



# Hexham & Newcastle

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DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS

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**EMBARGOED UNTIL 25 March 2019**

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **INSTALLATION OF THE RIGHT REVEREND ROBERT BYRNE, C.O. - FOURTEENTH BISHOP OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE - 25 MARCH 2019**

The Solemn Mass of Installation of the the Right Reverend Robert Byrne, C.O. (Congregation of the Oratory of St Philip Neri), as the fourteenth Bishop of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, will take place at 12.00 noon on Monday, 25 March 2019 in the Cathedral Church of St Mary, Newcastle upon Tyne. The day chosen is the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, O.P., Metropolitan Archbishop of Liverpool, accompanied by Bishop Séamus Cunningham, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese, will present Bishop Byrne to the Dean of the Cathedral, Reverend Father Dermott Donnelly, representing the clergy and laity of the Diocese. After the Apostolic Mandate of Appointment is read by the Chancellor of the Diocese, Reverend Father Simon Lerche, Bishop Byrne will then be led to the Cathedra (Bishop's Chair) by Archbishop McMahon, where he will be presented with the Crozier, the sign of a Bishop's office and ministry, by Bishop Cunningham.

The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Edward Adams representing Pope Francis, will be present, along with the His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and the Bishops and Ordinaries of the Catholic Dioceses of England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, the Syro-Malabar Catholic Eparchy of Great Britain, the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham and the Apostolic Prefecture of the Falklands. The Bishops will include also include the Most Reverend Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham, where Bishop Byrne has served for the past five years as Auxiliary Bishop. Priests, Deacons and Religious from the Archdiocese of Birmingham and Hexham and Newcastle will be present, along with the Clergy of the Congregation of the Oratory of St Philip Neri. Bishop Byrne's family and friends will also be present. Ecumenical and other faith representatives and civic dignitaries will be present as well as lay representatives of the Parishes of the Diocese.

As part of the Rite of Installation, Bishop Byrne will be welcomed by:

- The Chair of the Council of Priests, Reverend Father Mark Milward and Reverend Martin Bell of the Permanent Deacons of the Diocese on behalf of the Clergy;
- Sister Sylvia Swift on behalf of the Religious of the Diocese;
- Mrs Fiona Standfield on behalf of the Diocesan Directors and Lay Trustees;
- Professor Nigel Lightfoot CBE on behalf of the Laity of the Diocese;
- The Right Reverend Mark Tanner, the Anglican Bishop of Berwick, on behalf of Ecumenical Church Leaders;
- Mr Hari Shukla CBE representing other faiths;

- Mrs Susan Winfield OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, representative of Her Majesty the Queen, will welcome Bishop Byrne as representative of the Civic Authorities and regions of the Diocese.

### **The Installation Mass**

The First Reading of the Mass will be from the Prophet Isaiah (7:10-14,8-10) and will be read by Mr Jeff Ledger, Financial Secretary of the Diocese.

The Second Reading will be from the Letter to the Hebrews (10:4-10) and will be read by Mrs Angela Joyce, Chair of Liturgical Formation.

The Gospel will be from the Gospel of Luke (1:26-38) and will be proclaimed by the Deacon. Following the Gospel, Bishop Byrne will preach to the clergy and people of the Diocese.

The Prayer of the Faithful will be led by Professor Paul Murray, Dean and Director of Durham University Centre for Catholic Studies.

The Offertory gifts will be brought to the Altar by Sister Frances of the Sisters of Mercy, Maureen Bates of the Diocesan Board of Directors, Mr Andrew Gillingham, Head of the Property Department and Ms Josie Shilcock of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team.

The Diocesan and Cathedral Choirs will be directed of Mr Philip Robinson. The organist will be Mr David Allison. The music of the Mass will be as follows:

- Entrance Hymn: Praise to the Holiest in the Height (Blessed John Henry Newman)
- Motet: Ecce Sacerdos Magnus (Edward Elgar)
- Gloria: Missa de Angelis (Plainchant)
- Responsorial Psalm 39(40):7-11 (Colin Mawby)
- Gospel Acclamation: (James Walsh OSB)
- Creed: Credo III (Plainchant)
- Offertory Motet: Dixit Maria (Hans Leo Hassler)
- Eucharistic Prayer: Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation & Great Amen (Stephen C Warner)
- Agnus Dei: (Stephen C Warner)
- Communion Motet: Ave Verum (William Byrd)
- Communion Hymns: My Soul Rejoices in God, O Godhead Hid
- Recessional Hymn: Holy Light of Earth's Horizon

### **Bishops attending the Installation**

His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster

His Excellency Archbishop Edward Adams, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain

The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon, OP, Archbishop of Liverpool

The Most Reverend Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham

The Most Reverend Peter Smith, Archbishop of Southwark

The Right Reverend Philip Boyce, Apostolic Administrator of Dromore

The Right Reverend Peter Brignall, Bishop of Wrexham

The Right Reverend Thomas Burns, SM, Bishop of Menevia

The Right Reverend Michael Campbell, O.S.A., Bishop Emeritus of Lancaster

The Right Reverend Séamus Cunningham, Bishop Emeritus of Hexham & Newcastle

The Most Reverend Leo Cushley, Archbishop of Edinburgh & St Andrews

The Right Reverend Peter Doyle, Bishop of Northampton

The Right Reverend Terence Drainey, Bishop of Middlesbrough

The Right Reverend Philip Egan, Bishop of Portsmouth

The Right Reverend Ralph Heskett, CSsR, Bishop of Hallam

The Right Reverend Alan Hopes, Bishop of East Anglia

The Right Reverend Nicholas Hudson, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster

The Right Reverend William Kenney, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham  
The Right Reverend Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton  
The Right Reverend Paul MacAleenan, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster  
The Right Reverend David McGough, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham  
The Right Reverend Patrick McKinney, Bishop of Nottingham  
The Right Reverend Paul Mason, Bishop of the Armed Forces  
The Right Reverend John Sherrington, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster  
The Right Reverend Joseph Srampickal, Bishop of the Eparchy of Great Britain of the Syro-Malabar Church  
The Right Reverend Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds  
The Right Reverend Paul Swarbrick, Bishop of Lancaster  
The Right Reverend Joe Toal, Bishop of Motherwell  
The Right Reverend Alan Williams, SM, Bishop of Brentwood  
The Right Reverend John Wilson, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster  
The Right Reverend Monsignor Keith Newton, Ordinary of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham  
Dom Cuthbert Brogan, OSB, Abbot of Farnborough

#### **Ecumenical Guests**

The Right Reverend Mark Tanner, Bishop of Berwick  
The Right Reverend Christopher Foster, Bishop of Portsmouth  
The Reverend Geoff Miller, Dean, St Nicholas' Cathedral, Newcastle  
The Reverend Joanne Thorns, North East Churches Acting Together (NECAT)  
The Reverend Canon Jeremy Worthen, Church of England Secretary for Ecumenical Relations and Theology

#### **Interreligious Guests**

Mr & Mrs Tony Benson, Jewish Community  
Mr Anthony Wortman, Jewish Community  
Mr Kersi Fanibunda, Zoroastrian Community  
Dr & Mrs Hari Shukla, Hindu Community

#### **Civic Guests**

Cllr Allan Barclay, Mayor of Hartlepool  
Cllr Veronica Copeland, Mayor of Darlington  
Cllr David Down, Mayor of Newcastle  
Mrs Bryony Gibson, Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland  
Cllr Tommy Mulvenna, Representative of the Mayor of North Tyneside  
Mrs Susan Winfield, OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Tyne & Wear

The Mass of Installation is expected to conclude by approximately 2.30pm.

**PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING THE APPOINTMENT OF BISHOP ROBERT BYRNE  
- 4 FEBRUARY 2019**

The Holy See today announced that Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Robert Byrne as the 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Bishop Byrne succeeds The Right Reverend Séamus Cunningham, who has been Bishop of the Diocese since 2009.

Bishop Byrne was born in Manchester on 22 September 1956. He was ordained priest in 1985 and Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Birmingham on 13 May, 2014.

Speaking of his appointment, Bishop Byrne said: "I am deeply humbled by the trust Pope Francis has placed in me with this appointment as Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle. I would like to thank the people and priests of the Archdiocese of Birmingham where I have served for the past five years and, in particular, Archbishop Bernard for his constant kindness and support. I look forward to making my home in the North East, with its rich Christian heritage, and also getting to know and serve the people, deacons, religious and priests of the Diocese. I ask all of you to keep me in your prayers as I pray for you."

Bishop Cunningham said: "I am delighted to welcome Bishop Byrne as my successor at a time of great challenge and hope in this Diocese. The Lord Jesus is leading us along a road of rich discernment for the future of the Church and its mission. I know that the priests, deacons, religious and people of the Diocese will warmly welcome him and assure him of our prayers. May the Lord bless his ministry among us. We commend him to Mary the Mother of God, St Cuthbert and all the saints of our Diocese. I have therefore been appointed as Apostolic Administrator, by Pope Francis, until Bishop Robert's installation."

The Most Reverend Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham, said: "I am delighted for the Church in Northumbria and Durham and for Bishop Robert that he has been appointed Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle. Bishop Robert has spent his entire priestly ministry in the Archdiocese as an Oratorian in Birmingham and Oxford and we shall miss him very much. Bishop Robert will carry his love and knowledge of Blessed John Henry Newman into his new ministry. Bishop Robert renews the bond of affection and faith between our two dioceses which the late Bishop Kevin Dunn had done so much to encourage. May St Chad and St Cuthbert inspire Bishop Robert as he prepares for his new ministry."

**STATEMENT ENDS**

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