



A New Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Southwark

On Monday 28 November 2022 it was announced that His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed **Mgr Philip Moger** as an Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Southwark. A priest of the Diocese of Leeds for 40 years, Bishop-Elect Moger has, until now, been the Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk.

Message from Archbishop John Wilson

On hearing news of the appointment Archbishop John Wilson, the Archbishop of Southwark, said:

‘I am very grateful to His Holiness Pope Francis for appointing a new Auxiliary Bishop to the Archdiocese of Southwark. I offer to Bishop-Elect Philip Moger the warmest of welcomes. He brings a vast array of experience to this new mission having served the Church as a priest for forty years. I know he will be such a great blessing to the people and communities in our Archdiocese, bringing gifts of joy, encouragement and personal warmth. He is a man of faith and prayer who loves Christ, his Church and his people. I very much look forward to working with him as we continue to shape our missionary Archdiocese in the service of the Gospel. I know that Bishop-Elect Moger will embody generosity and compassion as, together, we seek to make Christ known, loved and served. I ask everyone in our parish and school communities to pray for him as he prepares for this new mission among and with us.’

Message from the Bishop-Elect

Following the news of his appointment, Bishop Elect-Moger said:

‘As well as being very surprised, I am humbled indeed by the Holy Father appointing me to be an Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark. I accept this calling with a glad and open heart. I shall, of course, be sorry to leave England’s National Shrine of Our Lady, in Walsingham, and my home Diocese of Leeds, but I look forward to moving even further south, getting to know the Archdiocese of Southwark and working with Archbishop John Wilson, Bishop Paul Hendricks, and the clergy, religious and lay faithful in South London and Kent. Throughout my priesthood, and the various missions entrusted to me, I have much to thank God for. In Walsingham, England’s

Nazareth, I learned much from the many faith-filled pilgrims who sought to be wrapped in Our Lady's mantle of prayer. I have much to learn once more, and I depend on Our Lady's prayers and yours. Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.'

Message from Bishop Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds

On receiving the news of the appointment, Bishop Marcus said:

'I pray that Bishop-Elect Philip Moger will bring to his new episcopal ministry all the wisdom and skills he has demonstrated over the last forty years of his priestly ministry here in his home diocese. In the parishes that he served and in the various ministries which he held, Bishop-Elect Moger's deep faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ and his personal warmth fostered strong bonds of ecclesial communion among the people he tended. He can be assured of the prayerful support of the clergy and lay faithful of the Diocese of Leeds for his future ministry as an Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Southwark. May the intercession of Our Lady of Unfailing Help and the prayers of St Wilfrid continue to sustain him in the years ahead.'

Date for Episcopal Ordination

The date for Bishop-Elect Moger's Episcopal Ordination is Tuesday 21 February 2023 in St George's Cathedral, Southwark.

Brief Biography of Bishop Elect Philip Moger

Born in 1955, Bishop-Elect Philip Moger grew up in Halifax, Yorkshire. His mother died when he was five and he was raised by his grandmother and father. He began his working life in banking and then entered St Cuthbert's Seminary at Ushaw in County Durham to begin studies for the priesthood.

He was ordained for the Diocese of Leeds in 1982 and was appointed an assistant priest at St Urban's, Headingley, also serving as a chaplain to the local school, a Sue Ryder home and a hospital for people with learning difficulties. In 1985 he was appointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Centre in Ilkley to serve the renewal of parishes and schools.

In 1992 he was appointed an assistant at Leeds Cathedral and was also appointed as Vocations Director. He served as Bishops' Secretary and as a Parish Priest in parishes in Bradford and Leeds. In 2008 he returned to Leeds Cathedral as Dean. He was appointed a Prelate of Honour, with the title Monsignor, and subsequently a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter. He chaired the Diocese of Leeds Liturgical Commission, was Director of Liturgy of the Diocese of Leeds Lourdes Pilgrimage and was also responsible for the liturgies during the Papal Visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Great Britain in 2010. In September 2020 he took up the appointment as the Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk.

About the Archdiocese of Southwark

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark consists of three pastoral areas - South West London, South East London and Kent. There are 20 deaneries with 176 parishes and 174 schools across the South East of England.

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