

## Both Newsletters – Middlesbrough Diocese Update

1. **CHRISM MASS:** You are invited to the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, 31st March 2026 at Saint Mary's Cathedral at 12:00 noon.

2. **ORDINATION:** You are invited to the ordination of Reverend Deacon Douglas McKittrick to the Sacred Priesthood on Saturday, 28th March at 12:00 noon at Saint Mary's Cathedral. Please keep him in your prayers.



3. **DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM 2026:** The 2026 Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham will now take place on Saturday, 26th September. We will join pilgrims from the Diocese of Leeds. I ask that you advertise this in your Parish newsletters, notice boards and on Parish websites/social media. There will be a bus picking up from Saint Mary's Cathedral in Middlesbrough at 5:00 am and York Train Station at 6:00 am before heading to Walsingham. The cost will be £40 per person. For more information or to book onto this Pilgrimage, please contact my Secretary, Callum, at the Curial Office via email or telephone. **CONSECRATION TO THE ORDO VIRGINUM OF DR EMMA MORRISON** The consecration to the Ordo Virginum of Dr Emma Morrison will take place on Saturday, 26th September at 12 noon. The Mass will be celebrated by the Right Reverend Terence Patrick Draney, Bishop Emeritus of Middlesbrough. All are welcome, and if you wish to concelebrate, please bring Diocesan Vestments. Please keep Emma in your prayers as she prepares for her consecration.

4. **PARISH CLERGY & PARISH LAY REPRESENTATIVES' CONSULTATION MEETINGS:** I have sent out a letter to priests and deacons who currently hold a parochial office in both the Dioceses of Middlesbrough and Leeds, which contains details about a series of consultation meetings that have been organised for parish clergy and parish representatives. The purpose of these consultation meetings is to initiate a discussion about how our two dioceses might journey together in the future as one diocesan family and thereby become more effective in our missionary enterprise and our work of evangelisation. The consultation meetings will bring together representatives from each parish comprising: the clergy (priests and deacons) currently appointed to serve the parish; the Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council (or their delegate from the Parish Pastoral Council); and the Chair of the Parish Finance Committee (or their delegate from the Parish Finance Committee). As it is not mandated by local law in the Diocese of Middlesbrough, nor in the Diocese of Leeds, that parishes should have a Parish Pastoral Council, some parishes have a group of parishioners who meet and provide

support with pastoral activities in their parish but are not formally constituted or called a 'Parish Pastoral Council'. In such a context, a member from this group can be invited to attend the consultation meeting. When a parish does not have a Parish Pastoral Council or a similar group, then two members of the Parish Finance Committee can represent the parish. As a result of their involvement in such parish structures, these parishioners should already have a broad understanding of the strengths and challenges within their parish regarding its pastoral activities and the resources which sustain them. We will use the key findings gleaned from the synodal process which took place in both our dioceses to inform the discussions in our consultation. There will be other diverse opportunities for consultation offered to clergy, religious and lay faithful in each diocese in the months ahead.

5. **PETER'S PENCE CONTRIBUTIONS 2025:** The Diocesan contribution towards the Holy Father for 2025 was £7,275.68. The Holy Father is thankful for this generous support of his apostolic and charitable mission. Pope Leo assures the People of God in the Diocese of Middlesbrough of his prayers and cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing on you all.
6. **STELLA MARIS – PORT CHAPLAIN VACANCY:** Stella Maris is seeking applicants for the full-time role of Regional Port Chaplain based in Immingham and serving the South Humber Ports, following the retirement of the previous chaplain; the post (40 hours per week, £31,500 salary, part-time negotiable) involves providing pastoral, practical, and spiritual support to seafarers and fishers, regular ship visiting, coordinating and training volunteers, liaising with port and church stakeholders, and representing the charity locally while promoting its mission to uphold dignity, welfare, and justice for maritime workers. Applications (CV plus supporting statement) should be submitted by 12:00 on Sunday, 15th March 2026. Contact: Sharon.Head@stellamarismail.org.
7. **PAPAL AWARDS:** The Apostolic Nuncio has recently informed the Bishops of England and Wales about changes to applications for Papal Awards. The Foreign Office and Development Office has sent a Verbal Note to all Diplomatic Missions reminding them that should a Head of State, Head of Government or international organisation wish to confer an award on any British National, permission must first be sought from the King. Consequently, an official request must be submitted by the Diplomatic Representative to the Court of St James's before the award is conferred. The Apostolic Nuncio will present such requests promptly to the relevant Government office to obtain the necessary permission. This may cause a delay in the process, and we are not yet aware of any cost implications. It is apparent this will apply only to British nationals and so not for people of other nationalities.