

Statement from Mgr John Wilson, Administrator of the Diocese of Leeds, following the appointment by His Holiness Pope Francis of Mgr Marcus Stock as the tenth Bishop of Leeds

"With great joy we have received the wonderful news that His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Monsignor Marcus Stock to be the tenth Bishop of Leeds. We have longed and prayed for this day since the transfer, in 2012, of our former bishop, Archbishop Arthur Roche, to work as Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in Rome. On behalf of the clergy, religious and lay faithful, of the Diocese of Leeds I would like to thank Pope Francis most sincerely for the gift of Mgr Stock and to extend to our Bishop-Elect the warmest of welcomes as he prepares to take up his new responsibility as the shepherd of our Diocese. His extensive experience and many outstanding qualities will be a rich blessing to us and to all whom he serves. We will keep him in our prayers as we look forward to his episcopal ministry amongst us. As a successor of the apostles he is charged with calling each one of us to be missionary disciples who witness to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ with resilient faith, unfailing hope and enduring love. Thanks be to God for our new Bishop."

The Diocese of Leeds - The Diocese of Leeds is one of 22 Dioceses which together make up the Catholic Church in England and Wales. It consists of 94 parishes, mainly in West Yorkshire, but also in parts of North Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, the East Riding of Yorkshire and Lancashire. It also includes 99 Catholic schools and Colleges. Through its parish and school communities the Diocese of Leeds serves local people, both Catholic and non-Catholic, by advancing the Roman Catholic Faith, promoting Catholic teaching, offering pastoral care through its clergy and lay people, providing and maintaining churches and associated buildings, and supporting Catholic schools. Diocesan parishes and schools also collaborate with a large number of Catholic societies based in the Diocese. Furthermore, the Diocese also seeks to work with other religious and non-religious groups, and all people of good will, in the service of the common good. The Diocese of Leeds (Leeds Diocesan Trust) is a charitable trust (registered charity number 249404).

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