



# CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

Opening Address: Celebration of 125th Anniversary of the  
Diocese of Dhaka

*Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor*

9 NOVEMBER 2012, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

**Archbishop Patrick, Your Excellency, distinguished guests, my dear sisters and brothers in the Lord, my brother bishops, friends one and all.**

It has been a genuine privilege and joy for me to have accepted the Holy Father's wish that I respond as his envoy to your generous invitation to these great celebrations.

I am most grateful to Bishop Theo for his warm words of welcome and for the fellowship I have experienced from him and all the Bishops during my brief time among you.

I am deeply moved by your kindness and warmth, particularly as it is offered to me as our Holy Father's special representative for this occasion.

May I take this opportunity to say a very special word of thanks to your Papal Nuncio. He has been a gracious and gentle host. I commend him to you as an exemplary representative of the pastoral heart of the Holy Father and of the communion of the Church in which we all share.

Your devotion to Pope Benedict and concern for his wellbeing and his ministry is a true mark of the strength and depth of the communion of heart and mind that we share within the Catholic Church, with and through Peter.

It is right that enjoying a celebration is part of our Christian vocation. We are after all a people who "wait in joyful hope." It is good to find reasons to count our blessings.

Back in my own country this year we too have been celebrating. We have rejoiced in sixty years of the reign of HM Queen Elizabeth and seen a great wave of affection and joy sweep across the whole land and across the Commonwealth of which this nation of Bangladesh is of course a part.

So it is with the double bond of a common faith and our shared place in the world that I thank you once again for your welcome and I look forward to celebrating this great day with you all.

**-- The Cardinal is invited to declare the celebrations open --**

It is my honour and privilege as Special Envoy of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to declare the official opening of the grand celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the creation of the Diocese of Dhaka, and to ask the Good Lord to bestow an abundance of heavenly graces upon all those participating in this singular and joyous event in the life of this Particular Church.

**Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor**  
*Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster*