

ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

25 July 2009



Pope Benedict XVI names new Bishop of the Forces

The Pope today (Saturday 25th July) named Monsignor Richard Moth as Bishop of the Forces in succession to Bishop Tom Burns, now Bishop of Menevia.

Archbishop Kevin McDonald said, "I know that everyone in the diocese will want to congratulate Monsignor Richard on this appointment. It is one to which he is well suited in many ways and I am sure he will make a significant contribution especially at this time when the well-being of the men and women in the Armed Services is a matter of such public concern. He has been a tireless servant of the diocese and his gifts and commitment will be much missed. But he goes with the thanks, prayers and good wishes of his home diocese as he embraces this new and very different challenge."

Bishop-elect Moth said, "It is a great honour for me to be asked by the Holy Father to take up this new responsibility. Although there is sadness in leaving the Archdiocese of Southwark, I am immensely grateful to the Diocese for all it has given me over these last 27 years. I ask for prayers as I take up this new ministry as Bishop.

"Bishop Tom Burns has done excellent work for the chaplains of all three Services and I hope to be able to build on the foundations that have been laid by him and his predecessors.

"I look forward to working with our Navy, Army and RAF chaplains in the service of the men and women of our Armed Services and their families, all of whom are facing particular challenges at this time."

Bishop-elect Moth will be ordained bishop on Tuesday 29th September 2009.

ENDS

Note

This statement is issued on behalf of Bishop-elect Richard Moth by Barry Hudd. Tel: 07770 538693.