

## CONFERENCE OF ONGOING FORMATION DIRECTORS FOR CLERGY

*England & Wales*



[www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

The last gathering of Ongoing Formation Directors for Clergy was in March 2020 at Hothorpe Hall. During our time apart and the unpredictability of the last eighteen months, many have flourished in finding new and creative ways of tending to the faithful people of God, while some, sadly, have struggled with many concerns including well-being and mental health.

As the Conference of Ongoing Formation Directors for Clergy look forward to resuming support and services in the so called 'new normal', the Executive Committee have put together an opportunity to come together and 'reconnect as we emerge from the restrictions of Covid.'

This is the theme of our long awaited gathering which takes place next month at the Doubletree by Hilton in Nottingham. Our event will be spread over two days, 12-13 October 2021 enabling Directors of Ongoing Formation to meet with Archbishop John Wilson, Chair of our newly formed Commission for Clergy at the Bishops' Conference; Canon Christopher Thomas, General Secretary; Sr Elaine Penrice, Director of the National Office for Vocation; and Gerald O'Connor from the St John Vianney Institute, Philadelphia.

Supportive conversation will be the primary focus of our event, but also prayer, since all graces spring from this. It is our hope that as we emerge from all that has prevented us from doing our work during the pandemic, that this conference allows us to rediscover our collective vision and pursuits through table fellowship as well as social time, and be renewed in solidarity of friendship.

***Date: 12-13 October 2021***

***Venue: Doubletree by Hilton, Nuthall Road, NG8 6AZ***

***Attire: Casual or clerical (priests concelebrating at Mass – please bring alb & stole)***

Joining us at the conference as guest speaker is Sr Bernadette Reis FSP from Vatican Media, Rome. Some of you will know her as the English voice during Papal events as she simultaneously translates Pope Francis' scripted and non-scripted talks. Her work as an excellent journalist, speaker and proponent of ongoing formation, gives her a unique insight on the challenges and opportunities facing the Catholic Church today.

We welcome, too, Joan Henshaw, a previous guest some years ago introducing us to a workshop on preaching skills. At our forthcoming conference, Joan comes to us bringing her expertise as an experienced facilitator and management consultant who has worked with many groups in the UK to help them successfully navigate organisational change.

I am delighted to include a timetable that will give you the structure of our time together and I am grateful for your patience in awaiting this information. As all sectors resumed services at different times as well as having to manage staff shortages, it has been particularly challenging to bring our arrangements to a satisfactory completion that is good enough to present to you.

I look forward to welcoming you next month. May our time together be abundant in grace!

*Karen*

**Chair**