN EVENT FOR PRIESTS ONLY**

#### CONTINUING THE JOURNEY AS A SYNODAL CHURCH – "UNFOLDING GOD'S PLAN" WITHIN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

Building on the work of the Synodal Pathway our time together at Woodland Grange will enable us to begin looking to the future of the Archdiocese.

Our time together will allow us to reflect on our experiences during the pandemic, and to explore the different ways that we can support and encourage one another in our priestly ministry. During the conference we will also think about the ways that the Archdiocese can support us. This is a wonderful opportunity for priests to be together and enjoy sharing our experiences – make sure you book today as spaces are limited!

The cost for this event is **£350** which includes accommodation, all meals and expenses for speakers.

---

## Sat 2nd July

### DEACONS UNDER 5s \*\*

Cowley and Littlemore, Oxfordshire

**AN EVENT FOR DEACONS ONLY**

**NEWMAN AND BARBERI**

A day reflecting on the lives and faith of St John Henry Newman and Blessed Dominic Barberi and their significance for us today.

The cost of the day is **£30**.

---

## Mon 11th – Friday 15th July

### ANNUAL RETREAT FOR PRIESTS

St Mary's College, Oscott

Chester Road, Birmingham B73 5AA

**AN EVENT FOR PRIESTS ONLY**

This retreat, led by Fr. Farrell OP, offers an invaluable time for prayer, reflection and fraternity in a familiar and beautiful setting of our diocesan seminary. It will include plenty of opportunity for private prayer, along with Holy Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available.

The cost for the retreat is **£350** which includes accommodation, all meals and the expenses of the retreat giver.

---

## Sat 24th September

### INSERVICE DAY FOR DEACONS \*\*

St Mary's College, Oscott

Chester Road, Birmingham B73 5AA

**AN EVENT FOR DEACONS ONLY**

**CONTINUING THE JOURNEY**

**AS A SYNODAL CHURCH WITHIN OUR ARCHDIOCESE**

Following on from our in-service day in September 2021, we will begin building on the work of the Synodal Pathway as we look to the future within our Archdiocese.

The cost for this event is **£35** for individual deacons / **£50** if accompanied by your wife. This includes a meal and refreshments.

---

## Tues 4th – Thurs 6th October

### UNDER 10s GATHERING \*\*

Woodland Grange

Leamington Spa, CV32 6RN

**AN EVENT FOR PRIESTS ONLY**

Under 10s is an opportunity to encourage a fraternal environment to share our experiences, respectfully listen to each other, and feel heard and empowered. There will be some input and facilitation, time for prayer and reflection, space to have fun, as well as a time to encounter each other which is productive and enjoyable.

This event is **free**.

---

## Fri 7th – Sun 9th October

### ANNUAL RETREAT FOR DEACONS

Belmont Abbey, Hereford

**AN EVENT FOR DEACONS ONLY**

This retreat, led by Dom Brendan Thomas of Belmont Abbey, is a time of space for prayer, reflection and fraternity. Please make sure that you put the date in your diary. This will be our first visit to Belmont since 2019 and is bound to be a very popular gathering for deacons and wives.

The cost for this will be confirmed in the new year when Hedley Lodge is reopened.

---

## November 2022

### DEACONS UNDER 5s \*\*

Venue to be confirmed

**AN EVENT FOR DEACONS ONLY**

**PREACHING IN THE YEAR OF ST MATTHEW**

As we prepare for a new liturgical year, Bishop McGough will lead us in a reflection on St Matthew's Gospel highlighting key points for preparation of homilies in the coming year.

The cost for the day is **£30**

---

## Weds 7th December

### ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION

St Mary's College, Oscott

Chester Road, Birmingham B73 5AA

**AN EVENT FOR ALL CLERGY**

A wonderful opportunity as we approach Christmas to reflect on the themes of Advent, led by Bishop William Kenney.

---

**\*\* Attendance at these events is highly encouraged. If you are unable to attend, please write to the Archbishop explaining the reason for your absence.**

---



---

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES DURING 2022

---

### THIS YEAR THERE WILL BE THREE DISCOVERY DAYS FOR ALL CLERGY IN THE SUMMER.

Details of these will be confirmed at a later date, but at present they are:

---

#### Weds 4th May

#### A CELEBRATION OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

Harvington Hall, Harvington, DY10 4LR

A History Day to mark the Feast of the English Martyrs, organised by the Archdiocesan History and Archives Commission in collaboration with Harvington Hall.

Talks on the history, significance and tradition of the Reformation Martyrs will take place within the Hall, with an opportunity for tours of the Hall, including its priest hides. Further details to follow. (This will be open to the public)

---

#### Tues 5th July

Oulton Abbey

DETAILS OF THIS PROGRAMME TO FOLLOW

---

#### Thursday 1st September

Venue TBC

DETAILS OF THIS PROGRAMME TO FOLLOW

---

### DAYS OF RECOLLECTION FOR ALL CLERGY WITH FR ANDREW BYRNE

St Mary's Convent

Handsworth, Birmingham, B19 1EB.

#### These will be held on Tuesdays on the following dates:

25th January	28th June
22nd February	27th September
22nd March	25th October
24th May	22nd November

These days will cost **£25** per person, which will cover refreshments and lunch and a contribution to Fr Andrew.

Priests and deacons are welcome to these days.

#### Diocesan Prayer for Vocations

*Heavenly Father, we ask you to send labourers into your harvest.*

*Inspire, in the hearts of your people, vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.*

*Bless our families with a spirit of generosity, so that those who whom you call have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith.*

*Through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

"I REMIND YOU TO REKINDLE THE GIFT OF GOD THAT IS WITHIN YOU." (2 TIM. 1:6)

## BOOKING

Book using slips provided or online via:

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/ongoing-formation](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/ongoing-formation)

#### Ongoing Formation for Priests

Cathedral House  
St Chads Queensway  
Birmingham  
B4 6EU

0121 230 6273

[ongoing.formation@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:ongoing.formation@rcaob.org.uk)

All ongoing formation events are legitimate parish expenses.



THE ARCHDIOCESE  
of BIRMINGHAM