



February 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

It was a remarkable few months for the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham at the end of last year. Our patron, St John Henry Newman, was canonised in St Peter's Square in October when a large number of our priests and people were able to be present. The Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the promulgation of the Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum Coetibus*, which brought the Personal Ordinariates into existence, with a successful academic symposium in Rome. Back home we celebrated the anniversary with a splendid Mass at Precious Blood in Borough where Cardinal Nichols gave a most encouraging homily. It was wonderful to look back and celebrate what has happened over the past ten or more years to bring us to where we are today – communities in the Full Communion of the Catholic Church celebrating our distinctive heritage. It is however, more important to look forward, to what we will do in the coming years to secure and advance our mission within the Catholic Church in England and Wales. There will be further celebrations when we mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginnings of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham in 2021. Much has been achieved but there is also much work still to do.

To guide our efforts over the next five to ten years I asked a small group, comprising both clergy and laity, to consider our strategy for the next stage of our mission. Moving forward from the report *Growing Up, Growing Out*, which was published in 2015, the group has produced a Vision Document called *Our Mission and our Calling*. It was launched on 9<sup>th</sup> November at our celebration of the tenth anniversary. Our priests discussed it earlier this month at our plenary meeting and copies have been sent to Group pastors and members of the Pastoral Council. I have asked them to read this vision document and, once digested, to meet with members of their group to consider how it might be implemented. It is a document which will need to be referred to often, so that we might have a shared vision for the Ordinariate over for the future. Support and advice will be available for any initiatives the groups undertake.

I encourage you all to engage with your priests, in due course, to see how your group, mission or parish can play its part in the exciting adventure of developing the Ordinariate in the future. We have been given a particular mission by our Holy Fathers Benedict XVI and by Pope Francis who has continued to encourage the work of the Ordinariates; it will not always be easy but we know that God will give us the resources we need to persevere.

It is particularly appropriate that we put our trust and ask for the prayers of our patroness, Our Lady of Walsingham, in all that we do as we look forward to the future. It is fortuitous then that on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, following the example of King Richard II in 1381 and encouraged by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, we will rededicate England and more importantly ourselves as the 'Dowry of Mary' - set aside as a gift to our Lady. I hope all our groups, whether

separately or within a diocesan parish, will take part in this great act of dedication. To help us all to do this we are encouraged from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February to prepare ourselves by taking part in a personal consecration to Jesus through Mary using material produced by St Louis de Montfort called '33 days to Morning Glory'. This material is available from your priests or from the Shrine at Walsingham.

I wish you and your families every blessing as we prepare for this rededication next month.

Yours in Christ

Monsignor Keith Newton

Ordinary

11th February 2020 – The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes