

Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham

PRESS RELEASE

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Seventeen men were ordained for service in the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham in London today.

At the largest single ordination in the UK for many years, the men - all former Anglican clergy - were ordained as deacons at the request of Monsignor Keith Newton, the Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, by Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster and former Anglican, Bishop Alan Hopes.

The celebration marks the second year of ordinations for the Ordinariate, which was established in 2011 to allow Anglicans to enter into the full communion of the Catholic Church whilst retaining essential elements of their liturgical and spiritual heritage.

After the service Mgr Newton reflected on the day, saying, "It is wonderful to see these men ordained as deacons for service in the Catholic Church, within the Ordinariate. As we continue to grow and begin our work of faithful witness to the Gospel, it is important for us all to be reminded of the charism of the Deacon: proclamation, service, and Christian charity".

Amongst those ordained were former Anglican clergy from Scotland, Darlington, Portsmouth, Northampton and Oxford.

The homily was given by Mgr Andrew Burnham, former Anglican bishop of Ebbsfleet and now an Assistant to the Ordinary.

The ordination brings the total number of clergy in the Personal Ordinariate to nearly 80. A further group of diaconal ordinations is expected over the summer.