

Announcement of Archbishop Peter Smith's appointment as the Tenth Archbishop of Southwark

Letter to the priests, deacons and Religious Communities of the Archdiocese of Cardiff

29th April 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to let you know personally that Pope Benedict XVI has appointed me Archbishop of Southwark in succession to Archbishop Kevin McDonald. The Apostolic Nuncio informed me of this on Tuesday last.

As you might imagine I received this news with mixed feelings. I am very sad to be leaving you all especially at this time. I have been very happy serving as your Bishop for the last eight years and over that time the Archdiocese has become my home. I have really enjoyed working with you, the priests, deacons, religious and the laity and I am deeply grateful for your help and co-operation in so many areas of Diocesan life. I am especially for the forbearance, kindness and generosity you all have shown to me since I came to Cardiff.

I shall miss you all very much, but like each of you, I believe that an essential element of my vocation is to serve wherever, and in whatever way the Church asks me to, whatever my personal feelings, and it was in this spirit that I accepted the appointment.

There is much more I would like to say to you and there will be opportunities for this before I leave. As far as the priests are concerned, I will be able to do so on Friday 21st May at the Mass at St. David's Cathedral when we will celebrate our particular sharing in the one priesthood of Christ..

My appointment will be announced tomorrow, Friday 30th April, at 11.00 am and I ask you please to respect the embargo until that time.

I will be installed as Archbishop of Southwark at St. George's Cathedral on Thursday 10th June at midday, and more details of that will be announced in due course.

In the meanwhile I ask you to keep me in your prayers, as I shall keep you in mine.

With an assurance of my gratitude and good wishes,

+Peter