



# What's happening in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan

May 2025 to October 2025

## **May: Ordination of Most Rev. Charles Duval**

On May 14th, 2025, the Feast of St. Matthias, we celebrated the Episcopal Ordination of Most Rev. Charles Duval, CSsR. The ordination was held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Grande Prairie, bringing together bishops, priests and lay people from across the archdiocese and wider Canada.

Let us always continue to pray for Archbishop Duval. We all feel blessed to have you as the new shepherd of our archdiocese, Your Grace!



See photos from the **Ordination:**



Watch the **livestream:**



## **July: Jubilee of Youth Retreats**

This summer, three Jubilee of Youth retreats were held in our archdiocese, led by student interns from Newman Theological College. The retreats were held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in High Level on July 28th, at Our Lady of Peace Church in Peace River on July 29th, and St. Peter Celestin Church in Slave Lake on July 30th. These retreats brought together over 70 youth across the archdiocese. We offer a huge thanks to Newman Theological College, and the many parish volunteers who ensured the success of our retreats. We hope it was a special experience for our youth and volunteers!



## **August: Thomas Wollis ordained a deacon**

Thomas Wollis of Peace River was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on August 19th, at St. Martin Catholic Church in Wabasca. Persons from across the archdiocese came to support Thomas during this most sacred celebration.

Dcn. Thomas has returned to St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton this fall for his final year of seminary studies. Let us continue to pray for him in his vocation and journey towards the priesthood.



Read more about Thomas' **ordination:**



Watch the livestream of **Thomas' ordination:**



### **September: Passing of Fr. Joseph Choji**

It is with great sadness that we announced the passing of Fr. Joseph Choji, who died on Sept. 1st, 2025. Fr. Choji arrived in the archdiocese in January of this year, and had been serving in St. John the Baptist Cathedral in McLennan and St. Guy Church in Guy since May. Fr. Choji, originally from the Archdiocese of Jos in Nigeria, was 59 years old.

His funeral was held at St. John the Baptist Cathedral on September 16<sup>th</sup>. His body will be repatriated to his home country.



**Requiem Mass  
for Fr. Choji:**



### **September: Archbishop Pettipas's retirement and visitations**

For his final weeks in the archdiocese, Archbishop Emeritus Gerard Pettipas celebrated a number of "Farewell Visitations" in the archdiocese – celebrating Mass and a dinner with each of the archdiocese's five deaneries.

On Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, Pope Leo XIV accepted Archbishop Pettipas's resignation and he officially became Archbishop Emeritus of Grouard-McLennan.

**Photos from  
Visitations:**



**Interview with  
Archbishop Emeritus Pettipas:**



### **October: Celebration of Succession & Jubilee Year Mass**

On Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, hundreds of people joined us at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in McLennan and Centre Chevaliers in Falher for the Jubilee Year Mass and Celebration of Succession of Most Rev. Charles Duval as the new archbishop of Grouard-McLennan.

A special thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered and helped make the event such a success. A video recording of the Mass will be released on our website at [archgm.ca](http://archgm.ca)



**Photos from  
Celebration of  
Succession:**



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website:**

