



# PAPAL VISIT

CELEBRATION OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION  
ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, TWICKENHAM  
17 SEPTEMBER 2010



## Prayer with Religious

GREETING - SR. THÉRÈSE BROWNE

Your Holiness,

It is with great joy that I extend a very warm welcome to you this morning here at St. Mary's University College on behalf of the Religious of the United Kingdom. Your presence among us as Vicar of Christ is indeed a wonderful blessing for which we give thanks to God.

We are both encouraged and grateful that the ministries and prayerful presence of Religious in this land through the centuries are being acknowledged on this day 'as a leaven for good'.

We wish to assure you, Your Holiness, that the Religious of England, Wales and Scotland are endeavouring to sustain their commitment to Mission through a variety of ministries, especially among those who are made poor and vulnerable, despite the challenges of rapid social and cultural change in our society, and increasing frailty and diminishment in our membership.

Working collaboratively with each other, with laity and increasingly with other denominations and faith communities we strive to give witness to the mystical and prophetic dimensions of our vocation and to give practical expression to the Social Teaching of our Church.

Mindful of the demands which may be made on you during these days of pilgrimage we assure you of our support and our prayer.

In all your encounters as Head of Church and State may you bear witness to the dignity and giftedness of every person and the inclusiveness of God's love.

We pray that the faith of our people may be strengthened and that Religious and the leaders of our Church may be inspired and encouraged to address the challenges which we face, with greater confidence. We also pray that the minds and hearts of those who perceive faith communities to be a destructive force in society, will be touched by the truth of your words spoken in love.

For our young people we pray the prayer of St. Paul: “that God will enlighten the eyes of their minds so that they can see what hope His call holds for them.” (Eph 1:18)

We ask during these days, that the healing touch of Christ will be experienced by those who are in pain and those who have been hurt, especially by members of our Catholic community.

Your Holiness, during your stay among us may you travel safely.

May you enjoy the gracious hospitality of our countries, a hospitality which is rooted in our Christian tradition and enriched by the gifts of our multicultural and multifaith society. And, as you return to Rome on Sunday may you do so with a heart full of hope, joy and gratitude.

I now humbly ask your Apostolic Blessing on all our Religious women and men.