



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES
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Thursday 3rd July 2014

Your Eminences, Excellencies,

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to address the 18th Plenary Assembly of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences of East Africa (AMECEA) to assure you of the prayers and good wishes of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW).

The CBCEW is proud of the work that is carried out by its agencies such as Missio (UK) and CAFOD, as well as the contributions of so many missionaries to the life of the Church in East Africa.

A rich and newer dimension to the relations between the Church in England and Wales and the Church in East Africa are the growing communities of Africans - and the network of African chaplains mandated by you to minister to them – as well as the presence of African missionaries who assist us in our work of evangelisation.

As a Conference we are aware that there are many areas of pastoral care where you have so much to teach us – care of your diaspora communities here in the England and Wales, tackling difficult issues such as migration, trafficking, sexual violence and FGM – and we hope that you will keep this in mind during your discussions. We are encouraged by our growing network of relationships with different conferences in Africa and elsewhere in the world. It is our hope that this network will continue to grow and develop.

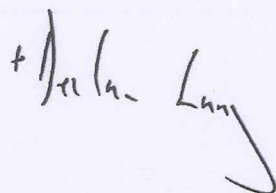
We would also like to do more to support your work and remain open and willing to support your efforts, be that by helping publicise your pastoral messages or by facilitating your efforts to raise political issues with Her Majesty's Government.

As we look ahead to the coming Synod on family and the definition of new development targets post-2015, we are convinced that if we can make better use of our relationship as Church, both in terms of sharing information and uniting our efforts, we will be able to ensure that faith organisations are an influential voice in modelling our future. We are aware that you too see this as a priority and await the outcomes of your Assembly to explore how we might support this.

May the Holy Spirit guide you in your deliberations.

With the best wishes and prayers of The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Declan Lang". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Bishop Declan,

Bishop of Clifton and Chairman of the International Affairs Department of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales