

DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Newsletter Issue 35: January 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION

This year the Commission held two meetings: one in March and the second in November. Both were face to face meetings which was a pleasant change from the online versions during the Covid pandemic. They were both well attended.

Our Secretary, Caroline Headley, has been very busy this past year obtaining the information from each of the parishes and churches on the ministers that are active in the diocese. As part of this exercise she was able to identify the areas where there was not a parish contact usually due to the previous contact retiring or the church being transferred to the new parish arrangement. We think that this accounted for some of the fall in numbers attending Renewal Days. The parish contact was originally set up so that Parish Priests and their administrators need not be troubled with communications that only affect the Extraordinary Ministers. We hope to restore that situation under the revised parish groupings so that each church has a contact.

The good news is that during this past year we managed to get a good presence on the Diocesan website. If you have not visited this yet go to the diocesan website; The Catholic Diocese of Nottingham [Diocese of Nottingham](#) and at the top of the home page you will find an item 'Departments'. Click the arrow this will open a further page. Scroll down this page to Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Visiting the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion page will allow you to access the following: -

- Renewal Days
- Formation Weekends
- Commissioning
- Resources There will be a button that allows you to visit the Ordo for this coming year. This will be available in January. If not try the Liturgy Commission.
- Newsletters

Some of the items on the resources page can be purchased through the Commission. Details of these, their costs and methods of payment are also given. We prefer payment by Bank Transfer but can also accept cheques.

In the past year we had some trouble with some of our email addresses. As a result, they were changed. Please check your records with the addresses given in this newsletter.

In 2028 we will be celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in this Diocese. The 25th anniversary was held at the Derby Assembly Rooms, which no longer exists, and had a Mass in the morning, Lunch and a Holy Hour in the afternoon. About 1100 people attended. The 40th anniversary was held at the Cathedral in 2018 and comprised of a Mass followed by a lunch in the adjacent Albert Hall. The total number was restricted due to the accommodation available in the Cathedral; hence each parish sent a representative number of ministers. In all about 300 attended. How will we celebrate our 50th Anniversary? Planning for this will start at our meeting in March 2026.

We have now been advised by the Diocesan Safeguarding Office that all Extraordinary Ministers must hold a current DBS certificate for their duties before Distributing Holy Communion both in church and before taking communion to the sick and housebound. If you have any doubts about whether you hold the correct certificate, please see your parish safeguarding representatives.

RENEWAL DAYS 2026

May we remind you that it is a condition of your commissioning that you attend a Renewal Day every year. The following Renewal Days have been organised for 2026. Your County area will be issuing you with the usual invitations and further details.

- **Derbyshire:**
 - Saturday 28th March 2026 9.30am to 3pm The Annunciation, St Mary's Road, New Mills, Derbyshire.
 - Saturday 13th June 2026 10am to 3pm at Holy Family Church, Blenheim Drive Allestree, Derby. Speaker is Canon Andrew Cole.
- **Leicestershire:**
 - 28th March 2026 10.00 am to 3.30 pm at Saint Joseph's, Leicester. It will be led by Father David Cain and Deacon O'Looskan.
- **Lincolnshire:**
 - 2026 is our turn to host Bishop Patrick so there will be just one Renewal Day on **Saturday 9th May** at St Peter and St Paul, Lincoln which commences at 10.00 am. if this is not going to be suitable for you how about joining Nottinghamshire at Newark.
- **Nottinghamshire:**
 - Saturday 21st March 2026 10.40 for registration, day commences at 11.00 am at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Eastwood
 - Saturday 16th May 2026 10.15am for registration, day commences 11.00 am at Holy Trinity Church, Newark

We hope that one of these dates will be suitable for you and you will be able to attend even if it is not in your normal County area.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY REPORT

This year we returned to having 2 Renewal Days one in Holy Trinity Newark and One in Our Lady and St Thomas of Hereford Ilkeston.

A massive thank you to Canon Michael O'Donoghue and his team for allowing us the use of the Parish rooms and Holy Trinity Church and to Canon Paul Newman and the team in Our Lady and St Thomas Ilkeston. I would also like to thank both of our priests for supporting us by saying Mass for us at the end of each day. Their support and welcome throughout made the organisation of the day so much easier for us all. As always, we would like to thank the Parish Representatives throughout the County for not only distributing information regarding the Renewal Day to all of their Extraordinary Ministers but also in providing us with an updated Parish list of all active ministers as well as the names of those who have died during the year. Remembering those who have shared this very special ministry but are no longer with us is something that all within the Diocesan Team hold very dear. Informing us as soon as possible of the precise death of a member is appreciated and where possible one of us will attend the funeral, as well as sending a card of condolence to the family on behalf of the Team. On Renewal Days we continue our practice to remember Extraordinary Ministers who have died during the previous year are also individually remembered in our Roll call and lighting of candles short service at the start of our Mass. Nottinghamshire Renewal Day this year (2025) was led by Joe Hopkins in Ilkeston and Tom Baptiste in Newark who delivered talks focussed on the Year of Jubilee. During the second part of the day Mary Robinson spoke about different types of Eucharistic Miracles and highlighted for us the wonderful website on these created by our new saint St Carlo Acutis. In addition, Carmel arranged for everyone attending to receive an anchor, reminding us of our jubilee year, thank you so much Carmel for this lovely thought.

Attendance at yearly Renewal Days is very much part of your ongoing development and training; it is an undertaking you sign up to when you are commissioned. This year 117 attended in Ilkeston and 155 in Newark, a wonderful turnout. For 2026 we have planned to have TWO Renewal Days; one to be held at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Eastwood, on Saturday 21st March and the other to be held at Holy Trinity Church, Newark, on

Saturday 16th May. Following Registration, which will open at 10.15am, 10.40 for Eastwood, the day commences at 11am, concluding and departing for home at 3.00pm. Tea or Coffee will be provided. The programme for the day will be led by Tom Baptiste.

Mass will be arranged together with Adoration. Letters will be sent as usual to Parish contacts. We would encourage you to send returns as soon as possible so that we know how many to cater for on the day with regard to seating and refreshments. Thank you from all of the team. Every blessing to you and your family. Ann, David, Carmel & Stewart



LEICESTERSHIRE RENEWAL DAY APRIL 5TH 2025

We were warmly welcomed, yet again to Saint Peter's, Hinckley on April 5th 2025. The weather was lovely if a little breezy, just what we have come to expect on our days at Saint Peter's.

The day was made particularly special by Bishop Patrick leading our day. His talk was both inspirational and informative. It was a reminder that Prayer is abiding in God's love.

He began with quoting from John 15 v 9. and went on to tell us that God's love is perfect love from the Father because it gives all and asks for nothing.

The main message was that we must trust and have confidence in the Lord. Prayer cannot be part of our life; it must be all of our life. Also, prayer is not primary about us doing 'it' it is about letting God into everything we do. It was a wonderful talk.

During lunch Bishop Patrick talked to as many Eucharistic Ministers as he could possibly have done. We certainly look forward to the next time he leads our day.

During the afternoon, Father Frank spoke to us about the care of those to whom we are privileged to take the Blessed Eucharist. He also led a question-and-answer session, which again illustrated how Parishes differ. We give our grateful thanks to Father Frank and all the wonderful parishioners of Saint Peter's who helped on the day.

Our next Renewal Day will be earlier in 2026, on the 28th March at Saint Joseph's, Leicester. It will be led by Father David Cain and Deacon O'Looskan. We look forward to welcoming everyone again then.

J. Rutledge M. Hunt

Leicestershire Eucharistic Ministers

LINCOLNSHIRE RENEWAL DAYS

St Mary's Brigg 31st May.

We were made very welcome by Fr Lymnyuy Gamsi and St Mary's congregation. Fr Limnyuy delivered an excellent talk on the theme of 'The Eucharist' and took questions afterwards. We owe a debt of thanks to Piero Strina for delivering the Holy Hour and to Catherine Strina and her helpers for all the work they put into setting up the Hall and providing the Refreshments. The turnout was disappointing, information about the Renewal Day having failed to reach one of the larger parishes.

Our Lady of Good Counsel 28th June

Our second Renewal Day was in Sleaford. Fr Peter Harvey said mass for us and we were very grateful to Ann Neale for travelling all the way to Sleaford to deliver a really interesting presentation on Eucharistic Miracles put together by Mary Robinson. Deacon Tony Weldon led the Holy Hour. Our thanks to all of them and to Denice Middlebrook and the parishioners of Our Lady of Good Counsel for making us so welcome. Once again, however, the turnout was very low.

2026 is our turn to host Bishop Patrick so there will be just one Renewal Day on **Saturday 9th May** at St Peter and St Paul, Lincoln. Considerable work goes into preparing Renewal Days and all Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are expected to make the effort to attend; it is to be hoped that given ample warning of the date the majority of Lincolnshire Extraordinary Ministers will be there.

DERBYSHIRE RENEWAL DAY 27TH JULY 2025

Derbyshire EM Renewal Day Reflected on the Theme of Hope

In the Jubilee Year of Hope, when we have, all been encouraged to see ourselves as Pilgrims of Hope, it was fitting that the Derbyshire Renewal Day for Extraordinary Ministers looked at how EMs can be Ministers of Hope.

The day was held at Holy Family Church in Allestree, and the speaker was Daniel Hamilton, the Lay Chaplain to the Peak Schools. Daniel spoke about his own experiences with hope, and some of the challenges he has faced in his own life. The EMs then shared some of their own stories.

The day reflected on the idea that hope is not about optimism and everything turning out well, but at a deeper level, us appreciating that everything makes sense. The acknowledgement that there is a deeper purpose. The lasting message was that we can get involved in promoting a culture of hope, we don't need to wait to become experts - "God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called." We are in safe hands with the Lord.

In the afternoon, children from St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby led the EMs in the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. The day ended with Mass celebrated by Fr Neil Peoples, with music led by the Filipino Choir.

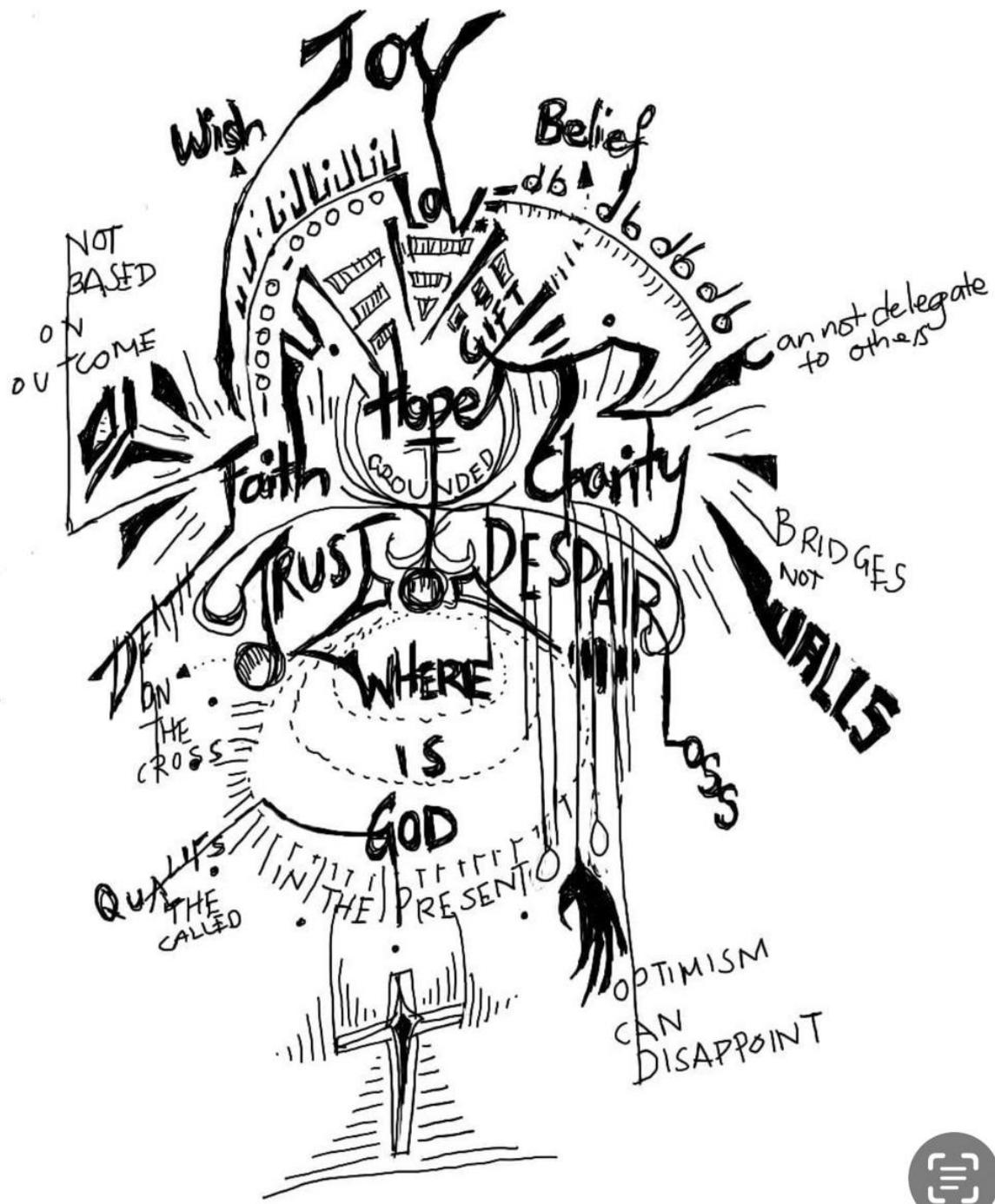
It was an enjoyable day that gave the EMs food for thought and hopefully a clearer appreciation of what being a Pilgrim of Hope means and how we can be pilgrims within our communities."

Many thanks

Fran Hazel, Chair Derbyshire Extra Ordinary Ministers



This 'doodle' was made by Tara Tan during the event and captures the messages of the day.



REMINDER

Those who were commissioned in 2022 will need to have their faculty renewed by their parish priest if they wish to continue as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Once it has been renewed it is valid indefinitely.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Position / Name

Secretary Tel: 07807 334570
Caroline Hedley Email: secretary.emhcc@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Nottinghamshire Tel: 07730 956156
Ann Neale Email: ann.neale@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Derbyshire Tel: 07951 143648
Mrs Frances Hazel Email: fran.hazel@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Leicestershire Tel: 07730 775646
Mrs Mary Hunt Email: mchunt2310@btinternet.com

Lincolnshire Tel: 07949 633505
Mrs Lesley Dover Email: lesley.dover@btinternet.com

ITEMS FOR SALE

Whenever you wish to purchase anything from the Commission for Extraordinary Ministries, whether at Diocesan or County level, please either make your cheque out to NRCDT and post to the appropriate address below, or pay by BACS transfer to NRCDT MAIN- Lloyds – Sort Code 309618 – Account No. 01741223. Please complete the payment reference - SURNAME [BOOKS or SCAPULA] so, that we can distinguish it.

The following items may be purchased: -

Item	Cost	Availability	Apply to
Scapulars	£15.00	limited stock	Alan Simmons Tel: 0115 854001 Mob: 07914 698192 Email: maalcanisvulpes85@gmail.com
EM Handbook	£5.00	In Stock	Searle Clark, Tel: 01778 345389 Mob: 07807 774118
Communion to the Sick Book	£3.00	In stock	

Celebration of Word and Communion by a Lay Person and an EM	£3.00	In stock	Email: EucharisticMinister.BR@dioceseofnottingham.uk
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RESOURCES AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

Diocesan Website

The new diocesan website is dioceseofnottingham.uk . The information has been presented in a different form and will take a little while to get used to. Our Commission information is to be found under the Departments Tab at the top of the page. The Diocesan Ordo 2024-25 can be found on the diocesan website under the Liturgical Commission and on a tab on the resources page. We are expecting the 2025-26 version to be added in a similar manner.

<https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/departments/commissions>

Service Card for CWAC

The Commission have prepared a service card for use by the members of the congregation. It is similar in format to the Mass Card, and has been approved by the EM Commission and the Diocesan Liturgy Commission for use in the Diocese of Nottingham. It provides the responses, both for when a Deacon or a Lay person is leading the service and includes the various texts for the Song of Thanksgiving.

The card is in PDF format ready for printing on two sides of an A4 sheet and folding into an A5 card. Should you require such copy please contact searle.clark@btinternet.com .

Retirement Certificate

Some parishes have wished to mark the retirement of their Extraordinary Ministers. We have therefore prepared a certificate that can be presented on such an occasion. If one is required in your parish please send your request to searle.clark@btinternet.com with details of your parish and the name of the minister. A certificate will then be emailed back to you for you to print out. It will only need the signature of your Parish Priest

FORMATION

Report from the Training and Formation Team – December 2025

We were able to offer three opportunities for Formation and Training during 2025, and we were particularly delighted to be able to offer a “Lincolnshire” weekend again. The three weekends this year were across September and October. It was wonderful as the applications started to drop in during the Spring and Summer months 75 applications across the weekends in the Rosmini Centre (Leicestershire), Our Lady of Lincoln Church Lincoln and finally at the Parish Centre at Holy Trinity, Newark. The three weekends were all well-attended by parishioners from across the Diocese. It was a privilege for us to journey with the participants through the course of the weekend, as they learn about the Ministry and what it involves in our Diocese. It was a particular privilege for me as this was the first year in my new role as director of Formation and I thank the team for their tremendous support across all three weekends. Whilst we provide the framework of the course, each weekend is unique in that it is shaped and formed by the attendees, and we were uplifted and thankful to have three full and enjoyable weekends. It is always wonderful to finish the weekends with the Celebration of Holy Mass, with Fr Paul Smith, who, kindly came to all three weekends. Fr Paul spoke encouragingly to the course participants, thanked them for their commitment, and assured them of the importance of Extraordinary Ministry within the

parishes. The Commissioning Mass at our Cathedral in Nottingham was a wonderful Celebration of Mass by Bishop Patrick and supported by the wider Cathedral team. We commissioned 74 people for Ministry across the Diocese, and it was lovely to see the Cathedral so full as many people came to support those being Commissioned. We wish the new Extraordinary Ministers well as they settle into responsibilities in their Parishes. My thanks to all colleagues on the Formation team who work tirelessly to ensure that the experience given at these weekends is as good as we can possibly make it. They really do a wonderful job, and I thank them for their generous and patient support. I particularly would like to thank Damian Norton who put his faith in me to take over from him in this role and I ask for all your prayers as I continue.

Ann Neale November 2025

Future Formation Course

The following courses are being planned for 2026: -

19th – 20th September 2026 at the Rosmini House of Prayer Leicestershire.

26th – 27th September 2026 at The Diocesan Centre Mackworth

3rd – 4th October 2026 at Holy Trinity, Newark

Commissioning Mass will be on Saturday 14th November 20

Commissioning Day 8 November 2025



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Please remember all deceased Extraordinary Ministers in your prayers, especially the following whose names were added to the Book of Remembrance since the last newsletter in April 2023.

Name	Church	Parish	Deceased
Celia Bermingham	Sacred Heart & St Gilbert - Bourne	Parish of Sacred Heart and Saint Gilbert, Bourne with Our Lady of Lincoln and Saint Guthlac, Deeping St James	20th January 2025
Thomas Sarsfield	St Norbert - Crowle		10th December 2024
Rachel Louise Smith	St Joseph the Worker - Winshill		1st May 2022
Patrick Kelly	St Joseph the Worker - Winshill		28th July 2022
David Perry	Holy Spirit - Sinfín		28th November 2024
Peggy Hunt	St Joseph the Worker - Winshill		6th September 2022
Marian Jean Astle	Christ the King - Mackworth		20th January 2024
Angela Newbert	St Mary - Brigg		11th June 2024
Nancy Hutchison	Our Lady of Lincoln - Lincoln		28th December 2024
Eilleen Sheppard	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - Nottingham Carlton		16th April 2023
Bridget Keogh	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - Nottingham Carlton		23rd August 2023
Sr Anthony	St John the Baptist - Melton Mowbray	Parish of Saint John the Baptist, Melton Mowbray	1st February 2025
Alan Pigrim	St Peter - Hinkley		5th December 2024
Susan Kenny	St Peter - Hinkley	Parish of Most Blessed Sacrament and Saint Peter, West Leicester	15th February 2025
Margaret Drozdz	St Peter - Hinkley	Parish of Most Blessed Sacrament and Saint Peter, West Leicester	14th February 2025
Joseph McEvoy	Our Lady of Victories - Market Harborough		20th September 2024
Kathleen (Kitty) O'Sullivan	Holy Family Church - Nottingham	East Nottingham Parish	13th December 2024
Rosemary Shepherd	St Patrick - Forest Town Mansfield	Parish: Our Lady and All Saints - Mansfield	22nd April 2025
Sr Olivia Killeen	St Mary - Hyston Green, Nottingham	Parish of Saint Paul, Lenton Boulevard with Saint Mary, Hyson Green	2nd May 2025
Barbara Broomfield	St Peter & St Paul - Lincoln	Parish of Saints Peter and Paul, Lincoln	7th April 2025
George Gavin	St Peter & St Paul - Lincoln	Parish of Saints Peter and Paul, Lincoln	20th April 2025
Helen Peers	The Holy Spirit - West Bridgford	Parish of the Annunciation, Rushcliffe	20th September 2024

Margaret Reynolds	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - Nottingham, Carlton	Parish of Holy Family, East Nottingham	21st April 2025
Eileen Pala McSweeney	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - Nottingham, Carlton	Parish of Holy Family, East Nottingham	10th April 2025
Name	Church	Parish	Deceased
Sibil Rose Ryan	St Joseph - New Ollerton	Parish of Saint Francis of Assisi, Sherwood	26th February 2024
Anthony John Farrell	Our Lady of Perpetual Succour - Bulwell	Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell	8th June 2025
Weronika Burton	Our Lady Help of Christians - Kirby in Ashfield		28th September 2024
Mary Chamberlain	Holy Cross - Whitwick	Parish of Holy Cross, Whitwick	7th June 2025
Graham McKenna	St Margaret Clitheroe - Keyworth	Parish of the Annunciation, Rushcliffe	7th August 2025
Winifred (Chris) Chambers	Holy Trinity - Newark	Parish of Saint Francis of Assisi, Sherwood	2nd August 2025
Patrick John Lynch	Our Lady of Victories - Southwell	Parish of Saint Francis of Assisi, Sherwood	23rd January 2014
Bredan O'Boyle	Our Lady of Perpetual Succour - Bulwell	Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour	22nd August 2025
Ann Christine Marquinsa	St Anne - Radcliffe-on-Trent	Parish of the Annunciation, Rushcliffe	27th September 2025
Jan Joseph Kopek	St Maksymilian Kolbe - Derby		11th October 2025
Joseph McKenna	Our Lady of Lourdes - Mickleover	Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Mickleover	07 December 2025

Some of the listed Ministers died over a year ago but we have only received notification during the past year.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Celia Bermingham (2003 – 2018) and Graham McKenna (2004 - 2018) were members of the Commission for the years indicated.

We try whenever possible to send a condolence card to the next of kin and for a member of the Secretariat to be present at the funeral. This is only possible if we are notified promptly of a Minister's death.

Please also remember in your prayers all those Ministers throughout the Diocese who are no longer enjoying good health especially those who are suffering serious illness.

The current parish has been indicated for those who have died since 1st January 2025 in accordance with the 2025 Yearbook.

If you know of a Minister who has died recently and is not mentioned above, please let Searle Clark know (email: EucharisticMinister.BR@dioceseofnottingham.uk) or a member of the Commission.