

Forms of Clerical Address

Clerical titles can cause considerable confusion. This is particularly so when it comes to writing letters or verbally addressing priests – who unfortunately cannot agree among themselves what they should be called. Some prefer Mr. or Ms., others Father or Mother with either their last or their first names. Some abhor the choices made by others. The only way to be sure of what they prefer is to ask them.

Presiding Bishop

Full title: The Most Reverend

Abbreviated title: The Most Rev.

Top of letter: Dear Bishop,

Canon

Full title: The Reverend Canon

Abbreviated title: The Rev. Cn.

Top of letter: Dear Canon

Bishop

Full title: The Right Reverend

Abbreviated title: The Rt. Rev.

Top of letter: Dear Bishop,

Priest

Full title: The Reverend

Abbreviated title: The Rev. or The Rev. Dr.

Top of letter: Depending on the individual's preference:

Dear Father, Dear Mother, Dear Rev.

Dean

Full title: The Very Reverend

Abbreviated title: The Very Rev.

Top of letter: Dear Dean,

Deacon

Full title: The Reverend Deacon

Abbreviated title: The Rev. Deacon

Top of letter: Dear Deacon,

Archdeacon

Full title: The Venerable

Abbreviated title: The Ven.

Top of letter: Dear Archdeacon