

The Right Reverend Robert Ladds SSC

Bishop Robert's upbringing within a Christian family and at the Church of S Mary the Virgin, Swanley, in Kent, had a profound influence on his understanding of the Faith and of Catholic practice.

He worked in industrial chemistry and as a teacher prior to Ordination. Education has continued as a major theme in his life as School Chaplain, School Governor, as a Provost within the Woodard Corporation and as Chair of a Diocesan Board of Education.

His Ordained Ministry has included serving as Rector of a rural parish; as a Bishop's Chaplain and as Rector of an inner-urban parish. He became Archdeacon of Lancaster before crossing the Pennines to become Bishop of Whitby.

He counts among the greatest privileges afforded him being Superior-General of the Society of Mary for some 23 years. This time has seen change and extension of the work of that Society and he has led regular Pilgrimages to Lourdes, Nettuno, Italy and to Rome.

After retirement as Bishop of Whitby, he has served in two London parishes; latterly that of S Peter's London Docks, in the East End, founded by Father Charles Lowder and served by Fathers Wainright, Mackonochie and other heroes of the Catholic Faith. He moved to Walsingham in 2021 and is privileged to help at the Shrine and within the Parish and Benefice. He is Chaplain to Sisters of the Priory of Our Lady and is an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Dioceses of London and Norwich.

Bishop Robert and his wife Roberta have three adult sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren. His interests include his family, gardening, church architecture, theology and liturgy.

Sacramental support of those who are dying and in bereavement is of immense importance and significance within the Pastoral Ministry of the Church. Prayer for the souls of the faithful departed is a fundamental duty, work and calling in Catholic worship and practice. The Guild of All Souls has played a major role in the restoration of this component into the lives of Anglicans. Against this understanding, Bishop Robert greatly appreciates the invitation to serve as Chantry Priest of the Guild of All Souls in this the 150th Anniversary Year of its foundation.