

# INSTALLATION MASS

## The Right Reverend Thomas Matthew Burns SM BA BD as 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Menevia

*Monday 01 December 2008  
St Joseph's Cathedral, Swansea*

*INTERVIEW with Bishop Tom*

### **How will you be approaching my new job in Menevia?**

It is important for me to get to know the length and breadth, the height and depth, of the diocese. This will mean getting around as much as possible, meeting as many people as possible, and most of all listening to what they have to tell me.

### **What changes will you make?**

My priority is to take stock of the current situation, to speak with the clergy and the people, and to consult about whatever issues there may be. If there's anything at all that I wish to start it's this: I would welcome a new approach to decision-making, so that it is informed by consultation first of all, plus collaboration with as many of those involved as possible, and is completed by everyone taking responsibility for the outcome. I suppose it's a bit of an ideal, but we can make a start. Ultimately, responsibility for the diocese must remain with me, because I will probably have the broader picture. It will not be possible to please everybody all of the time – or even some people some of the time! But I seek support and understanding, along with full commitment to this process by means of calm, honest and frank exchanges.

### **What else do you have in mind?**

I hope to enjoy myself in Wales! Wales is to be my home. I come with an open mind to learning about its culture: its language, its literature, its music – and, of course, its rugby! In return, I ask people to accept me as I am, just as I will try to accept them as they are, not how I might want them to be. Together we will all move forward in promoting the Lord's work. After all, it's HIS Church, not mine! He will help all of us.

### **Who would you like to thank today?**

I would like to thank hundreds of people, too many to thank individually, who have made this day possible. There are those who have come from far and near to attend the Installation. Behind the scenes, so many people have worked long and hard, over several weeks, in making the preparations for the ceremony, the music, the catering, and a host of other detailed arrangements. Events like this do not just simply happen, without hours of paperwork and printing, phone-calls and e-mails, preparatory meetings and impromptu discussions, and then going over everything again to make sure it's all correct and everyone has been taken into account. To all these people I say: A BIG thank you to you all for all that you are and all that you have done so generously by contributing your time and effort. I greatly appreciate your unstinting work for our parishes, for the diocese, for its societies and organizations, which has made this day memorable in all our lives for some time to come.