



THE BISHOP OF LEEDS
The Right Reverend Marcus Stock

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

To the Clergy, Religious, Seminarians and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Leeds

I wish to inform you of a significant number of changes which I shall be making to clergy appointments and to various roles and responsibilities within the Diocese of Leeds in the summer and during the months following.

NEW VICAR GENERAL

Firstly, I wish to express my most sincere thanks to our current Vicar Generals for the dedicated, tireless and faithful ministry which they have given to supporting me since my ordination as the Bishop of Leeds. I am very conscious too of the same loyal and devoted support which they gave to my predecessors, Bishop David Konstant and Archbishop Arthur Roche, and to the assistance they gave to Mgr John Wilson (now Auxiliary Bishop in Westminster Diocese) when he was the Diocesan Administrator in Leeds during the *Sede Vacante*.

Mgr Kieran Heskin has served as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for 23 years, and Mgr Michael McQuinn has served as Vicar General for 13 years. The ministry which they have been called upon to exercise can be, without doubt, at times very difficult and not a little stressful. However, they have carried out their ministries with selflessness and great dedication and their experience, advice and support has proved invaluable to me during the first important months of my episcopal ministry. After such a long and distinguished period of service to the diocese in these important roles, I now wish to allow them to stand down from the heavy responsibilities which they have held for so long.

Mgr Heskin will continue to serve as Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Parish in Ilkley and has kindly agreed to also become the Parochial Administrator of Addingham. Mgr McQuinn will continue to be available to assist at the Cathedral until the New Year in order to facilitate a hand-over period to the new Vicar General and I have agreed that he can take a sabbatical until next summer. I know that I will also be able to call upon both Mgr Heskin and Mgr McQuinn for their advice and guidance in the future.

Secondly, I wish to say how most grateful I am to Mgr Paul Fisher for responding so generously to my request to him to become my new Vicar General. Mgr Fisher this year celebrates the Silver Jubilee of his priestly ordination. He has served in a number of parishes within the diocese, and latterly as the parish priest of Blessed John Henry Newman Parish, Leeds. Mgr Fisher taught for 6 Years on the staff of Ushaw College Seminary and for the past 12 years has been the diocesan Episcopal Vicar for Outreach. In 2011, he was appointed as a 'Chaplain to His Holiness' by Pope Benedict XVI. I know that Mgr Fisher will bring his own personal gifts and talents to this ministry and do his utmost to be at the service of the Diocese. Please do keep him in your prayers as he prepares to take up this important role.

Many of the management responsibilities of the role of Moderator of the Curia, formally undertaken by Mgr Heskin, are now being carried out on my behalf by the Chief Operating Officer, Mr Ian Burrell. Mgr Paul Fisher, as the new Vicar General, will also exercise an ecclesial and pastoral oversight of the curia on my behalf in collaboration with the Chief Operating Officer. From the summer therefore, there will be only one Vicar General.

NEW CHANCELOR

I also wish to express my great thanks to Mgr Bryan Sharp, who for the past 8 years has so admirably served the Bishops and the Diocese as Chancellor. The work of the Chancellor is, to a very large extent, something which goes on unnoticed but the Chancellor is an essential collaborator of the Diocesan Bishop. I thank Mgr Sharp for all that he has done to support me since my ordination as bishop and for the canonical support which he has provided so generously also to other dioceses within England and Wales. I am grateful to Canon John Aveyard for kindly agreeing to take on this role in the service of our diocese.

VICARIATES

I have looked very carefully at the current structures of the Vicariates and I have decided to simplify many of our existing structures. I am also conscious that with declining numbers of clergy, it is important for us to share-out the responsibilities for the various aspects of diocesan life more evenly. Accordingly, from this summer the only Vicariate that will continue to remain will be the Vicariate for Education.

The work of Evangelisation is of course the responsibility of every member of the Church, clergy and lay, and properly should be fostered at the most immediate level within each parish and deanery. The responsibility for sharing ideas, new resources and for co-ordinating evangelisation initiatives at a diocesan level will be located though within the Vicariate for Education. The various roles and responsibilities

formally held by the Episcopal Vicars for the Vicariates for Outreach and Christian Life will be taken-on by other clergy within the diocese. I will make further announcements about these appointments in due course.

ROLE OF EPISCOPAL VICAR

For the foreseeable future therefore, there will be only one Episcopal Vicar, the Episcopal Vicar for Education. This role will hold responsibility for oversight of the work of Catholic Education within the Diocese of Leeds. Fr Timothy Swinglehurst will continue in this office.

FORMATION OF CLERGY

I wish to express my gratitude to Mgr David Smith who, for the past 7 years has been the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy. After listening very carefully to, and consulting with, Mgr Smith, I have decided to cease this role and share out its responsibilities amongst other clergy. Accordingly, I have asked Mgr Smith to exercise the role of *Amicus clero*, a role of fraternal support, which was originally intended to be one of the responsibilities of the office of Episcopal Vicar for Clergy when it was established in this diocese.

It is anticipated that a new document will be published soon by the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome which will propose a more comprehensive approach to the ongoing formation of priests. This ongoing formation is an area of work that needs to be developed in collaboration with the clergy of the Diocese.

I have asked Fr Simon Bradbury to take on the post of Coordinator for Pastoral Formation of the Clergy and Fr Dennis Cassidy to take on the post of Coordinator for the Spiritual Formation of Clergy. Fr Bradbury will take over the running and development of the clergy conference days and other pastoral formation programmes; Fr Cassidy will take over the running and development of the annual clergy retreat and days of recollection, and explore other ways in which the opportunities for fostering the spirituality of the clergy can be enlarged. Working with Rev Keith Ballard, Coordinator of the Permanent Diaconate, Fr Bradbury and Fr Cassidy will try to assess how the good work which has been accomplished in previous years can be taken forward to address the current formation needs of the clergy of this diocese.

BISHOP'S SECRETARY

I would like to articulate my very great thanks to Rev Dr Joseph Cortis for supporting me as my Private Secretary over the past year. Rev Cortis has kindly travelled-in three days a week by bus from his home in Cleckheaton to the office at Bishop's

House and given very generously of his time and abilities. As my national responsibilities have increased though, I have felt the need to have a full-time Private Secretary again. I am therefore very grateful to Fr Matthew Habron for agreeing to be my new Secretary from this summer. Fr Habron will also celebrate weekday Masses and some of the weekend Masses at Blessed John Henry Newman Parish in Leeds.

I have asked Rev Cortis to continue to work with me, with Catholic Care, the Justice and Peace Commission and the SVP on how we can begin to develop the identity of a 'Caritas Leeds', in accordance with vision of the 2012 *Moto proprio* 'Intima Ecclesiae natura' of Pope Benedict XVI and as a legacy of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis.

PRIESTS RETIRING

The following priests are retiring from the responsibilities of holding office and full time ministry:

1. Rev Fr John Berry
2. Rev Fr Peter Clarke
3. Rev Fr Barrie Cummins
4. Very Rev Canon Sean Gilligan
5. Rev Fr John Gott
6. Rev Fr Sean Leonard
7. Rev Fr John MacMahon
8. Rev Fr Michael Nealon
9. Rev Mgr Paul Owens
10. Very Rev Canon Joseph Taylor

I would like to thank them most sincerely for their years of dedicated priestly ministry and for all that they have contributed to the life of the Church and to our diocese in particular. I offer our best wishes to them for the coming years, together with an assurance of our prayers.

I wish also to express my profound gratitude to the following priests and deacons who have so generously and graciously accepted new appointments:

Rev Fr Emmanuel Adindu Assistant Priest, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish,
Huddersfield

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| Rev Fr Chris Angel | Parish Priest of St Joseph's Parish, Bradford; (Continuing in office as Chaplain to Bradford University) |
| Very Rev Canon John Aveyard | Diocesan Chancellor (Continuing in office as Parish Priest of St Paulinus, Dewsbury) |
| Rev Keith Ballard | Chaplain to Huddersfield University (Continuing in office as Director of the Permanent Diaconate) |
| Rev Fr Simon Bradbury | Coordinator for Ongoing Pastoral Formation for Clergy (Continuing in office as Parish Priest of St Peter and St Paul's Parish, Wakefield) |
| Rev Fr Dennis Cassidy | Coordinator for Ongoing Spiritual Formation for Clergy; Parochial Administrator of Our Lady of Lourdes, Haworth (Continuing in office as Parish Priest of St Joseph's, Keighley) |
| Rev Fr John Carlisle | Parish Priest, St Peter and St Paul's Parish, Yeadon |
| Rev Mgr Paul Fisher | Vicar General |
| Rev Fr Matthew Habron | Bishop's Secretary, (Celebrating weekday and Sunday Masses and at Blessed John Henry Newman Parish, Leeds) |
| Rev Fr Philip Hall | Assistant Priest, Our Lady of Kirkstall Parish, Leeds |
| Rev Mgr Kieran Heskin | Parochial Administrator of English Martyrs, Addingham (Continuing in office as Parish Priest of Sacred Heart, Ilkley) |
| Rev Fr Marc Homsey | Assistant Priest, Leeds Cathedral and the Parish of Mother of Unfailing Help |
| Rev Fr Anthony Jackson | Parish Priest, St Francis of Assisi and Immaculate Conception Parish, Bradford |
| Rev Fr Eamon McGeough | Parish Priest, St Mary's Parish, Rothwell |
| Rev Mgr Michael McQuinn | Priest-in-Residence, Leeds Cathedral (until the New Year) and subsequently on Sabbatical leave |
| Rev Fr Patrick Mungovin | Chaplain, Priestly Unit, Dewsbury (Continuing in office as Parish Priest of St Aidan's, Mirfield) |
| Rev David Murray | Assistant Priest, St Robert's Parish, Harrogate & Chaplain to the Deaf |
| Rev Fr John Newman | Parish Priest, St Joseph's Parish, Tadcaster |

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| Rev Fr Nigel Polland | Parish Priest, St Margaret Clitherow Parish, Leeds |
| Rev Mgr David Smith | <i>Amicus Clero</i> (Continuing in office as Parish Priest of St Martin de Porres Parish, Wakefield) |
| Rev Fr Pat Wall | Parish Priest, Blessed John Henry Newman Parish, Leeds |
| Rev Fr Michael Walsh | Parish Priest, Our Lady Immaculate Parish, Pateley Bridge and Parochial Administrator of St Joseph's, Bishop Thornton. |
| Rev Timothy Whitwell | Assistant Priest, St Joseph's Parish, Bradford & Chaplain to Bradford Royal Infirmary |
| Rev Fr Simon Winn | Priest-in-Residence, Burley-in-Wharfedale |

HALIFAX DEANERY REVIEW

The pastoral care of the parishes of St Theresa's, Queensbury and Good Shepherd, Mytholmroyd has yet to be decided but will be determined following the conclusion of the Halifax Deanery parish review. Announcements will be made about this in due course.

YOUTH SERVICE

The arrangements for the leadership of the Youth Service, in succession to Fr Anthony Jackson, will be announced in due course.

BRADFORD CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

Starting from the new academic year, the Catholic Chaplaincy provision at Bradford University and Bradford College will be relocating from 1, Ash Grove, to the Church and related premises at St Joseph's on Manchester Road. Fr Christopher Angel, the new Parish Priest of St Joseph's will continue to serve as the Chaplain and the chaplaincy will offer the same level of service to students and staff as at present with the exception of ceasing to offer residential provision. It is my sincere hope that the chaplaincy will continue to serve the University well and be strengthened by this link to one of our local Catholic Communities. Fr Angel will be assisted by Rev Timothy Whitwell following the latter's ordination to the priesthood this summer.

EXTRAORDINARY FORM RITE OF MASS

I am making St Joseph's Church in Bradford a principal church for the celebration of the Extraordinary Form Rite of Mass within the Diocese of Leeds. This will not of course alter or restrict the ability of priests to celebrate the Extraordinary Form in other churches of the diocese but is, rather, a pastoral response to the request from a

number of the faithful for a central church that is easily accessible with a celebration at a time on a Sunday that will facilitate a larger congregation of the faithful to attend. It is anticipated that the Mass will be celebrated each Sunday at 12:30pm.

CONCLUSION

I am grateful for the graciousness with which each priest and deacon has accepted their appointment or change to the responsibilities of their ministry. Their willingness to cooperate with these changes is a testimony to their humility and their readiness to serve the Lord and His Church.

Any change in our ministry, especially when it involves moving our home, can be a difficult and stressful period. So please keep in your prayers all the clergy and the communities who will be affected by the moves this summer.

Please also keep in your thoughts and prayers, Fr Michael Krychiwskyj and all of our diocesan clergy who are ill or recovering from sickness at this time.

Assuring you of my prayers and best wishes, I remain

Yours in the Lord Jesus

+ Marcus Stock

✠ Marcus Stock
Bishop of Leeds