

## Richard Martin: Institution as Acolyte – another step towards Ordination...

*Dear Parish Family*

I continue to be moved and humbled by the interest, support, encouragement and prayers of so many of you as I continue on my path towards Ordination next Summer, God willing – thank you so much.

Having been instituted as **Lector** in May this year, the next formal step is to be instituted as **Acolyte**, which will happen at St Joseph's during Mass on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**. Fr Paul will conduct the short ceremony on behalf of Bishop Philip.

In February 2025 at St Mary's College, Oscott, there will be a **final formal review/assessment** of my progress and the bishop will then decide whether or not to invite me for ordination.

I then make a final **Oath of Fidelity** and **Profession of Faith** in a short service at Oscott in May 2025, before completing my formal studies in June.

My **Ordination as Permanent Deacon** by the bishop will take place (God willing...) at **Portsmouth Cathedral** one Saturday or Sunday in **June or July 2025** (date still to be announced).

### **\*What is an Acolyte?**

The Acolyte is instituted for **service at the altar** and to **assist the Priest**. It is his place principally to **prepare the altar and the sacred vessels** and to distribute the Eucharist to the faithful as an **extraordinary minister**.

The instituted Acolyte helps the Priest to **purify and arrange the sacred vessels** and **assists the priest/deacon** as needed, at Mass and in other liturgical celebrations. He helps to receive the **gifts** and bring them to the altar and, if **incense** is used, the Acolyte assists the priest with this and incenses the priest and people.

Once I have been instituted as Acolyte, you will see me on the sanctuary more often, carrying out my roles as both Acolyte and Lector.

Thank you once again and may God bless you all.

With love and prayers

*Richard*

*Richard Martin, October 2024*