



Dolen Mynyw Menevia News

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Archbishop Peter Smith installed as Archbishop of Southwark

The Most Reverend Peter Smith, formerly Archbishop of Cardiff, has been installed as the Archbishop of Southwark.

The Mass and Installation took place at St George's Cathedral, Southwark on Thursday 10th June 2010. The appointment was announced by the Holy Father on 30th April 2010.

He is the tenth bishop of Southwark and succeeds Archbishop Kevin McDonald, who resigned due to ill-health in December last year.

Archbishop Peter was born in Southwark and was ordained in Southwark. He was welcomed home at his Mass of Installation.

Along with Archbishops emeriti Kevin and Michael, Bishops John, Patrick and Paul and Bishop emeritus Howard, this joyful ceremony was attended by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, the Archbishops of Westminster,

Birmingham and Liverpool and most of the Bishops of England and Wales and Bishops from further afield, ecumenical and civic dignitaries, priests and deacons of the diocese, with many from Archbishop Peter's previous diocese of Cardiff, and, of course, religious and laity from around Southwark.

During his homily, Archbishop Peter suggested that our prayer each day should be:

'Open my ears that I may hear.
Open my eyes that I may see.
Open my heart to receive your transforming and purifying Spirit.'



The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said after the appointment was announced:

"I am delighted at the appointment of Archbishop Peter Smith as Archbishop of Southwark, while at the same time sympathising with the priests, religious and people of Cardiff. Archbishop Peter is an outstanding and experienced leader. He will be warmly welcomed back to his home diocese, just as he will be sorely missed in Cardiff. I can assure him of the prayers and good wishes of us all."

Magnificent Celebration for St John Roberts at Cymer Abbey



Established in 1198 by one of the Welsh princes in a beautiful wooded valley near Dolgellau, Cymer Abbey is, today, a ruin. But it still retains its romance and it was here that 800 people from all over Wales flocked to celebrate the 400th anniversary of St John Roberts on Sunday 6th June.

The Mass was a magnificent event. Over forty priests, bishops and monks came together, the Papal Nuncio sent his representatives and leaders of civic society in this part of Wales were present, the Presiding Officer of the National Assembly, Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas, the MP Elyfn Llwyd, the Lord Lieutenant Huw Morgan Daniel, the High Sheriff, Eifion Evans and County and Local Councillors.



Bishop Edwin before the Mass with the banner of St John Roberts and Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas in the background

The Prior of Downside with his monks was there as well as monks from Caldey Island.

The nuns from the Carmelite convent from Dolgellau

had special permission to leave the convent for the mass and were joined by Italian nuns from the Bridgetine Order in Holywell.

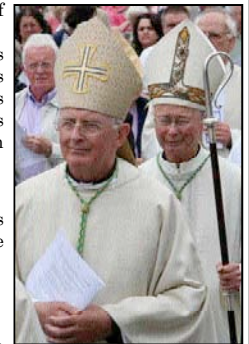
The Menevia diocese was strongly represented with Bishop Tom Burns concelebrating and people from as far away as Pembrokeshire turned up.

The procession onto the altar from the ruins of the Abbey was a stunning scene, with Bishop Edwin Regan, the Bishop of Wrexham who, now that Archbishop Peter Smith has moved to Southwark, is the senior Bishop in Wales, presided,

Remarkably, two High Court Judges made the readings, Huw Daniel in Welsh and Michael Farmer in English.

The singing enchanted the entire congregation. Three choirs had come together, the Wrexham Diocesan Choir, a small choir from Newcastle Emlyn and Schola St Joseph from Pwllheli. They sang their socks off.

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Bishop Tom and Bishop Edwin leading the procession to the altar



The Carmelites from Dolgellau who left their convent for only the third time in their history for this magnificent event



Bishop Tom Burns and Kevin McDonald from Aberystwyth Parish enjoy their picnic before the Mass

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