



BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES STATEMENT ON IRAQ

19 NOVEMBER 2010

The Bishops of England and Wales express their deep sadness at the attacks on Christians and other Iraqis that have taken place over the last few weeks, in particular, the massacre at Our Lady of Salvation Cathedral in Baghdad. Our prayers and solidarity are with all those who died or suffered. We also think of those Iraqis who now live in the United Kingdom and who have lost loved ones or are separated from their families.

Archbishop Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference, will be the main celebrant at a Mass in Westminster Cathedral on Friday 26 November at 7.00 pm for all those who have been killed during those recent atrocities.

The Bishops' Conference urges Her Majesty's Government to take what measures it can to assist the Iraqi authorities in improving security for all citizens. The Bishops also ask Her Majesty's Government to review its treatment of asylum seekers to ensure that those who have suffered persecution are given the protection that they deserve and to increase its assistance to those Iraqis who have fled to neighbouring states.