



Media Release

October 21, 2009

**Anglicans to be welcomed into the Catholic Church:
Response by Bishop Michael Putney**

Anglican groups which have been petitioning Rome to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church will be able to do so, following an announcement by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Bishop Michael Putney, Chair of the Bishops Commission for Ecumenism and Interreligious Relations of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference said the announcement made by the CDF on October 20 will allow for the establishment of Personal Ordinariates for Anglicans wishing to enter the Catholic Church.

“These Anglican groups will be able to come into full communion with the Catholic Church, while still retaining much of their Anglican ethos, liturgy and spirituality, and their pastoral practice,” he said.

Bishop Putney said that this was not an initiative which had been taken by the Catholic Church, but was rather responding to petitions which had been received over a four or five year period from different Anglican groups.

“There has always been a practice of receiving into full communion individual Anglicans through the centuries, but this new provision will make it possible for groups or communities to enter full communion and remain together,” said Bishop Putney.

“At the same time, this in no way changes the ecumenical commitment of the Catholic Church which will continue its dialogue and collaboration with the larger Anglican Communion with unabated enthusiasm.”

Whether there are sufficient Anglicans in Australia who would seek to be members of a “Personal Ordinariate” remains to be seen, he said. Any decision about what will happen in Australia belongs entirely to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, which would act in agreement with decisions of the Holy See.

For media enquiries, please contact Beth Doherty on 0407 081 256 or the office of Most Rev. Bishop Michael Putney on (07) 4726 3202.