

## **Ordination of Bishop Richard Moth**

Catholic Bishop of the Forces

*Westminster Cathedral, 29 September 2009*

### **Archbishop Kevin McDonald's welcome**

It is wonderful for us to be here this morning for the Ordination of Mgr Richard Moth as Bishop.

On behalf of the Archbishop of Westminster, I welcome very specially Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent, who is representing Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall, Commodore-in-Chief, Naval Chaplaincy Service.

May I also welcome the Trustees of the Service Chaplaincy Trusts. Their continued and committed support is a vital contribution to the Bishopric of the Forces and to all the Chaplains in their ministry.

May I offer an especially warm welcome to all our service personnel who are here with us this morning. The Bishopric of the Forces exists to serve you, to enable you to find strength in your faith in Christ, especially through the sacraments and the very particular ministry of our Chaplains. Thank you for being with us.

I particularly acknowledge the presence of Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor and, of course, the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Sainz Muñoz, and the other Bishops with us today. Likewise I warmly greet our ecumenical guests.

There are many priests and people here from the Southwark Diocese who like me have made the very difficult journey across the river and it is a pleasure for me to welcome them, along with family and friends of Bishop-elect Richard.

It is indeed wonderful for us to be here.

So let us now stand and be open to the healing and forgiveness of God of which we all stand in need.