

# **STATUTES OF THE DIOCESAN SHRINE of DIVINE MERCY**

**SACRED HEART PARISH, SCHOOL ROAD, MORRISTON, SWANSEA**

The following statutes have been drawn up to clarify the purpose of the Shrine of The Divine Mercy, and to assure the proper administration of the sacred place in accordance with the Code of Canon Law.

## **Statute 1 – Purpose**

**a. The Diocesan Shrine of Divine Mercy** takes its origin from the image the Divine Mercy, which was enthroned in a chapel within the Church of the Sacred Heart during the Year of Mercy. Since its installation, the Image has attracted parishioners and members of the wider community who not only come to seek assistance in their problems but who are also reminded that they themselves are called to be instruments of mercy to others. The veneration of this specific sacred image is one of the elements of the authentic forms of devotion to Our Lord, The Divine Mercy Incarnate, revealed to Saint Faustina Kowalska on February 22, 1931.

An essential requirement of the devotion is the demand of the Lord for the ministry of mercy to others through the three degrees of word, action and prayer. The Chapel presently housing the venerated sacred image, was solemnly inaugurated on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017. That day marked the annual celebration of the first “World day of the Poor” called for by Pope Francis at the close of the Holy Year. The renovation and decoration of the Chapel is the fruit of the generosity of the Faithful from within the parish and from various individuals, groups such as the Swansea Sick to Lourdes and the Canon Morrissey Trust based at the Shrine, and also of Divine Mercy devotees associated with the parish. The Chapel serves as a Thanksgiving Offering to God from them for the many and significant graces attributed to their trustful veneration of the sacred image in response to Our Lord's desire, as revealed to St. Faustina, as well as to their exercise of the other elements of the devotion inspired by the same Divine Mercy Message revealed through her.

### **b. The Purpose of the Shrine is:**

- (1) To help the Church profess, proclaim and promote the glory and honour of “God, who is rich in mercy”;
- (2) to be a sign, and therefore an invitation to the Faithful to meditate on and accept the eternal message of Christian salvation, as it springs from the merciful plan of God the Father;
- (3) to remind everyone by its very name, by the symbolic sacred image venerated there, as also by its inviting beauty, and by the spiritual, pastoral, and formative activity promoted therein, of the consoling truth of God's fatherly mercy revealed most definitively in Jesus, The Divine Mercy Incarnate, so as to elicit from souls the response of trust in the Lord's mercy that is needed for His grace to become efficaciously operable in them;
- (4) To assist parishioners, pilgrims and visitors, in their striving for Christian perfection and holiness, by inspiring and encouraging the exercise of unbounded trust in the Divine Mercy;
- (5) to profess and proclaim conversion to God which always consists in discovering or rediscovering His mercy, particularly through the ministries of the Word, of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and of the Eucharist;
- (6) to be a special place where the Church will daily exercise its right and duty to appeal to the God of mercy “with loud cries” amid the many forms of evil which weigh upon humanity and threaten it remembering especially the sick and dying of the Diocese, and those in the general hospital and hospice located within the parish.

## Statute 2 - Authority of the Rector

**a. The Rector of the Diocesan Shrine of Divine Mercy** is the Parish Priest of the aforesaid parish as appointed by the Bishop of Menevia.

**b. The Rector is to see to it that:**

- (1) The Most Holy Eucharist and other spiritual and religious events are celebrated with dignity in the Shrine in accord with liturgical norms and the prescriptions of Canon Law; (2) obligations are faithfully fulfilled;
- (3) goods are carefully administered in cooperation with the Finance Committee of the Parish and the Finance Council of the Diocese of Menevia;
- (4) provision be made for the maintenance and good appearance of furnishings and building;
- (5) nothing whatever is done which is in any way out of harmony with the sanctity of the place and the reverence due a house of God;
- (6) the celebration of key liturgical and historical dates in the Divine Mercy devotion and in the life of the Apostle of Divine Mercy St Faustina are observed, and in particular the Sunday of Divine Mercy and the annual Day of Prayer for the Poor.

## Statute 3 - Ownership and Administration of Goods

**a. The Diocesan Shrine of Divine Mercy** is the sole property of the Diocese of Menevia, of which the Ordinary of the Diocese is the *ex officio* president. As such, it is governed by the by the universal law of the Church and any applicable civil laws, in accordance with C 22.

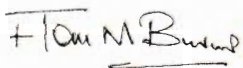
**b. The Diocesan Shrine shall have a Rector**, appointed by the Bishop of Menevia, who shall (1) see to the maintenance of the Diocesan Shrine and (2) supervise pilgrimages to the Shrine and the functions of the Shrine.

**c. Offerings given by the faithful to the Diocesan Shrine** for a definite purpose will be applied only for that purpose. Monies given for the fulfillment of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy will be distributed to the appropriate charity. Monies given for furnishings and Shrine maintenance will be used for that purpose only. All other offerings will be used for the general needs of the Shrine.

**d. The Rector of the Diocesan Shrine will maintain a special book for Mass offerings**, and shall accurately list the number of Holy Masses to be celebrated, the intentions, and the amount of the offering given. The Rector will also ensure that all Holy Mass obligations have been fulfilled.

**e. An annual report on pastoral and financial activities will be made by the Diocesan Shrine Rector** to the Bishop of the Diocese of Menevia, in virtue of C. 1287.

Approved by the Ordinary of the Diocese of Menevia



Bishop of Menevia





Chancellor

Dated 16 November 2017