LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN CENTRE FOR EVANGELISATION

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Introduction to the Annual Civic Mass and welcome to Archbishop Vincent Nichols by the Most Reverend Patrick Kelly, Archbishop of Liverpool. Sunday 14 February 2010 at 11.00 am in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool.

Archbishop Vincent, the setting of this your home Cathedral, to which we welcome you today, speaks of many years of co-operation between Church, University, City and Region. It speaks of the potential offered to the Church here to be faithful to the Lord's words: salt of the earth, light of the world. Both in your years as a priest in this diocese and more and more over the years we know your concern that the light which comes from him, who is the light of the world, shall inspire, challenge, and encourage all those who generously serve in public office. You can clearly see how strongly that service to the common good is represented here today. One thing was not in our control: a Sunday after a week of triumph for the reds, but red, blue, saints, warriors, wolves, scouse, Lancastrian, we are delighted you are with us for this year's civic Mass and to interpret the scriptures for us as we come together at the table of the Lord's Word and the Lord's Body. Vincent, welcome home.

14 February 2010