

Commissioning of IARCCUM Bishops

Fourteen centuries ago Pope Gregory sent the servant of God, Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, and his companions, from this holy place, to preach the joyful message of the Word of God. Today we send you, dear brothers, servants of God, with this same joyful message of his everlasting kingdom.

Q: As our Lord sent out his disciples in pairs, will you be true pilgrim companions to one another in this missionary journey?

A: I will, the Lord being my helper

Q. Will you in word and deed proclaim the good news of peace for those who live under the threat of violence, the good news of mercy for those who live in want and with shame, and it is the good news of justice for those who are oppressed?

A: I will, the Lord being my helper.

The Venerable Bede tells us that Augustine arrived in England with only the divine power of the grace of God, the banner of the cross and the image of the Saviour.

Q. Will you seek your strength in the grace of God, and with love and prayer for those you serve?

A: I will, the Lord being my helper.

Q: Will you strive to be united in preaching the gospel in word and deed and united serving those who are most vulnerable and marginalised?

A: I will, the Lord being my helper.

May the ecumenical spirit in which you witness to this gospel be a transformative sign for our communities. And may Catholics and Anglicans everywhere be inspired to give a united witness to the world, like Augustine and his companions gathered under one cross and one Saviour.

Our Saviour commissioned his disciples saying, "Peace be with you" (Jn 20:21). We too, send you out with his peace, a peace only he can give. May his peace bring freedom to those who are captive and oppressed, and may his peace bind into greater unity the people he has chosen as his own.

AMEN.

The bishops come forward from the side aisles in their pairs. The Pope and Archbishop give each a sign of peace and the exit down the centre aisle together.