

PRESS RELEASE

ST JOHN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL, PORTSMOUTH

RELEASE IMMEDIATE

Date of release: 17 June 2005

On 11 July 2005, Bishop Crispian Hollis, Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, celebrates forty years since being ordained a Catholic priest.

STARTS

Bishop Crispian doubles his score!

Fervent cricket enthusiast, Crispian Hollis, Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, comments: 'Well, that's two score up on the board.' This year Bishop Crispian celebrates forty years as a priest.

Crispian, son of Madeleine (née King) and author, sage and MP Christopher Hollis, was born the third of four children into a devout Christian family. His paternal grandfather had been Bishop of Taunton and his parents had converted to Roman Catholicism before Crispian was born.

Having been educated by the Jesuits (Stonyhurst College) and subsequently at the Venerable English College (Rome), Crispian was ordained priest in Rome on the Feast of St Benedict on 11 July 1965.

Following conscription between 1954 and 1956, when as 2nd Lieutenant he saw service with the Somerset Light Infantry in Plymouth and Malaya, Crispian went up to Oxford (Balliol) to read history.

After his ordination, Crispian worked in Amesbury for one year before becoming Assistant Chaplain and subsequently Senior Chaplain to the Roman Catholic students in Oxford University. He then went to the BBC as Roman Catholic Assistant to the Head of Religious Broadcasting (1977-1981). He was then appointed Administrator (Parish Priest) to Clifton Cathedral. Crispian then rose to become Auxiliary Bishop in Birmingham, though living in Oxford, until 1989 when he was appointed Bishop to the Diocese of Portsmouth.

Bishop Crispian has seen two priests of his Portsmouth diocese being appointed Bishops (Declan Lang to Clifton and Peter Doyle to Northampton). A tall, elegant man of wit with a keen sense of humour, Bishop Crispian, when he is not visiting each and every corner of his diocese, which stretches from Jersey to Oxford, enjoys everything about his adopted home town of Portsmouth, especially the football. But cricket remains his first love:

'Well, there've been a good few overs since my ordination.' Bishop Crispian chuckles to himself. 'And God willing, at 40 not out, I'll be good for a few more runs yet'.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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