

Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation - King's Lynn

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Deacon Shaun's Bulletin

Sunday 25th October 2020 - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends, Good morning to you.

I trust you are well and having a good weekend.

Did you remember to put your clocks back an hour? It was good to have an extra hour in bed this morning.

Today is the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

And as Fr Gordon mentioned in his email on Thursday:

This Sunday we are also keeping a "Harvest Festival" theme, and you are invited to bring along donations to support the work of the Winter Night Shelter. The list of things that will be welcome at present is published on their website, and is: instant coffee, hot chocolate, sugar, long-life milk, squash, juice & fizzy drinks, crisps, individually wrapped treats, cereal & cereal bars, tinned items (tomatoes, veg, pulses, soup, tuna, fruit, custard), cooking oil & vinegar, ketchup & mayonnaise, herbs & spices, salt & pepper, flour, jam, honey, spreads, toilet roll, kitchen roll, boxes of tissues, men's and women's (new) underwear & socks.

ENGLISH MARTYRS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Today marks the 50th Anniversary of the Canonisation of the forty martyrs of England and Wales.

Attached for you is a pastoral message by The Bishop of Plymouth, Bishop Mark O'Toole.

Also attached is the homily given by Pope Paul VI on 25 October 1970. Some of his words from the homily for you:

The solemn canonization of the 40 Martyrs of England and Wales that we have just completed offers us the welcome opportunity to speak to you, albeit briefly, on the meaning of their existence and on the importance that their life and death have had and continue to have not only for the Church in England and Wales, but also for the Universal Church, for each one of us, and for each man of good will.

Our time needs Saints, and especially the example of those who have given the supreme witness of their love for Christ and his Church: "No one has a greater love than he who gives his life for his friends". These words of the Divine Master, which refer in the first instance to the sacrifice that he himself made on the cross offering himself for the salvation of all humanity, also apply to the great and chosen group of martyrs of all times, from the first persecutions of the Church. rising up to those - perhaps more hidden but no less cruel - of our days. The Church of Christ was born of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross and it continues to grow and develop by virtue of the heroic love of her most authentic children. "Semen est sanguis christianorum". Like the shedding of Christ's blood, so the offering that martyrs make of their life becomes by virtue of their union with the Sacrifice of Christ a source of life and spiritual fertility for the Church and for the whole world. "Therefore - the Constitution Lumen gentium

reminds us (Lumen gentium , 42) - martyrdom, with which the disciple is made similar to the Master who freely accepts death for the health of the world, and conforms to him in the shedding of blood, is esteemed by the Church as an outstanding gift and supreme proof of charity".

Much has been said and written about that mysterious being that is man: about the resources of his genius, capable of penetrating into the secrets of the universe and of subduing material things using them for his purposes; on the greatness of the human spirit which manifests itself in the admirable works of science and art; on his nobility and his weakness; on his triumphs and his miseries. But what characterizes man, what is most intimate in his being and in his personality, is the ability to love, to love to the core, to give oneself with that love which is stronger than death and which extends into eternity.

The 11.30am Mass today will be in honour of the martyrs.

Bishops are encouraging all who can safely do so, to return to a physical participation in the Mass. Here is an link to the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales website on this:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishop-be-physically-present-at-mass-despite-gloom-of-covid/>

Details of the Live Streaming of Sunday Mass for you:

From Our Lady's, London Road, King's Lynn

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8V030I7usRZiKoTlrwBAKg>

11.30am Sunday 25th October

The YouTube link is

https://youtu.be/fPHgN2_K78A

Mass readings are daily uploaded on the parish website:

<http://www.catholicparish-kingslynn.org.uk/>

The parish newsletter for the week can also be found on the website.

Words for an act of spiritual communion.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

This week is the 30th week of the Year and Psalter Week 2 for the Divine Office.

Wednesday (28th Oct) is the Feast day of **Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles.**

Simon is eleventh in the list of the twelve Apostles. He is known as Simon the Zealot, but nothing else is known about him for certain. His other name of “Simon Cananaeus” simply adapts another Hebrew word for “zeal” and has nothing to do with the town of Cana.

Jude, also called Thaddaeus, is the apostle who at the Last Supper asked the Lord why he showed himself only to the disciples and not to the world. For many centuries he was scarcely venerated because people confused him with Judas Iscariot. He is the patron saint of lost and desperate causes.

(Source: <https://universalis.com/europe.english.eastanglia/20201028/today.htm>)

The second reading from the Divine office for the office of readings for SS. Simon & Jude, is **a reading from the commentary of St. Cyril of Alexandria on St. John’s Gospel:**

Our Lord Jesus Christ has appointed certain men to be guides and teachers of the world and stewards of his divine mysteries. Now he bids them to shine out like lamps and to cast out their light not only over the land of the Jews but over every country under the sun and over people scattered in all directions and settled in distant lands. That man has spoken truly who said: No one takes honour upon himself, except the one who is called by God, for it was our Lord Jesus Christ who called his own disciples before all others to a most glorious apostolate. These holy men became the pillar and mainstay of the truth, and Jesus said that he was sending them just as the Father had sent him.

By these words he is making clear the dignity of the apostolate and the incomparable glory of the power given to them, but he is also, it would seem, giving them a hint about the methods they are to adopt in their apostolic mission. For if Christ thought it necessary to send out his intimate disciples in this fashion, just as the Father had sent him, then surely it was necessary that they whose mission was to be patterned on that of Jesus should see exactly why the Father had sent the Son. And so Christ interpreted the character of his mission to us in a variety of ways. Once he said: I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance. And then at another time he said: I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. For God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Accordingly, in affirming that they are sent by him just as he was sent by the Father, Christ sums up in a few words the approach they themselves should take to their ministry. From what he said they would gather that it was their vocation to call sinners to repentance, to heal those who were sick whether in body or spirit, to seek in all their dealings never to do their own will but the will of him who sent them, and as far as possible to save the world by their teaching.

Surely it is in all these respects that we find his holy disciples striving to excel. To ascertain this is no great labour, a single reading of the Acts of the Apostles or of Saint Paul’s writings is enough.

Yesterday (24th Oct) was the memorial of **St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop.**

He was born at Sallent in Catalonia. After becoming a priest he spent several years preaching to the people throughout Catalonia and also in the Canary Islands. Returning to Spain, he established a missionary order, and founded a great religious library and publishing house in Barcelona which published millions of cheap copies of ancient and modern Catholic works. In 1851 the Pope appointed him Bishop of Santiago de Cuba. The diocese was in a terrible state

and everything needed reform and renewal. He reorganised the seminary, enforced clerical discipline, and regularised thousands of marriages. He built a hospital and many schools. This was not done without opposition and he was the subject of fifteen assassination attempts. Recalled to Spain in 1857 by Queen Isabella II to act as her confessor, he did further great work for the Church. His health began to fail, and he died at the Cistercian abbey at Fontfroide.

Easter Offerings 2020.

Because of the pandemic, the Easter collection for the support of our Priests could not take place, so this will now take place next weekend-October 31st/November 1st. In advance of next weekend, may I ask you to consider this important collection in supporting our Priests in thanksgiving for their ministry amongst us and to keep them in your prayers. Thank you.

I wish you a lovely Sunday.

With my love, thoughts and prayers,

God bless

Shaun

Deacon Shaun Morrison

07880 600094

Taken from <http://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/it.html>
CANONIZATION OF FORTY MARTYRS OF ENGLAND AND WALES
HOMILY OF THE HOLY FATHER PAUL VI
Sunday, October 25, 1970

We extend our greeting first to our venerable brother Cardinal John Carmel Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, who is present here today. Together with him We greet Our brother bishops of England and Wales and of all the other countries, those who have come here for this great ceremony. We extend our greeting also to the English priests, religious, students and faithful. We are filled with joy and happiness to have them near us today; for us-they represent all English Catholics scattered throughout the world. Thanks to them we are celebrating Christ's glory made manifest in the holy Martyrs, whom We have just canonized, with such keen and brotherly feelings that We are able to experience in a very special spiritual way the mystery of the oneness and love of the Church. We offer you our greetings, brothers, sons and daughters; While We are particularly pleased to note the presence of the official representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Reverend Doctor Harry Smythe, We also extend Our respectful and affectionate greeting to all the members of the Anglican Church who have likewise come to take part in this ceremony. We indeed feel very close to them. We would like them to read in Our heart the humility, the gratitude and the hope with which We welcome them. We wish also to greet the authorities and those personages who have come here to represent Great Britain, and together with them all the other representatives of other countries and other religions. With all Our heart We welcome them, as we celebrate the freedom and the fortitude of men who had, at the same time, spiritual faith and loyal respect for the sovereignty of civil society.

HISTORICAL EVENT FOR THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

The solemn canonization of the 40 Martyrs of England and Wales that we have just completed offers us the welcome opportunity to speak to you, albeit briefly, on the meaning of their existence and on the importance that their life and death have had and continue to have not only for the Church in England and Wales, but also for the Universal Church, for each one of us, and for each man of good will. Our time needs Saints, and especially the example of those who have given the supreme witness of their love for Christ and his Church: "No one has a greater love than he who gives his life for his friends »(I. 15, 13). These words of the Divine Master, which refer in the first instance to the sacrifice that he himself made on the cross offering himself for the salvation of all humanity, also apply to the great and chosen group of martyrs of all times, from the first persecutions of the Church. rising up to those - perhaps more hidden but no less cruel - of our days. The Church of Christ was born of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross and it continues to grow and develop by virtue of the heroic love of her most authentic children. "Semen est sanguis christianorum" (TERTULL., Apologet., 50; PL 1, 534). Like the shedding of Christ's blood, so the offering that martyrs make of their life becomes by virtue of their union with the Sacrifice of Christ a source of life and spiritual fertility for the Church and for the whole world. "Therefore - the Constitution Lumen gentium reminds us (Lumen gentium , 42) - martyrdom, with which the disciple is made similar to the Master who freely accepts death for the health of the world, and conforms to him in the shedding of blood, is esteemed by the Church as an outstanding gift and supreme proof of charity ". Much has been said and written about that mysterious being that is man: about the resources of his genius, capable of penetrating into the secrets of the universe and of subduing material things using them for his purposes; on the greatness of the human spirit which manifests itself in the admirable works of science and art; on his nobility and his weakness; on his triumphs and his miseries. But what characterizes man, what is most intimate in his being and in his personality, is the ability to love, to love to the core, to give oneself with that love which is stronger than death and which extends into eternity.

THE SACRIFICE IN THE HIGHEST LOVE

The martyrdom of Christians is the most sublime expression and sign of this love, not only because the martyr remains faithful to his love until the shedding of his own blood, but also because this sacrifice is made for the highest and most noble love. that it may exist, that is, out of love for the One who created and redeemed us, who loves us as He alone knows how to love, and expects from us a response of total and unconditional self-giving, that is, a love worthy of our God. In its long and glorious history, Great Britain, the island of saints, has given the world many men and women who have loved God with this sincere and loyal love: for this reason we are happy to have today been able to number 40 other children of this noble land among those whom the Church publicly recognizes as Saints, thereby proposing them to the veneration of her faithful, and so that these portray a vivid example from their lives. To those who read the acts of their martyrdom moved and admired, it is clear, we would like to say evident, that they are the worthy emulators of the greatest martyrs of the past, because of the great humility, intrepidity, simplicity and serenity with which they accepted their sentence and their death, indeed, even more with a spiritual joy and with an admirable and radiant charity. It is precisely this profound and spiritual attitude that unites and unites these men and women, who on the other hand were very different from each other for everything that can differentiate such a large group of people, namely age and sex, culture and education, social status and condition of life, character and temperament, natural and supernatural dispositions, the external circumstances of their existence. In fact, we have secular and regular priests among the 40 Holy Martyrs, we have religious of various Orders and of different rank, we have lay people, men of very noble descent as well as of modest status, we have women who were married and mothers of families: this what unites them all is that interior attitude of unbroken fidelity to God's call that he asked of them, as a response of love, And the response of the martyrs was unanimous: «I cannot help repeating to you that I am dying for God and because of my religion; - so said the Saint Philip Evans - and I feel so happy that if I could ever have many other lives, I would be willing to sacrifice them all for such a noble cause ».

LOYALTY AND LOYALTY

And, like many others, the Holy Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel also asserted: "I am sorry to have

only one life to offer for this noble cause." And Saint Margaret Clitherow with a moving simplicity summarized the meaning of her life and death: "I am dying for the love of my Lord Jesus". "What a small thing this is, when compared to the much more cruel death that Christ suffered for me", so Saint Alban Roe exclaimed.

Like many of their compatriots who died in similar circumstances, these forty men and women of England and Wales wanted to be and were thoroughly loyal to their homeland which they loved with all their hearts; they wanted to be and were in fact faithful subjects of the real power which all - without exception - recognized, until their death, as legitimate in everything that belongs to the civil and political order. But this was precisely the drama of the existence of these martyrs, namely that their honest and sincere loyalty to the civil authority came to be in contrast with the fidelity to God and with what, according to the dictates of their conscience illuminated by the Catholic faith, knew how to involve the revealed truths, especially on the Holy Eucharist and on the inalienable prerogatives of the successor of Peter, who, by God's will, he is the universal Shepherd of the Church of Christ. Faced with the choice of remaining steadfast in their faith and therefore of dying for it, or of having saved their lives by denying the first, they, without a moment's hesitation, and with a truly supernatural strength, sided with God and joyfully they faced martyrdom. But so great was their spirit, so noble were their sentiments, so Christian was the inspiration of their existence, that many of them died praying for their beloved homeland, for the King or Queen, and even for those who had been directly responsible for their capture, their torments, and the ignominious circumstances of their atrocious death. Faced with the choice of remaining steadfast in their faith and therefore of dying for it, or of having saved their lives by denying the first, they, without a moment's hesitation, and with a truly supernatural strength, sided with God and joyfully they faced martyrdom. But so great was their spirit, so noble were their sentiments, so Christian was the inspiration of their existence, that many of them died praying for their beloved homeland, for the King or Queen, and even for those who had been directly responsible for their capture, their torments, and the ignominious circumstances of their atrocious death. Faced with the choice of remaining steadfast in their faith and therefore of dying for it, or of having saved their lives by denying the first, they, without a moment's hesitation, and with a truly supernatural strength, sided with God and joyfully they faced martyrdom. But so great was their spirit, so noble were their sentiments, so Christian was the inspiration of their existence, that many of them died praying for their beloved homeland, for the King or Queen, and even for those who had been directly responsible for their capture, their torments, and the ignominious circumstances of their atrocious death. they took the side of God and joyfully faced martyrdom. But so great was their spirit, so noble were their sentiments, so Christian was the inspiration of their existence, that many of them died praying for their beloved homeland, for the King or Queen, and even for those who had been directly responsible for their capture, their torments, and the ignominious circumstances of their atrocious death. they took the side of God and joyfully faced martyrdom. But so great was their spirit, so noble were their sentiments, so Christian was the inspiration of their existence, that many of them died praying for their beloved homeland, for the King or Queen, and even for those who had been directly responsible for their capture, their torments, and the ignominious circumstances of their atrocious death. The last words and the last prayer of the Saint John Plessington were precisely these: "God bless the King and his family and grant His Majesty a prosperous reign in this life and a crown of glory in the next. God grant peace to his subjects allowing them to live and die in true faith, hope and charity ".

"MAY ALL OBTAIN SALVATION"

Thus Saint Alban Roe, shortly before the hanging, prayed: "Forgive, O my God, my innumerable offenses, as I forgive my persecutors", and, like him, Saint Thomas Garnet who - after having singularly named and forgiven those who had betrayed, arrested and condemned him - he pleaded with God saying: "May all of them obtain salvation and reach heaven with me".

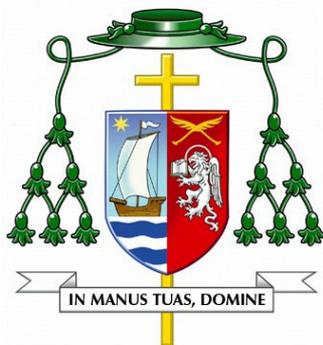
Reading the acts of their martyrdom and meditating on the rich material collected with so much care on the historical circumstances of their life and martyrdom, we are struck above all by what unequivocally and brightly shines in their existence; by its very nature, it is such as to transcend the centuries, and therefore to always remain fully current and, especially today, of capital importance.

We refer to the fact that these heroic sons and daughters of England and Wales took their faith very seriously: this means that they accepted it as the only norm of their life and all their conduct, portraying a great serenity. and a deep spiritual joy. With a freshness and spontaneity not devoid of that precious gift which is the typical mood of their people.

The Church and the world of today have great need of such men and women, of every condition and state of life, priests, religious and laity, because only people of such stature and such holiness will be capable of changing our tormented world and of to give him back, together with peace, that spiritual and truly Christian orientation that every man intimately yearns for - even sometimes without being aware of it - and which we all need so much. May our gratitude rise to God for having wished, in his provident goodness, to raise up these Holy Martyrs, the industriousness and sacrifice of which have contributed to the preservation of the Catholic faith in England and Wales. May the Lord continue to raise up in the Church lay people, religious and priests who are worthy emulators of these heralds of the faith. May God, in his love, also today flourish and develop centers of study, formation and prayer, suitable, in today's conditions, to prepare holy priests and missionaries such as were, in those times, the Venerable Colleges of Rome and Valladolid and the glorious Seminaries of St. Omer and Douai, from which many of the Forty Martyrs came out, because like one of them, a great personality, the Holy Edmund Campion, said: "This Church will never weaken until when there will be priests and shepherds to attend to their flock ». May the Lord grant us the grace that in these times of religious indifferentism and increasingly rampant theoretical and practical materialism, the example and intercession of the Holy Forty Martyrs comfort us in faith, strengthen our authentic love for God, for his Church. and for all men.

FOR THE UNITY OF CHRISTIANS

May the blood of these Martyrs be able to heal the great wound inflicted upon God's Church by reason of the separation of the Anglican Church from the Catholic Church. Is it not one-these Martyrs say to us-the Church founded by Christ? Is not this their witness? Their devotion to their nation gives us the assurance that on the day when-God willing-the unity of the faith and of Christian life is restored, no offense will be inflicted on the honor and sovereignty of a great country such as England. There will be no seeking to lessen the legitimate prestige and the worthy patrimony of piety and usage proper to the Anglican Church when the Roman Catholic Church - this humble "Servant of the Servants of God" - is able to embrace her ever beloved Sister in the one authentic communion of the family of Christ: a communion of origin and of faith, Perhaps We shall have to go on, waiting and watching in prayer, in order to deserve that blessed day. But already We are strengthened in this hope by the heavenly friendship of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales who are canonized today. Amen.



Diocese of Plymouth

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Plymouth Diocesan Trust (Registered Charity Number 213227)

Pastoral Message for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Canonisation of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales – 25th October 2020.

Dear Friends,

This weekend we mark an historic moment – the fiftieth anniversary of the Canonisation of the forty martyrs of England and Wales, which took place on 25th October 1970. On that occasion, Pope Paul VI reminded us

“We have among the 40 holy Martyrs secular and regular priests, religious of various orders, and of different rank, lay people of very noble descent, as well as of modest condition; we have women who were married, mothers with a family. What unites them all is that interior attitude of fidelity to the call of God asked of them, as an answer of love.....The drama of the existence of these martyrs, was that their honest and sincere loyalty to the civil authority came to be in conflict with fidelity to God and with what, according to the dictates of their conscience illuminated by the Catholic faith, they knew to involve the revealed truths, especially to the Holy Eucharist and on the inalienable prerogatives of the successor of Peter, who, at the behest of God, is the universal Pastor of the Church of Christ.” (Pope Paul VI, Homily at the Canonisation of the Forty Martyrs)

We are especially blessed to have one of these Martyrs, St Cuthbert Mayne, as one of our Patrons. He was born and grew up in North Devon and ministered as a priest in Cornwall. He was captured there in 1577 and imprisoned in Launceston Castle for several months before being hung, drawn and quartered in the Market Square on 29th November 1577. He is known as “the protomartyr”, or first, of the “Martyrs of Douai”, some 158 priests who, over a period of a hundred years, were formed for the priesthood at the College of Douai, in France, and who then surreptitiously returned to this country, to minister to the Catholic faithful in secret. When caught, they usually ended up on the scaffold, many of them inspiringly testifying to the truth of their faith, and at the same time, pledging their loyalty to the King or Queen.

We know that one of the pieces of evidence that unjustly condemned St Cuthbert to death was the possession of an *Agnus Dei*. This was a symbol of his priestly office, which he wore around his neck, consisting of the image of the Lamb of God, sealed upon a piece of wax which had come from the Paschal candle blessed by the Pope. It was not only a tangible link to Cuthbert Mayne’s communion with the Holy Father, but also points to the sacrifice of the innocent lamb, Jesus Christ, who went to death on the Cross.

Today, as we keep the memory of this great and well-loved saint, we see where his martyrdom can be truly rooted. It is founded on the death of Jesus, on His supreme sacrifice of love, consummated on the Cross, that we might have life (cf. Jn 10: 10). It is these two truths – the sacrifice of Jesus manifest anew in the sacrifice of the Mass and communion with the Holy Father – for which he and so many others died. These two truths

have, for many centuries, been the hallmarks of the Catholic Faith in these islands.

St Cuthbert's strength to face martyrdom, came from his deep and intimate union with Jesus Christ. We know that in the months he spent in the dark prison cell in Launceston Castle, before his death, St. Cuthbert never lost heart. He spent his long wait by encouraging his fellow prisoners. He often fell on his knees to say his prayers, which lasted far into the night. On one occasion, just after midnight, it is recorded, St. Cuthbert was meditating and praying, and suddenly a bright light shone around him, lighting up the terrible wall of the dungeon. It awakened the other prisoners who wondered where the light was coming from. St. Cuthbert gently told them to go back to sleep and would not talk about it the following day. A miraculous consolation had been given to him in his dismal dungeon. Indeed, the Holy Spirit was preparing him for an eloquence beyond human speech.

That eloquence came in the manner of his death. "*In manus tuas, Domine...Into your hands Lord*". These were the final words he prayed from the scaffold of his execution, his final pulpit. We know they were words prayed by St Stephen, protomartyr of the whole Church, who himself was mirroring the words prayed by Our Lord on the Cross.

They are words with which we are justly consoled at this time, as our world continues to battle with this deadly virus. There is much which could make us feel as though our world is shrouded in gloom, at this moment. We may often feel like that ourselves. When the fear of the present, or of what is to come, seems to overwhelm us, it is into the hands of the Lord that we entrust ourselves. May we have the courage and fidelity that St Cuthbert and the martyrs had. May we, too, experience the light and consolation which only the Holy Spirit can give.

At the same time, let us draw close to the gift of the Mass. If we are able and well enough, and do not have to shield, let us make every effort to be physically present once more at the holy sacrifice of the Mass, in our churches, on a weekday, if not on a Sunday. We can do so safely, whilst observing all the necessary protocols that need to be in place.

I conclude with some further words from Pope Saint Paul VI:

"These heroic sons and daughters of England and Wales took their faith seriously; this means that they accepted it as the only norm of their life and of their whole conduct, portraying a great serenity and a profound spiritual joy. With a freshness and spontaneity not without that precious gift that is the typical mood of their people. The Church and the world today have the greatest need of such men and women, of every state of life: priests, religious and laity, because only people of such stature and holiness will be able to change our tormented world and to give that spiritual and truly Christian orientation to which every person intimately yearns – even sometimes without being aware of it – and of which we all so much need". (Pope Paul VI, Homily at the Canonisation of the Forty Martyrs)

St Cuthbert Mayne.... Pray for us.

Martyrs of our country.... Pray for us.

Please pray for me.

Yours devotedly,

+ Mark O'Toole .

Rt Rev Mark O'Toole
Bishop of Plymouth