

Bishop Philip Egan

Bishop of Portsmouth

News from the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

## Vocation and the Year of the Eucharist

Welcome to this summer edition of our diocesan magazine Viva Voce. The pandemic has made this last year a tough one, but as the restrictions ease, we have the joy in our Diocese of keeping a special Year of the Eucharist, that will run til Christmas 2022. Our diocesan purpose is Bringing People closer to Jesus Christ through His Church. May this Year help us all grow closer to Jesus, Who is the Bread of Life.

One of my most earnest prayers is for more vocations to every state of life and ministry in the Church, especially to the priesthood. In this edition of Viva Voce, I hope you enjoy reading the inspiring stories and testimonies of some of those whom the Lord has called into His service. I hope too that you will enjoy a little leisure and relaxation during these long summer days. May the Lord fill you with His love.

In these years 2020 to 2022, I am inviting everyone in the Diocese of Portsmouth to undertake, by God's grace, a period of intense, spiritual renewal. The overall purpose of our Diocese is Bringing People Closer to Jesus Christ through His Church. The purpose of these special years is to grow in faith so that we might be better equipped for mission and service.

In 2020, we joined the other Dioceses of England and Wales in keeping a 'Year of God's Word' which was officially extended into 2021. Now in 2021-

2022, in our Diocese of Portsmouth, as we complete our Year of the Word, we keep also a Year of the Eucharist.

This Year is a unique opportunity for the Diocese as a whole, for our parishes and schools, for clergy and faithful, for families and individuals, to rekindle our love for Jesus Christ really and truly present and active in the Holy Eucharist.

The Eucharist and the Blessed Sacrament we adore outside of Mass: It is the Lord! (John 21: 7).

The COVID lockdown gives us an opportunity to step back from the busyness of life. It gives us a chance to pray more to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. In the months ahead, let's continue to find time and space for the Lord.

Remember the promise of Jesus: "As I who am sent by the living Father myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. Anyone who eats this Bread will live for ever (John 6: 57-58). May this holy Year truly bring you the Bread of Life.

In Corde Iesu

+ Philip

Bishop of Portsmouth

### Five Hopes for this Year of the Eucharist 2021-2022

1

Let us grow so much in our faith that we always acknowledge Jesus Christ to be really and truly present and active in the Holy Eucharist

2

Let us see the Mass as the source of our life's activity

3

Let us practice regularly spending time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration

4

Let us beg the Eucharistic Lord to fill us with His Holy Spirit, sending us out to transform the world in loving mission and service

5

Let us reach out in welcome to others, those outside the Church, the non-practicing and the needy, in order to draw them to Jesus in the Eucharist



SCAN ME





Training for the Prie



Canon Gerard Flynn

Vocations Director

A privilege to accompany

We never step into the same river twice! (Heraclitus famously noted this.) Every seminarian's formation path is also unique. I have observed, in my privileged role as Vocations Director for our Diocese, that formation is different for every man, every year, and, in fact, every day. One of the great priests of Portsmouth Diocese, with whom I was glad to work when he was a seminarian, used to say that he knew that he had one person to convert and that was himself, every day. Like all of our students he was keenly aware that the Holy Spirit worked with him as the principal agent of his formation. The seminary and the Diocese have great responsibility in supporting that work.

We are a little bit like the scaffolding that was removed to reveal the completed statue of David by Michelangelo

But we are a little bit like the scaffolding that was removed to reveal the completed statue of David by Michelangelo. A little boy observing the occasion is supposed to have asked how Michelangelo had known that 'that man' was inside the marble. I often regard my role as keeping just by of the way and ensuring that other obstacles are also cleared from the way between when a man is first selected formation and when God willing, he is ordained, a good few years later.

My work is made easier by the prayers of so many kind people throughout the Diocese who pray daily for the chaps. One wonderful example is Vivien Ungoe-Davies, of St Colman's, Cosham, who worked for eleven years, until very recently, in the Parish Vocations Group praying for and writing generous letters to them all. Such kind and heartfelt efforts are really appreciated by the men on their formation paths.

I have now had the joy of doing this work long enough to have rejoiced at a good number of ordinations to the Sacred Priesthood of men I had accompanied in my slight way for six, seven or more years. Please join me in praying for them all and most especially this year for Revv Deacons Anthony Fyk and Paul Nwune who will, please God, be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood at 11 am on Saturday 31st July at St John's Cathedral and for James Lewis who will be ordained to the Diaconate at the same Mass.



Who's Who?

Nathan King  
South Africa  
Sacred Heart House  
Discerner



David Bateman  
Portsmouth  
St. Mary's, Oscott  
Year Four



Gonsalves Farvin  
Reading  
St. Mary's, Oscott  
Year One



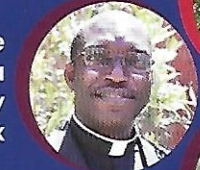
Rev. Anthony Fyk  
Canada  
VEC, Rome  
Year Six



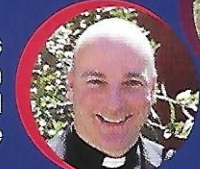
Ryan Hawkes  
Basingstoke  
VEC, Rome  
Year One



Rev. Paul Nwune  
Nigeria  
Wonersh, Surrey  
Year Six



James Lewis  
Christchurch  
Allen Hall  
Year Five



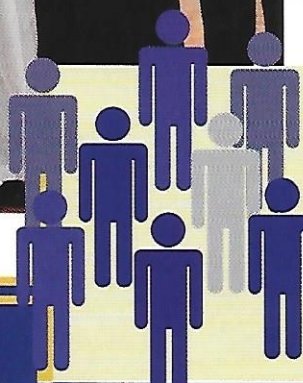
Please pray for the

Men train for the priesthood in seminaries and their initial formation before ordination takes approximately 7 years.

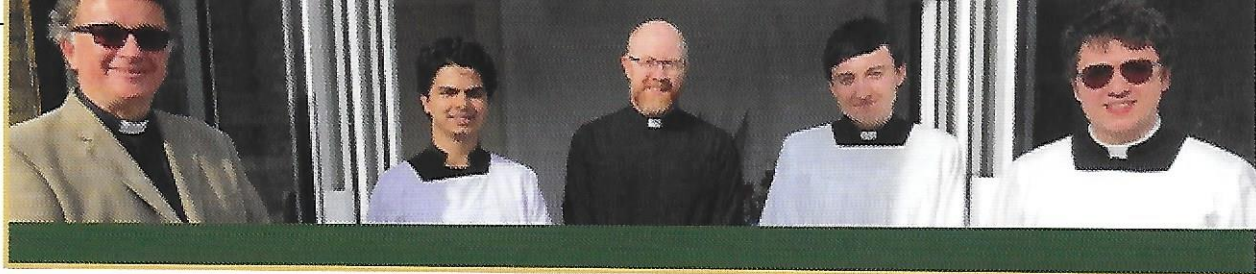
Seminary formation is demanding because it is ultimately where a man is formed mind, body, and soul into the image of Jesus Christ.

We currently have 13 men in formation for the diocese.

Training Costs







**Francis Ezeani**  
Nigeria  
Sacred Heart House  
Propaedeutic Year

**Ambrose Chou**  
Portsmouth  
St. Mary's, Oscott  
Year Three

**Ryan Browne**  
Southbourne  
VEC, Rome  
Year Two

**Edward Hauschild**  
Southampton  
VEC, Rome  
Year Four

**Jack Ryan**  
Park Gate  
VEC, Rome  
Year One

**Tom Hiney**  
Army Chaplaincy  
Beda, Rome  
Year One

It is crucial in our current times to instil a sense of universal vocation, especially in our young people. We are familiar with the challenges to vocations today – they include the prevalent secular culture in which we live, the lack of familial support and even cultural factors that easily distract a young person from hearing and responding to God's call. Fostering vocations and promoting a culture of vocation is so important for all – whether that be to the single life, married life, religious/consecrated life or the priesthood. We must deepen our trust in the goodness and generosity of God and our efforts in regard to prayer for vocations, while embracing practical actions too. It is up to all of us, with courage and conviction, to find effective and innovative ways to invite and accompany the young (or not so young) person (especially our men) to hear and respond generously to the call.

It is my privilege to try to help do this for our Diocese. Firstly, through a personal example of an integrated, faithful and joyful life of ministry. In normal times, this occurs primarily with parish / school / university / youth group visits. We are hoping in the near future to host an ongoing clergy formation session around this idea of example with some basic pointers and advice for all our clergy to grow in confidence in their role as natural vocation promoters, collaborating with the Lord, to call forth men to the sacred priesthood and others to flourish in their particular vocation.

Secondly, with seeking to form relationships with discerners to help guide them to the clarity and beauty of the Lord's invitation and giving them the confidence to embrace it. Again, normally this is facilitated via monthly 'Seeker Nights' or individual appointments. This has been particularly tricky in these COVID times, but we have tried to work creatively around this. We have tried to reach out further using social media, and

## To Walk in the Footsteps...

I am a "home grown" seminarian: I was born in Poole, Baptised at St Michael and All Angels Leigh Park (before the Church burned down: make of that what you will) and grew up in Chandlers Ford (attending Mass and serving as an Altar boy at St Edward the Confessor's Church). When not studying in Rome, I live in Southampton and serve Mass at St Edmund's and Holy Family churches. This summer I received the ministry of Acolyte from Bishop Philip, and will (God willing) be admitted to Candidacy for Holy Orders this coming July.

I am so grateful to the diocese for giving me the opportunity to study in Rome. There is something special about preparing for priesthood at the very heart of the Church, so close to the successor of St Peter, alongside lay people, clergy, and religious from every corner of the universal Church. In my lecture hall, before COVID closed the University (twice) I sit between Jesuits from Kenya and Burma, seminarians from the United States, Augustinian friars from Brazil, and lay students from all over Italy. Studying together (and praying together) we're constantly reminded of this beautiful community to which we belong: a Universal Church which is called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every corner of the world for the salvation of souls!

Canon John Cooke

Vocation Promoter

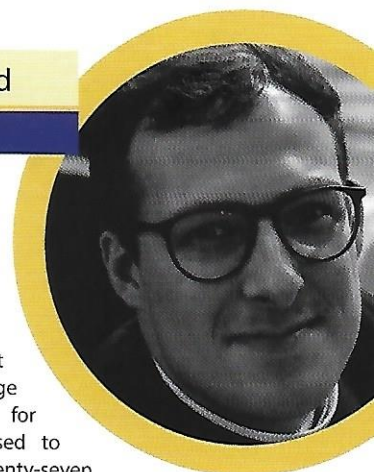
## A Unique Opportunity

responding to emails / phone calls. We have also been able to go on 'socially distanced' walks with enquirers, where possible. It is a hard ministry to conduct 'virtually' as it involves a deeper connection and one we base around a period of Adoration as well. Vocation promotion is also a long game – we plant seeds and ideas that may not come to fruition for some time yet. Discernment can not be rushed or easily monitored. This can be a little frustrating at times but it is the Lord's harvest.

In tandem with this work, we have also had the joy of hosting the 'discernment/propaedeutic year in the Sacred Heart House'. This has been a very intense period of hosting, prayer, formation and teaching - helping to cultivate the understanding of the Lord's call in the lives of the men entrusted to our care. This dovetailed on the back of our hosting the Seminarians in the first lockdown, who were sent home early from their year in Shrewsbury. Working with these men has been the highlight of our COVID year. Although priestly vocation is our primary task, we also work with young women too and have had one pursue her vocation to a religious community this year, and have directed another to discern consecrated virginity.

Edward Hauschild

VEC, Rome



It's inspiring too, to be able to walk in the footsteps of the holy martyr-priests who went before us. My own college boasts forty-four martyrs for the Catholic faith; ten raised to the altars as Saints and twenty-seven Beati. The missionary zeal, devotion to Christ and his Church, love for the people of England, and total detachment from the things of the world stand as models and examples for all of us in formation. It is my sincere hope, when I am (God willing) ordained as a priest, to bring back to England that same fire of faith with which the Martyrs burned so brightly, following the example of Our Blessed Lord, who says in chapter 12 of St Luke's Gospel "I have come to cast fire on the earth."

m!

**7 Years**  
**£210K**  
per man



<https://www.portsmouthvocations.org>

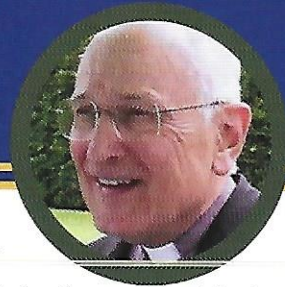
# Viva Voce





## Prayer for the Renewal of the Diocese

Lord Jesus Christ,  
 fill us with the fire of divine charity,  
 and through the intercession of Mary Immaculate,  
 St. Edmund of Abingdon  
 and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati,  
 renew our Diocese, its clergy, religious and faithful.  
 Give us all a deeper love for your Word  
 and for the Holy Eucharist  
 and make us totally dependent on your Holy Spirit.  
 Fill us with the desire to go out on mission  
 to everyone as servants of all.  
 Restore the lapsed; bless our youth  
 and help us to put our time, talent and treasure  
 at your service.  
 Above all, make us holy  
 that we may bring many more souls closer to You  
 through your Church.  
 Bless us all, dear Lord,  
 and bring us one day to heaven,  
 where you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.



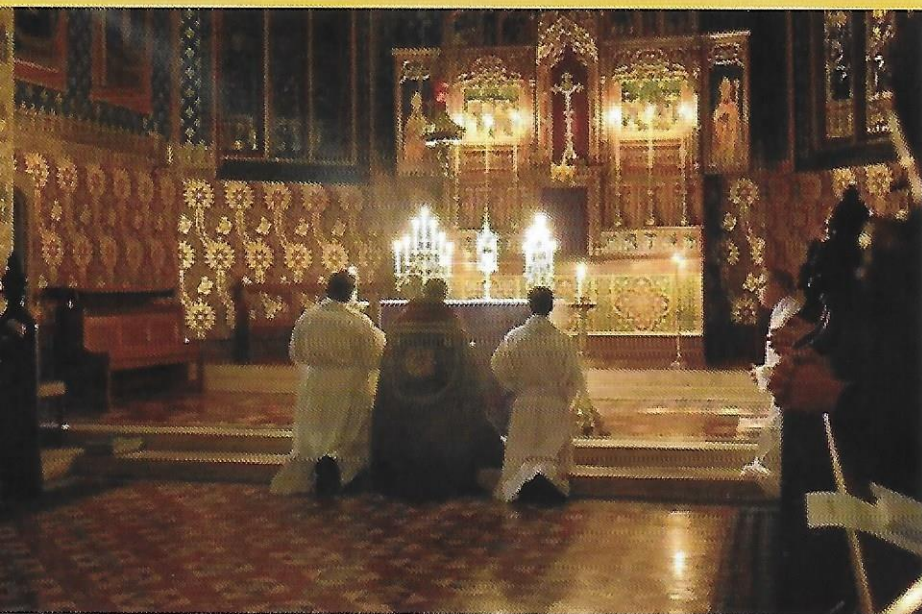
Each time we celebrate the Eucharist we are caught up in the divine and eternal love and praise that Jesus has for his Father; the love of the Trinity in the unity of the Holy Spirit in fact. It is a love that is made visible for us in Jesus's death and resurrection which is an historical event living forever in the life of God. An event made present for us when we celebrate Mass and an event which gives life and form to the Church empowering it for mission.

Canon Paul Townsend, Vicar General, Fordingbridge.



After months of being restricted to spiritual Communion, this is beautifully timed. As a Church, myself included, it had been far too easy to take receiving the Eucharist for granted. I look forward to our being led and inspired, with the whole Catholic Community to declare Jesus in the Eucharist, afresh, 'My Lord and my God' and experience even deeper intimacy with Him.

Teresa Cripps, Assistant Headteacher Bishop Challoner



When David and I kneel in adoration, before Jesus who is present Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, we are reminded of who we truly are - creatures. Before Him we are fired up to contemplate who we are called to become - Christlike - we never leave the same!

Aba and David Shields,  
 Southampton



## Ideas on how to keep this year special

1

Visit the Blessed Sacrament as a family, to make a Holy Hour.

4

Make a pilgrimage to one of the Diocesan 'Shrine' Churches

2

Celebrate a house-Mass or host an hour of Eucharistic Adoration in the home.

5

Receive Holy Communion often

3

Prepare before receiving Holy Communion, and ensure that you receive Confession regularly

6

Prepare for Sunday Mass: Find out what Scripture Readings have been appointed and in prayer, read and reflect on them.

7

Always genuflect to the Blessed Sacrament when entering church and to make the Sign of the Cross when passing by church.