

# THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF KING'S LYNN

## OUR BISHOP

The Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation

London Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE30 5HQ.

### The Right Revd. Alan Hopes - Bishop of East Anglia

The Right Reverend Alan Stephen Hopes was born in Oxford, England on 17th March 1944 and was educated at Oxford High School until he moved to London in 1956, when he attended Enfield Grammar School. In 1966 he took a degree in theology at King's College London and then attended Warminster Theological College.

In 1968 he was ordained for ministry in the Church of England and served as an Anglican priest until 1994 when he was received into the Catholic Church.

He was ordained a Catholic priest on 4th December, 1995, by Cardinal Basil Hume in Westminster Cathedral, and for three years served as Assistant Priest at Our Lady of Victories in Kensington, London, before becoming Parish Priest of the Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More Parish, Chelsea.

In 2001, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor appointed him Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Westminster and in 2002 became a member of The Bishops' Conference Committee for Liturgy and Worship. The following year on 4th January 2003 he was appointed by Pope (now Saint) John Paul II as an Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster with the title of Titular Bishop of Cuncacestre (Chester-le-Street) successor to Saint Cuthbert.

This appointment made him one of the most senior members of Catholic clergy to have converted in the 1990s. On 24th January 2003 he was ordained to the Episcopate in Westminster Cathedral by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor.

In October 2010, Bishop Hopes was appointed as Episcopal Delegate of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for the implementation of the Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum coetibus* promulgated by Pope Benedict XVI to enable those members of the Church of England seeking full communion with the Catholic Church to be received and maintain many of their liturgical practices.

On 11th June 2013, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Hopes as the fourth Bishop of East Anglia and he was duly installed on 16th July 2013 at St John the Baptist Cathedral, Norwich.

In November 2014 Bishop Hopes was made a Knight Commander with Star of The Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

*Bishop Alan Hopes was appointed Bishop of East Anglia in June 2013. Bishop Hopes was ordained priest in the Church of England in 1968 and served until he was received into the Catholic Church in 1994. He was ordained priest in the Catholic Church in December 1995. He was ordained bishop in Westminster's Metropolitan Cathedral of the Most Precious Blood on 24 January 2003. He is Chairman of The Committee for Liturgy and is a member of the Bishops' Conference Department of Life and Worship.*



*Rt. Revd. Alan Hopes  
4th Bishop of East Anglia*



*Bishop Alan Stephen Hopes'  
Coat-of-Arms  
by grant of the College of Arms*

## **Each bishop in the Catholic Church is a successor to the Apostles.**

Ordained by fellow bishops, who were themselves ordained by fellow bishops, each bishop can trace a direct, unbroken line of ordination back to the Apostles, a condition known as "apostolic succession." As with the original Apostles, the office of the bishop, the episcopate, is reserved for baptized males. While some of the Apostles (notably Saint Peter) were married, from an early point in the Church's history, the episcopacy was reserved to unmarried men. In the Eastern Church (Catholic and Orthodox), bishops are drawn from the ranks of monks.

## **Visible Source and Foundation of Unity of the Local Church**

Just as each of the Apostles went forth from Jerusalem to spread the Word of God by founding local churches, of which they became the head, so, too, the bishop today is the visible source of unity in his diocese, his local church. He is responsible for the spiritual and, to a certain extent, even the physical care of those in his diocese—first the Christians, but also for anyone residing therein. He rules his diocese as a portion of the universal Church.

## **Herald of the Faith**

The first duty of the bishop is the spiritual welfare of those who reside in his diocese. That includes preaching the Gospel not only to the converted but, even more importantly, to the unconverted. In the day-to-day matters of life, the bishop guides his flock, to help them better understand the Christian faith and concretely translate it into action. He ordains priests and deacons to assist him in preaching the Gospel and celebrating the sacraments.

## **Steward of Grace**

"The Eucharist," the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "is the centre of the life of the particular Church" or diocese. The bishop, as the supreme priest in his diocese, upon whose authority all other priests of the diocese must depend, holds the primary responsibility for ensuring that the sacraments are offered to the people. In the cases of the Sacrament of Confirmation, its celebration (in the Western Church) is normally reserved to the bishop, to emphasize his role as the steward of grace for his diocese.

## **Shepherd of Souls**

The bishop does not lead simply by example and by safeguarding the grace of the sacraments, however. He is also called to exercise the authority of the Apostles, which mean governing his local church and correcting those who are in error. When he acts in communion with the whole Church (in other words, when he does not teach something contrary to the Christian faith), he has the power to bind the consciences of the faithful in his diocese. Moreover, when all of the bishops act together, and their action is confirmed by the Pope, their teaching on faith and morals is infallible, or free from error.

