



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

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7 December 2008

Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad
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Russia

Your Eminence,

Trusting in the loving mercy of God Our Father, I write in the name of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to express our sincere sympathy at the death of His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia.

I had the great pleasure of meeting with His Holiness in October 2006 during a visit to Moscow. We prayed together and spoke at length about the opportunities and challenges facing our sister churches.

I recall with affection his paternal concern for members of the Russian Orthodox Church living in the United Kingdom, and his deep commitment to the proclamation of the Gospel message in an age that longs to know more of the love of God.

On behalf of the Catholic Church in England and Wales I offer our prayers for the repose of his soul. May a faithful and steadfast shepherd be welcomed into the loving embrace of the Good Shepherd.

Yours fraternally in the Risen Lord,

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor
Archbishop of Westminster