

First Year Anniversary



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One Year On We Give Thanks

'He [Pope Benedict XVI] trusts that this moment of thanksgiving will serve as a renewed summons to take up the challenge which he issued a year ago in this very place: to bear joyful witness to the truth of the Gospel.'

Message from the Holy Father, 18 September 2011

Pope's Anniversary Message



'The Holy Father was pleased to learn that on 18 September 2011 a solemn Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated in Westminster Cathedral to mark the anniversary of his Apostolic Visit to the United Kingdom. He sends cordial greetings to the bishops, clergy, religious and lay faithful gathered for the occasion, as well as to the distinguished civil authorities present.

'His Holiness recalls with deep gratitude the warmth of the welcome given by Her Majesty The Queen and her Government, and he again expresses his appreciation to all those who contributed to the happy outcome of his Visit. He trusts that this moment of thanksgiving will serve as a renewed summons to take up the challenge which he issued a year ago in this very place: to bear joyful witness to the truth of the Gospel "which liberates our minds and enlightens our efforts to live wisely and well, both as individuals and as members of society". In a special way, he encourages the seminarians to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus Christ, to devote themselves

wholeheartedly to their intellectual and spiritual formation, and to be steadfast heralds of the new evangelisation.

'Commending you to the intercession of the Blessed John Henry Newman, the Holy Father is pleased to impart his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.'

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone
Secretary of State

More: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Media-Centre/Press-Releases/Press-Releases-2011/Papal-Visit-Anniversary-Pope-renews-call-for-Catholics-to-bear-joyful-witness-to-the-Gospel>

Prime Minister's Message



Prime Minister David Cameron has reflected on Pope Benedict's historic State visit to the UK praising the Holy Father for sharing a powerful

message about the importance of compassion, tolerance and justice.

In a message to mark the one-year anniversary of the Holy Father's Apostolic Visit, the Prime Minister looked forward to continuing the "ever closer co-operation" between the UK and the Holy See in working for the common good.

Full text: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Media-Centre/Press-Releases/Press-Releases-2011/PM-praises-Pope-Benedict-for-sharing-a-powerful-message-about-the-importance-of-compassion-tolerance-and-justice>

Message from the Bishops' Conference



'On this anniversary of the momentous Visit of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to the United Kingdom, we recall the excitement, vision and hope that stirred in the hearts of so many who watched or took part in those historic events. Many experienced the Visit as a powerful encounter of God's love and a welcome response to the "deep thirst there is among the British people for the Good News of Jesus Christ".'

'Mindful of the need to "proclaim the Gospel afresh", Pope Benedict presented a vision and direction for

the Church in our land. This vision challenges each Christian believer, "in accordance with his or her state of life", to work "for the advancement of God's Kingdom by imbuing temporal life with the values of the Gospel". Inspired by the teaching of Blessed John Henry Newman, it directs the Church on a journey where, "each of us has a mission, each of us is called to change the world, to work for a culture of life, a culture forged by love and respect for the dignity of each human person".'

Full text: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Media-Centre/Press-Releases/Press-Releases-2011/Bishops-issue-message-a-year-after-Pope-s-Visit2>



Anniversary Mass homily

'Today we come to thank the Lord for the blessings of the Visit of Pope Benedict to the United Kingdom one year ago and to ask for the Lord's grace to profit fully from the inspiration of those wonderful days.

'Each of us has our special memories from those days. I hope there has been time to reflect on them, study his words and refresh the joy and encouragement we experienced.

'For me a particularly evocative moment was the Vigil of Prayer in Hyde Park, well captured in these words of one young person: "The procession of banners revealed the true depth and role of Catholicism in England today. The line was long and diverse – it brought tears to my eyes to see the effort that everyone puts into living out their belief in the sacred value of each human being..."'

Full text of Archbishop Nichols' homily: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Media-Centre/Press-Releases/Press-Releases-2011/Catholic-Community-celebrates-the-gift-of-the-Pope-s-Visit-one-year-on>

Family Focus

Research conducted for the Catholic Church shows strong support from the public for the Church to play a more active role in revitalising British family life.

Despite less than one in ten British adults regarding themselves as Catholics, more than four out of ten members of the British public would like to see the Church take a moral lead by defending the family unit.

The poll was conducted on the eve of the first anniversary of Pope Benedict's visit to the UK. During the visit, he made an impassioned plea for British children to think carefully about what kind of person they wanted to be and not to be seduced by celebrity culture.

The findings come in the wake of a report by Unicef which warned that parents are trapping their children in a cycle of 'compulsive consumerism'.

More: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Media-Centre/Press-Releases/Press-Releases-2011/Catholic-Church-should-take-a-lead-in-promoting-the-family-unit-says-poll>

Archbishop of Canterbury

'Twelve months on, we look back on the visit of Pope Benedict with abiding gratitude. The visit was a great gift for all the Christian communities of the United Kingdom, affirming their role in society and strengthening their resolve to serve the communities of this country. The Pope's memorable speech in Westminster Hall and many more of his public sermons and addresses brought a remarkable and creative theological mind to bear on the issues of the day, and proved impossible for even the most dedicated secularist to ignore or dismiss.

'But perhaps most importantly of all, those days last September visibly reminded the public at large that Christian discipleship is not the concern of some tiny ageing minority but a reality enthusiastically embraced by millions of all ages and races.'

Full text: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Media-Centre/Press-Releases/Press-Releases-2011/Archbishop-of-Canterbury-Papal-Visit-a-great-gift-for-the-UK-s-Christian-communities>