



## CATHOLIC PRIESTS WELCOME WOMEN BISHOPS

The Society of Catholic Priests (SCP) warmly welcomes the decision of the General Synod of the Church of England to proceed with the legislation to ordain women to the episcopate. We are delighted that the people of our dioceses will now be able to give consideration to the proposals.

The members of the Society are conscious that many brothers and sisters within the catholic wing of the Church of England are unhappy with the legislation but are confident that the statutory Code of Practice will provide such a level of care for those who cannot accept the ministry of ordained women that they will be able to remain partners with us in God's mission to our nation.

We look forward to working in our dioceses, deaneries and parishes through prayer and debate to enable the church to move swiftly and decisively to the first ordination of women bishops in our two provinces.

Speaking immediately after the debate the Society's Rector General, Canon Andrew Nunn commented: "SCP is confident that the majority of Anglicans who identify themselves as catholic will welcome this development and feel a new energy for catholic evangelism in England."

### **Note for Editors**

The Society of Catholic Priests, of which the Archbishop of Canterbury is Patron, was founded in 1994 for men and women in priestly orders from the catholic wing of the Anglican Church. Its members believe that the three orders of bishop, priest and deacon should be open to men and women. The Society currently comprises almost 600 members in the British Isles and has members in Europe, North America and Australia.

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