



This round up is to keep everyone in Clifton Diocese up to date with information that is important to us all

April 2017

## Chief Operating Officer – Lyn Murray

Welcome to the latest edition of our quarterly Team Briefing document which is intended to keep everyone up to date with things happening within Clifton Diocese.

### Diocesan Roadshows:

I would like to focus on the upcoming Diocesan roadshows that are happening around the Diocese during April and May.

The purpose of these meetings is to provide Parish Priests, Secretaries/Administrators and Volunteers responsible for specific activities in parishes an opportunity to meet with key personnel from the Curia offices and to get an overview of the various departments.

Previously the annual roadshows focused on Finance activities, however this year we have widened it to include all departments: Finance, Property Services, Communications, Schools and Colleges, Adult Education and Evangelisation and Safeguarding.

These roadshows will be held in the following locations at 7.30pm:  
English Martyrs, Tuffley; Tuesday 25 April  
Alexander House, Bristol; Thursday 27 April (2.30pm and 7.30pm)  
St John the Baptist, Trowbridge; Thursday 11 May  
St George, Taunton; Tuesday 16 May  
St Joseph, Wroughton; Tuesday 23 May



Actual roadshow may differ from that illustrated

If you would like to attend one of these roadshows and have not yet replied, please contact Paula Asquith at Alexander House on [paula.asquith@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:paula.asquith@cliftondiocese.com)

## Special Events

### Chrism Mass: 12 April, 11.00am @ Clifton Cathedral



The Chrism Mass is a unique event in the life of the Church.

It is the Mass which the Bishop celebrates with his priests and people during Holy Week, in the course of which priests and deacons reaffirm their commitment to their vocation. The Bishop also blesses the Oils which will be used in the administration of the Sacraments throughout the Diocese for the year.

The Mass is a great gathering of the whole diocesan family, with people coming together from so many of our parishes. It is a wonderful feast of good liturgy and liturgical music. During this Mass the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of Chrism are consecrated by Bishop Declan.

We use the Oil of the Sick for anointing those who seek healing and wholeness, the Oil of Catechumens for adult catechumens and infants in preparation for baptism and the sacred Oil of Chrism for post-baptismal anointing, confirmation, the ordination of priests and the consecration of altars.

The three oils are basically olive oil with balm or oil of flower added. One early church writer described the perfume of Chrism as “the Easter aroma, God’s grace incarnate through the sense of smell!”

Through the liturgy of the Church, Christ acts to strengthen and protect, to heal and restore, to set apart and seal for ministry. The Chrism Mass serves to open up these realities to the community of faith.

### Mass for the Newly Baptised and Newly Received:



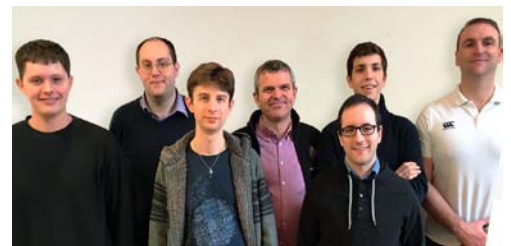
Everyone is welcome to this celebration at the Cathedral

Bishop Declan will be celebrating Mass at **Clifton Cathedral**, on **Saturday 20 May** at **10.30am** for those who were baptised or received into the Church this Easter. This is a real opportunity to draw together from across our diocese those who are celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation within our parish communities. Continuing that sense of welcome received at the Rite of Election, this Mass gives us a chance to draw these new Catholics and parish communities together to celebrate the gift of the Eucharist and the gift of faith with our Bishop.

## Staff news

### Fr Dominic joins the Vocations Ministry Team :

The Vocations Ministry in Clifton Diocese has seen lots of clergy, religious and lay support over the past few years, as Fr Matt Anscombe has sought to help us build the culture of vocation. Fr Dominic Findlay-Wilson, based at Holy Rood, Swindon, has now been appointed by Bishop Declan as Assistant Vocations Director. Fr Dominic will work alongside Fr Matt and will help to deliver different programmes and get involved with promoting vocations in schools. A lot of the work of vocations ministry goes ‘under the radar’.



Our current seminarians: Stephen Corrigan, Stuart Ford, Joseph Meigh, Richard Elson,, Thomas Lawes, Henry Balkwill and Paul Bright

We try to walk alongside men thinking about priesthood; we facilitate the application process for seminary; we support our six seminarians at St John’s, Wonerh and one at Oscott.

So, whilst you will see Fr Dominic and Fr Matt out and about, a lot of what is being done is not so visible. Please pray for them.

## The Year Ahead – Fr Christopher Whitehead

With the coming of Holy Week, the end of Lent and the celebrations of Easter, we rejoice with those looking forward to baptism and reception into full communion with the Church. The Rite of Election was a joy-filled gathering as we accompanied many from our parishes across the diocese being presented to our Bishop in the Cathedral. With five of the six weeks of Lent near completed, we keep them in our prayers as they journey deeper into the life of our parish communities. The Bishop invites those baptised and received this Easter to join him in the Cathedral for Mass on **Saturday 20 May at 10.30am**. It would be great to see them, their families and members of their parish communities join our Bishop for that celebration. We keep the Elect and those preparing for Reception in our prayer over this next week.

Our **deacons** gather with our Bishop for a time of reflection and renewal at the start of next month. Canon Chris Fallon who is responsible for diaconal formation in the Archdiocese of Liverpool will lead our thinking and reflecting at this day for all deacons and wives at St Brendan's Sixth Form College on Saturday 6 May.

With the discernment part of the process leading to application, four men have asked to apply for consideration for the permanent diaconate. As they continue to journey through application we keep them and their families in our prayers.

The **Diocesan Family Day** is to take place on Saturday 1 July at St Brendan's, Brislington. Exploring what it means to be a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, we will spend the day immersed in the mission that flows from our baptism and how, as parishes, we are called to be missionary disciples. David McLoughlin will be leading our keynote and some superb individuals have offered to lead a workshop or two. There's something for all the family and all ages.



There's a simple chance to come together as a diocesan family and spend time in each other's company, growing in our appreciation and joy of being the Church in this corner of our world. Full schedule of workshops and timetable can be found on the diocesan website.

The **Diocesan Liturgy Office** is hosting a day of formation and reflection for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Dovetailed into the Diocesan Family Day, Bishop Declan will spend some time with ministers new and well worn in to renew a sense of ministry within the life of our diocese. During the celebration of the Mass at the end of the Family Day, the Bishop will commission or recommission extraordinary ministers for the coming year. Details will be sent to each parish after Easter.

Our diocesan **Catechists' Course** has just begun in Trowbridge with about 35 participating in this particular run. 20 people took part in the now completed Taunton sessions. Could this course take place near you? Of course it could! Why not offer an invitation and let's see if we can't bring this superb resource somewhere in your area. Contact Fr Christopher.



With great enthusiasm, Anitra Rawlins has been working with three pilot parishes in our diocese over the last three months, resourcing support for baptismal preparation and parish welcome. She is forming formation teams in St Bernadette's (Whitchurch), St Michael's (Shepton Mallet) and Glastonbury, and St Mary's (Swindon). It's great to see her drawing enthusiastic teams together who will accompany families towards Baptism and the life of their parish communities. I'm also hoping that during her time in the diocese we might be able to explore providing marriage preparation to support parishes and deaneries in their accompaniment of couples towards marriage and beyond. You can keep a watch on Anitra through her blog. You might also like to explore the Marriage and Family Life web resource within the diocese: [mfl@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:mfl@cliftondiocese.com)



Our **Youth Ministry Team** have had a full-on Season of Lent with Lent reflections around the diocese and conversations taking place around youth ministry formation and how best our parishes can be supported and nurtured. All Catechists, Youth leaders, Clergy, Teachers, Chaplains and those interested in Youth Ministry are invited to our Diocesan Youth Congress on Saturday 20 May at St Brendan's College. The key-note speaker is David Wells and workshops will include Mental Health & Young people, Safeguarding – Breaking down the barriers, Parish Youth Ministry, Inspiring prayer in young people. The Congress is another opportunity for our parishes to come together to discover more about working with young people, share good practice and access resources.

Following on from successful Youth Ministry training evenings earlier this year, we are offering our parishes a further opportunity to engage with Youth Ministry and, in particular, Confirmation catechists. These sessions will look at the new Confirmation resource for parishes – 'Ready & Willing', and will provide catechists with a deeper understanding of the Sacrament and how to accompany young people through their journey of faith & beyond.

## Parish news

### Clifton Cathedral roof work done – now for the interior!

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Heritage, Tracey Crouch visited Clifton Cathedral on Thursday 30th March to see first hand the essential work that has been carried out over the last year and a half on the roof of the 44 year old iconic building that dominates the skyline of Clifton.



The Cathedral has received a total of £1.4m from the Government's First World War Centenary Cathedral Repair Fund which was specially for Cathedrals who were commemorating World War 1 last year.

The Cathedral celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2013 and the nature of the repairs was such that the roof needed tackling in its entirety. The cost of scaffolding meant that it was important the spire and lower roofs were repaired at the same time.

The fund has helped with the roof repairs which encompassed the higher lead roofs and the steeple and ensures the whole cathedral roof is fit to last for many years to come.

### Holy Cross, Bedminster, Bristol:

After due consideration, and with a sense of sadness, a decision was made to close the church and presbytery with effect from 27 February 2017. This was as a result of extensive repairs being needed to both the church building and the presbytery. This has been a very difficult decision to make and a feasibility study is now being conducted to decide the future of the buildings. It is important to mention that the parish is still going strong.

Holy Cross school, which is situated next door to the church, have been very helpful and accommodating in making provision for Masses to be held in the school hall.

These Masses are Saturday at 6.30pm and Sunday at 10.00am.

**Clifton Cathedral now has a Junior Choir aged 7 – 12 and is looking for members:**

The Clifton Cathedral Junior Choir is a new choir sponsored by Clifton Cathedral's Music Service.

Rehearsals will take place once a week at the Cathedral on Fridays from 4.15pm – 5.45pm. It is hoped that the choir will sing Vespers each week on a Friday evening at 5.15pm during term time as well as contributing to various Masses, concerts, tours and broadcasts throughout the year.

Membership of the choir offers children the opportunity to develop their musical and vocal skills, particularly sight-singing, and to make new friends with similar interests whilst having fun and performing a wide choral repertoire to a high standard. The Junior Choir will be directed by Mr Stephen Bryant (Cathedral Organist), assisted by Mrs Ruth Mather (an experienced singing teacher and member of Clifton Cathedral Choir).

Enthusiastic boys and girls aged 7-12 (in years 3-7 at school) are invited to become members of the Cathedral's Junior Choir. Potential new choristers will have a four-week probationary period before an audition, in order to become full members of the choir. The first rehearsal for this new choir will be on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

For further details please contact the Cathedral Organist and Junior Choir Director, Stephen Bryant.

Email: [juniorchoir@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:juniorchoir@cliftondiocese.com)



## Feedback

It is important that everyone has a chance to give feedback and to ask questions about anything discussed in this Diocesan Information.

We will make it available online at [www.cliftondiocese.com/briefing](http://www.cliftondiocese.com/briefing) where there will be an open comments and feedback facility.

If you would like to question anything in person, please speak with your line manager or Priest or email [briefing@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:briefing@cliftondiocese.com)