

Bishop's Message to Parishes and Schools following the EU Referendum

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

All of us are members of the Catholic Church in our parishes and communities around the Diocese of Northampton from Slough and Marlow to Corby and Oundle, from Daventry and Northampton to Bedford and Biggleswade.

It is now more than three weeks since the EU Referendum. It goes without saying that we must respect the will of the people, expressed at the ballot box. We must pray for God's wisdom for our politicians so that they may negotiate the way forward for the common good of all.

At the same time, I am aware of the deep feelings that holding the Referendum has evoked and if the fractured relationships emerging even within families.

I am conscious of the sense of insecurity and unease among our Polish communities, among other communities who come from the European Union and, indeed, among so many people from the different nations who bring so much vitality and faith to our parishes and schools.

I want to reassure them, and encourage us all to embrace one another as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. I want us to seek first the common good, the good of all with no one excluded. I want us to be alert and give a care for people who are afraid or feel unwanted or unwelcome.

Most of our Catholic communities are descended from immigrant stock. Whatever our political stance, let us remember our roots and our foundation, Jesus Christ, and welcome one another in his name.

With my prayers and every blessing,

+Peter Doyle
Bishop of Northampton