

Archdiocese of Birmingham

Banbury & Warwick Deanery

Deanery Pastoral Forum (DPF) – An Update For Parishioners – 7/8 March 2026

The Deanery Pastoral Forum has been meeting 3 times per year since May 2024.

The Dean is Canon David Hartley, Parish Priest at St. Joseph's. Whitnash and the current Chair is Peter Rand, of Kenilworth Parish

This is a brief overview for parishioners attending the 25 churches in the Deanery from Bicester in the south to Baddesley Clinton in the north.

Who are the members of the Forum? Each Parish nominates two lay representatives to sit on the DPF, alongside the Parish Priest and other clergy/deacons in the Deanery.

What is the purpose of the Deanery Pastoral Forum? In May 2024, the Archbishop directed the establishment of Deanery Pastoral Forums together with Parish Pastoral Councils to support the implementation of the Diocesan Vision.

- The foundation of the DPF is rooted in two key principles emphasised in the documents of the Second Vatican Council
 - **Co-responsibility** – every member of the Church shares responsibility for its life and mission
 - **Subsidiarity** – Local Churches are given a greater voice in decisions affecting their communities and offer recommendations to the Dean
 - Enables Catholics to experience the Diocese as a united faith community
- The DPF promotes collaboration among parishes within the Deanery to:
 - Facilitate shared resources and inter-parish activities
 - Reduce duplication of effort
 - Reflect on pastoral issues
 - Foster fellowship among parishes before decision making at Deanery level
- Among the Aims and Objectives are:
 - To foster lay consultation
 - To exchange ideas on liturgical, apostolic, educational and social welfare matters.

The importance of Clusters

- The Deanery is the largest geographically in the Archdiocese and to enable a more practical communication between parishes, the Deanery is divided into 4 clusters of 5-7 church communities. Members of the DPF in each Cluster typically meet three times a year before each meeting of the DPF to focus on activities, events and collaboration between parishes in their cluster

What has been achieved by the Deanery Pastoral Forum?

- Bringing together for the first time clergy and lay representatives in the Deanery to become informed of opportunities and challenges for parishes and parishioners.
- Identifying through two questionnaires a) the strengths and weaknesses of parishes and where they can most profitably work together b) the facts on a wide range of parish life to better inform laity and clergy reference future decisions regarding the possible merging of parishes.

- Sharing best practice between parishes including sacramental preparation, children's liturgy, parish fundraising campaigns
- Joining together at various Deanery and Cluster events over the last two years (see current list below)

The intention is that brief updates from the Deanery Pastoral Forum for parishioners will be produced after each meeting. Future 2026 meetings are scheduled for 25 June in Bicester and 22 October in Banbury. The minutes of all meetings and notes from Cluster meetings are on the Deanery website <https://banburyandwarwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk>

The following events are open to all parishioners in the Deanery. Please email the named contact to confirm availability. For up-to-date information please see: <https://banburyandwarwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk/whats-on/>

- Wednesday 11 March – **Something Greater** (session 3 of 4) St Mary Immaculate, Warwick. Limited availability.
Contact: Canon David Hartley canon.david.hartley@rcaob.org.uk
- Sunday 15 – Monday 16 March – **Visit the Relic of St Carlo Acutis and Talk**.
For details <https://tinyurl.com/9mzajs8m>
Contact: Canon David Hartley canon.david.hartley@rcaob.org.uk
- Wednesday 18 March – **Something Greater** (session 4 of 4) St Mary Immaculate, Warwick. Limited availability.
Contact: Canon David Hartley canon.david.hartley@rcaob.org.uk
- Wednesday 18 March – 5pm **Holy Hour** and 6pm **Vigil Mass for Vocations**. St Joseph's Whitnash.
Contact: Canon David Hartley canon.david.hartley@rcaob.org.uk
- Thursday 19 – Saturday 21 March – **Forty Hour Devotion for Vocations**. 6.30pm Thursday – Midday Saturday. St John's, Banbury
For details <https://tinyurl.com/4ksvjf9y>
Contact: Fr Philip Harrop fr.philip.harrop@rcaob.org.uk
- Saturday 21 March – **Lenten Talk. Assistant Catholic Chaplain, Oxford University**. St Gregory the Great, Stratford-upon-Avon. 11am Tea/coffee. 11.30am Talk
Contact: Fr Oliver Holt fr.oliver.holt@rcaob.org.uk
- Sunday 22 March – **Holy Hour. 3pm – 4pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**. SS Peter & Paul, Brailes.
Contact Fr David Tams fr.david.tams@rcaob.org.uk
- Friday 27 March – **Lenten Penitential Service**. St Gregory the Great, Stratford-upon-Avon. 7pm.
Contact: Fr Oliver Holt fr.oliver.holt@rcaob.org.uk
- Saturday 28 March – **Talk on Holy Week Liturgy** by Fr Oliver Holt. St Gregory the Great, Stratford-upon-Avon.
Contact: Fr Oliver Holt fr.oliver.holt@rcaob.org.uk
- Saturday 12 September – **Year of St Francis mini pilgrimage for young people and families. St Augustine, Kenilworth to St Francis, Kenilworth**.
Contact youth@kenilworthcatholic.org.uk
- Date TBC – **Safety Support Group Meeting for Parish Health & Safety Coordinators**
Contact: Simon Hill hs.stfrancis.kenilworth@rcab.org.uk
- Date TBC – **Year of St Francis events. St Francis of Assisi, Baddesley Clinton and Kenilworth**