

The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave

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THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD

11th March 2021

The Revd Canon Angela Gbebikan
St Michael's Vicarage
Milton Rd
Wallington
SM6 9RP

Dear Mtr Angela,

The Venerable Dennis Ede

I am writing on behalf of the Diocese of Lichfield to express our sorrow at Fr Dennis' death, our condolences to his family, and our thanksgiving for all that he gave in ministry to the priests, parishes and people of this diocese.

Dennis came to the Diocese of Lichfield as Vicar of All Saints West Bromwich, from 1976-1990. He brought with him a name for being thrusting and energetic; true to that, he did very good work both as parish priest and also in re-ordering that ancient church. In addition he was Chaplain to Sandwell District Hospital. A priest who had been admitted there for a minor operation recalls that, somewhat to his disconcertment, Dennis's was the first face he saw on recovering consciousness. Despite his brusque reputation, this patient like others found that Dennis was very pastoral and thoughtful. His ministry as chaplain was so respected that he became the lead for the Hospital Chaplains across the diocese.

In the later decades of the last century, it was widely acknowledged that this diocese was in effect run by its three archdeacons, led by the redoubtable Richard Ninis (whose enthusiasm for parochial reorganisation earned him the affectionate nickname of *Dick the Knife*). Having been an incumbent under Richard, Dennis was quick to learn from him, and became a competent and energetic member of the powerful archidiaconal triumvirate. He never forgot that the life of the church was in the parishes and that the work of the parish priest was crucial. He knew his clergy and used his office to care for them in practical and effective ways. I have heard particular memories of his heartfelt advocacy for one priest, for example, who had been involved in a severe road accident in which he lost the sight of his left eye and had four vertebrae severely damaged. At a more convivial level, he loved to cook, and clergy would rejoice to receive an invitation dine with him, hoping in some measure for a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven; their hope was seldom disappointed.

Twenty-four years on from his time as Archdeacon of Stoke, Fr Dennis' memory is still treasured in the Diocese of Lichfield, and the fruits of his labours continue to enrich this Midlands part of the Lord's vineyard.



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Mother Angela, we join our prayers with yours and with those of all gathered for his Requiem Eucharist in pleading that through the loving mercy of God he may enjoy that fulness of life for which he prepared others through more than six decades of ministry as a priest of the new covenant.

*Your brother in Christ,
Michael Ipgrave*



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