

As we recall the birthday of Mary Potter on November 22nd 1847, we look back again at her life and the Mission begun in Hyson Green in Nottingham

Mary Potter - Who was she?

Born in London in 1847, the only girl in a family of 5, whose father walked out on them. She grew up never knowing him. As a young woman she was involved in education and reaching out to those in need. She broke off her engagement and as her spirituality deepened she felt drawn to religious life. She entered the Mercy Sisters, but soon returned to her mother. Mary suffered ill health but this was not in vain. During times of pain and suffering of mind and body she trusted in God and prayed for all who were suffering and dying. Through her own experience the dream of founding a Congregation to pray for the sick and dying eventually became a reality. She sought help and guidance, she made her way to Nottingham where she made an appointment to see Bishop Bagshawe. The outcome of their meeting was the beginning of her longed for dream - the founding of The Little Company of Mary in Hyson Green. An old disused factory became the first convent, officially opened on July 2nd 1877 when 4 women became the first members of her Congregation. The Mission had begun in Hyson Green, consisting of



education, praying and caring for the sick and dying and helping lapsed Catholics. Rome was soon on the horizon where she obtained approval for her Order from Pope Leo XIV. From then on the Congregation grew in number and spread to many parts of the world. Mary Potter died in Rome on April 9th 1913. In recognition of her deep faith and holiness and the authenticity of her writing, she was declared Venerable by Pope

John Paul II on February 8th 1988. Her mortal remains were translated to our Cathedral of St Barnabas, Nottingham on December 3rd 1997, now her resting place. The work and mission of education and caring for the sick, needy and dying begun by Mary Potter still continues in Nottingham and in many parts of the world where the Sisters are helped and supported by Affiliates, Associates and Volunteers.



The Little Company of Mary

The Mission continues today in many parts of the world and God is still calling, be attentive to him, he may be calling you.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OUR MISSION VISIT US AT
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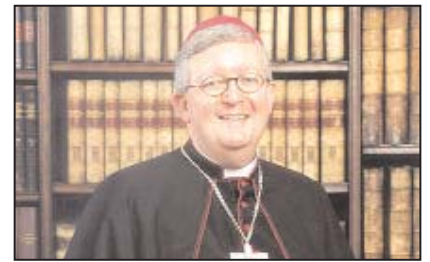
The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has announced that Bishop Bernard Longley, currently Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Westminster, will be the next Archbishop of Birmingham.

Bishop Longley was named the ninth Archbishop of Birmingham on 1 October 2009. He succeeds the Archbishop of Westminster, the Most Reverend Vincent Nichols (2000-2009).

On learning of the Papal announcement, the Archbishop of Westminster, Vincent Nichols said: "I welcome the news of the appointment of Bishop Bernard Longley as Archbishop of Birmingham. I am confident that he will be warmly welcomed, right across the Archdiocese: in Stoke on Trent, Stafford, Wolverhampton, Coventry, Birmingham, Worcester and Oxford. The clergy, religious and laity of the Archdiocese will appreciate the qualities he brings: his gentleness and sensitivity; his firmness and intelligence; his profound and joyful faith; his willingness to listen. "I am sure, too, that Bishop Bernard will grow to love this fine Archdiocese, just as I did."

The Diocesan Administrator for the Birmingham Archdiocese, Bishop William Kenney, CP, said: "I am delighted to hear that Bishop Bernard Longley is to become the new Archbishop of Birmingham. I am sure that the Auxiliary Bishops, Priests, Deacons and the Lay people of the Archdiocese will make him feel very welcome in the Midlands. We look forward to Bishop Bernard becoming a follower in the footsteps of Bishop Ullathorne, the first Roman Catholic Bishop of Birmingham and to his taking a lead in the preparations for the Beatification of Cardinal Newman."

Bishop Longley was ordained as a priest and later as a bishop by Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor. About the appointment, the Cardinal said: "I had the privilege of ordaining Bishop Bernard as a priest in 1981 and later as a bishop in 2003. Bishop Bernard has been an exceptionally good priest and bishop, exhibiting at all times those Christian qualities of kindness and compassion in his ministry. The priests and people of the Archdiocese of Birmingham should rejoice



and be glad in welcoming their new Archbishop who will, I know, prove a most generous and caring shepherd."

After receiving news of his appointment, Bishop Bernard Longley said: "I feel immensely honoured and very humbled that the Holy Father has appointed me to succeed Archbishop Vincent Nichols as Archbishop of Birmingham. I look forward to serving the Priests and Deacons, the Religious and all the People of the Archdiocese and to working alongside my brother Bishops there. I also look forward to knowing and appreciating the life of the Diocese and the many ways in which it reaches out with the love and truth of Christ, in its parish and school communities and through ecumenical and inter-religious friendships. I am grateful to Bishop William Kenney for his faithful service as Diocesan Administrator over recent months and for the welcome that he has already shown to me.

"It won't be easy to leave the Diocese of Westminster which has been my home for the past seven years. It will be sad to say goodbye, especially to the East and Central London parishes where the Priests, Parishioners and Religious have become good friends. It has been a privilege to work with Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor and my fellow Auxiliary Bishops and more recently with Archbishop Vincent, and I thank them for all that I have learnt from their insights and experience."

Bishop Longley will be Installed as Archbishop on 8 December 2009.

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