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## THE INSTALLATION MASS OF BISHOP THOMAS MATTHEW BURNS sm AS THE 11th BISHOP OF MENEVIA



Bishop Thomas Matthew Burns SM  
11th Bishop of Menevia

**D**ecember 1st was a cold but bright morning; crowds of people gathered in the Cathedral, and others watched outside to see Bishop Thomas installed as the 11th Bishop of Menevia.

By the beginning of the service, the cathedral was packed, and the stewards did an excellent job of seating the many guests, parishioners, civic and military dignitaries. All three armed services were represented, since Bishop Tom has been Bishop of the Armed Forces for the last six years.

Outside the Cathedral, there was a Royal Naval Guard from HMS Raleigh, and a guard of honour provided by 3 Royal Welsh, together with their regimental mascot Shenkin. The first dignitaries to process into the Cathedral were the civic and military leaders; then came the clergy including representatives of other churches, priests from the Armed Forces, and our own clergy. While they entered, the congregation sang 'Christ be our light'; there was then a rousing fanfare from four trumpeters of the Band of the Light Cavalry, which heralded the entry of the Bishops' Procession. Besides Bishop Tom and Bishop (now Emeritus) Mark Jabalé OSB, there were some twenty Bishops of

England and Wales; the principal celebrant, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor; the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, Archbishop Faustino Sainz Muñoz; Cardinal Keith O'Brien, the Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh and President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland; and Archbishop Peter Smith of Cardiff and Metropolitan. As they entered, the congregation sang 'All people that on earth do dwell'.

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor led the introductory rites to the Mass; then came the Liturgy of the Word. The first reading, Isaiah 61.1-3, was read in Welsh by Bishop John Davies, of the Church in Wales - Diocese of Swansea and Brecon. The Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 25, was most beautifully sung by Hannah Dunne of Morryston parish; the second reading, Romans 8.31-39, was read by Dr. Denis Daley, Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory. The Gospel acclamation was one composed by the late and much lamented Dom Alan Rees OSB, of Belmont Abbey; the Gospel, John 15.18-21, was read by our newest deacon, Rev. Michael Smith.

There followed the Rite of installation; the Chancellor of the Diocese, Monsignor Clyde Hughes Johnson, formally requested the Cardinal to install Bishop Thomas, and the mandate from the Holy See was read and shown to the people.

The homily was preached by Cardinal Keith O'Brien, who said that he regarded it as a great privilege to be with us and to be asked to preach, as Bishop Mark moves into a rather active retirement. Bishop Tom brings with him a wide experience, having been 25 years in the Armed Forces, and bishop for the last 6 years. During that time he has endeared himself to all the hierarchies of Great Britain, and has done valuable work as bishop and on behalf of the Apostleship of the Sea. He is also a keen supporter of HCPT, who will benefit by a fine of £1 from anyone who addresses him as 'My Lord'!

Cardinal O'Brien said that the readings which Bishop Tom had chosen for this Mass said much about the role of a Bishop. They stressed the theme of service throughout the life of a Bishop; the passage from Isaiah being repeated by Jesus himself at the start of his ministry. Paul in the passage from Romans assures us that nothing can come between us and the love of God; the passage from John is realistic, warning us that as Christians we will often be hated and persecuted as Christ was. Referring to the documents of Vatican II, Cardinal O'Brien said that Bishop Tom must think carefully about the role of a bishop, not only in Menevia but as part of the universal Church, since all Bishops must be clearly united to each other; they must reach out prayerfully to their people, and lead the people to reach out to each other.

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