

# DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM



## Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts

### The Members

August 2021

## **Rt Rev Patrick McKinney, STL**

*Bishop of Nottingham*

Bishop Patrick McKinney was brought up in Birmingham and was ordained to the priesthood on 29 July 1978.

Between 1982 and 1984, he studied for a Licence in Sacred Theology in the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Returning to the Archdiocese of Birmingham, he taught fundamental theology in St Mary's College, Oscott until 1989, when he was appointed Rector, a post he held for nine years, during which period he was also a lecturer in ecclesiology, the theology of the Church.

He went on to serve as Parish Priest of a number of parishes in the Archdiocese of Birmingham and as an Episcopal Vicar for Staffordshire for a number of years. During this time he served as a foundation governor and chair of governors in a number of Catholic primary schools and as chaplain to a large secondary school in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. He was made a Prelate of Honour in 1990 and a member of the Metropolitan Chapter of St Chad in 1992. He also served for a time as chair of the Birmingham Archdiocesan Commission for Inter-Religious Dialogue.

On 14 May 2015, he was appointed tenth Bishop of Nottingham by Pope Francis and was ordained to the episcopate by Cardinal Vincent Nichols (Archbishop of Westminster) in St Barnabas' Cathedral, Nottingham on 3 July 2015.

## Rev Simon Gillespie

*Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Education*

Father Simon Gillespie is parish priest of Our Lady of Victories, Southwell and Saint Anthony, Calverton, a position to which Bishop Patrick appointed him in September 2019. Father Simon has previously worked in the parishes of Saint Mary and Saint Augustine, Stamford, Saint Thomas More, Leicester, Saint Philip Neri, Mansfield, and Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Lincoln.

Prior to his ordination in 2012, Simon lived within the Cathedral parish, Nottingham and worked in the legal profession, specialising in property law. He is currently studying for a further degree in Canon Law through the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, having graduated with a Civil Law degree from the University of Manchester (1997) and a Canon Law degree from the University of London (2008). Father Simon studied for the priesthood in Saint Alban's seminary, Valladolid and Allen Hall seminary, London, together with a year at the Institute of Saint Anselm, Kent.

As well as parish duties, Father Simon helps to organise the annual Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, is one of the Defenders of the Bond in the Nottingham Tribunal. He edits the Diocesan Yearbook, the Diocesan Ordo, the Nottingham section of the National Catholic Yearbook and compiles the diocesan pastoral statistics. He has served as a foundation governor and chair of governors on various school local governing bodies, and was Chair of the Saint Gilbert of Sempringham MAT Board prior to its dissolution. In his spare time, he is Group Scout Leader for a Catholic Scout Group in Nottingham and maintains links with his *alma mater*, Heythrop College, University of London.

## David Lawes, MBA

*Chief Operating Officer, Diocese of Nottingham*

Before joining the Diocese of Nottingham as Chief Operating Officer in July 2019, David was Head of Support and Administration Services for Portsmouth Diocese, where he had worked since 2014, with oversight of finance, personnel, IT and property (including schools' property).

Originally, David grew up in Surrey, but he then travelled to Australia where he developed a career in financial and property planning and control with BP Marketing. Returning to the UK, he joined Repsol, the Spanish oil company, as Marketing Services Manager. He then moved into management consulting, first to oil companies and later to online service, academic research and not-for-profit organisations.

David's principal experience of Catholic education comes through the seven children he and his wife, Jennifer, have raised. All attended Catholic schools (4 primary and 3 secondary). One still does.

Committed Catholics, David, Jennifer and all their children have strived to follow Christ with an active love of his Church through a range of pastoral, catechetical and evangelisation parish ministries. Two of their sons are currently in priestly formation. David and Jennifer are members of Salisbury's Alabaré Christian Community. For 12 years, he has been a trustee of Alabaré Christian Care and Support, a major regional charity serving homeless, vulnerable and marginalised people.

## Laura O'Brien, BA

Laura was born in Eldoret Kenya where she attended the Loreto Convent school, she moved to England in 1975. Laura was a pupil at St Joseph's Catholic primary school in Leicester and then St Paul's.

Laura is a qualified early years and primary Montessori teacher. She has a degree in early years and holds EYP status. Laura is the owner/manager of her own Montessori nursery which has been running for the last 20 years. Alongside managing and working in the nursery, Laura also acts as a mentor for other nurseries through her relationship with Leicestershire County Council as an initial mentor practitioner.

Laura has been an active PTA member of both St Joseph's and St Paul's when her children were at the schools and has been a foundation governor at St Paul's Catholic School in Leicester for the last 20 years, 15 of them as chair. Laura served as a foundation director on the Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust and is a current director of the NRCDES board.

Laura is a parishioner at St Joseph's parish in Leicester where she used to help run the children's liturgy group when her children were younger and worked with First Holy Communion and Confirmation groups. She now sings and plays the guitar at Mass.

