



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Clergy Support Fund

NEWSLETTER

MARCH
2025

Welcome

Our Sick and Retired Clergy Fund is a vital resource that provides key provision for our priests after years of dedicated service to our diocesan community.

As the number of priests reaching retirement age has grown - to more than 60 retired priests currently in our diocese - this fund has never been more needed to ensure our clergy can enjoy the happy and dignified retirement they so deserve.

Over the years, the generous contributions of parishioners across the diocese has had a huge impact on the quality of life and care our clergy receives. We are very grateful for the kindness you have shown to those who have given so much to us for so many years.

Throughout their ministry, our clergy have accompanied us in every aspect of our day-to-day lives; celebrating with us in the joys of marriages and baptisms, comforting and consoling us in our grief, and throughout it all, shepherding us ever closer to Christ.

Just as our clergy have accompanied us through all of this, it is our honour and privilege to accompany them too.

Thanks to your generosity to this fund, we can respond in accompaniment by providing for their nursing and caring needs, healthcare, accessibility needs, housing, companionship, and more.

We offer our heartfelt thanks for your generous response to this appeal and invite you to read on to find out how your gift can support our priests after their years of dedicated service.



A Message from Bishop John



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to begin with my sincere thanks for all the generous support that you have given, and continue to give, to our clergy at all stages of their ministry. This means a great deal and is a real blessing for them as they carry out their life of service to Christ and His people. We are truly grateful for such kindness.

Much is expected of priestly ministry, which is expressed in service to those placed in their care. Throughout their years in active ministry, our priests are always there to guide, to love, and to serve their communities; with many continuing to serve in parishes, schools, hospitals, care homes, prisons, and more, well into their retirement.

I thank you once again for your continued generosity and prayers for all of our clergy and please be assured of my prayers for you and your families.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+John".

Rt Rev. John Arnold, Bishop of Salford.

Canon Jude Harrison

Ordained: 1973 Retired: Due to retire 2025

“I always think the priesthood is quite a simple thing”, Fr Jude began. “I just try to bring people closer to Almighty God, and to try and bring Almighty God closer to His people. I just try to do that and know God will do the rest.”

For more than 50 years as a diocesan priest, Fr Jude Harrison has been striving to do just that in the wide variety of roles he has served in. From being parish priest, to his work in schools, and dedicating 30 years to being a chaplain for much-loved charity, HCPT.

“And of course,” Fr Jude added, “there’s been the fun aspect of being here in Blackburn as a season ticket holder for Burnley all these years!”

Looking back over decades of “precious” memories, from leading parish pilgrimages to helping generations of families to grow in faith, accompaniment has always been central to Fr Jude’s long ministry.

He said: “I’ve always just tried to be myself. I’ve learned just to be with people, to hold my tongue when I need to, especially when people are suffering bereavement; you just have to let them pour their heart and soul out.

“I have been greatly blessed by the people I have shared my life with in all the different places I have been in, as well as having the the support of my two families.”

Having close family ties was described by Fr Jude as real “blessings”; a comfort that so many of us take for granted but is not always a possibility for our priests.

Fr Jude said: “Having family close, that makes a difference. I know the diocese has organised a house for me to live in, in Colne, and has been exceptionally kind in that regard and to my future.”

Since 1987, Fr Jude has been serving as parish priest of St Alban’s, in Blackburn; forging lasting relationships and placing himself at the very heart of parish life.

“For me, the priesthood has been wonderful. The whole thing has been a blessing. At the moment, there’s so much going on that I haven’t given my retirement much thought, but I know that to move from where I’ve been for such a long time, leaving behind the support networks and the people I’ve known for so long, will be very hard to do.”





Bishop Terence Brain

Bishop Emeritus of Salford
Ordained: 1964 Retired: 2014

“You’ve got to love your people. You’ve got to share with them and to be with them as far as you’re able. That’s what the priesthood is all about.”

Bishop Emeritus of Salford, the Rt Rev. Terence Brain, retired after 50 years of ministry to the sacred priesthood - with 17 of those years serving as Bishop of Salford until his retirement in 2014.

He said: “I wanted to be very careful not to get in the way of the new bishop, so I tried to stay out of the way - other than celebrating Mass on a Sunday and Holy Days, which I felt should be with the community, and that’s what started my becoming more active again.”

Ordained a priest for life, Bishop Brain continued his ministry by helping out in his parish whenever he was needed and visiting people in prison.

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND NEWSLETTER



“I’m not as active as I used to be,” he said. “When I first retired, I would be very active but when you’re getting older, you find that physically and mentally, you don’t have the ability you used to have - it gets less and less.”

Being able to help through challenges regarding health and mobility is a key aspect to how we care for our clergy; a consideration of great importance to our priests who have spent a lifetime of moving from one parish to the next.

Bishop Brain said: “Before I retired, I was diagnosed with a heart condition and was given great support from Salford Royal Hospital. I thought that when I retired, I would have to start all over again, but I wanted to stay with all the doctors, nurses, and staff who I felt comfortable with.”

With family scattered across the UK - and even as far as France - having the support of not just a reassuring medical team, but a loving parish community, is a great comfort for Bishop Brain, and a wonderful gift we can offer to our sick and retired clergy.

Bishop Brain said: “It’s a very warm feeling to know that people appreciate you and value what your ministry and what you have done for them.”

This reciprocal relationship between clergy and people is at the very heart of the sacred priesthood; a beautiful part of the ordination rite and a lifelong promise between a priest and his people.

Bishop Brain explained: “When a priest is ordained, he makes a promise of obedience to his bishop. In return, the bishop places his hands over the priest’s hands as a commitment that he will be responsible for the priest until the day he dies. That’s the commitment of being ordained into the diocese.

“How does the bishop fulfil this commitment? By providing accommodation, healthcare, a pension. That’s what this fund does.”

How to support our clergy

Your support for our Sick and Retired Clergy Fund is greatly appreciated. Any support you are able to give will make a huge difference in supporting our priests through the comfortable and happy retirement they so deserve.

Please see below for a number of ways to donate today:

How your donation can help:

- ✓ Nursing and care needs
- ✓ Healthcare
- ✓ Accessibility needs
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Wellbeing support

How to donate:

🌐 Visit our website at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/sick-and-retired-clergy-fund/>

✉ Post: Cheques payable to The Salford Diocesan Trust Clergy Fund. Send to: Finance, Cathedral Centre, Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP

✉ Contact our finance team by emailing finance@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

📱 Donate by scanning the QR code to the right by scanning with your phone camera.

