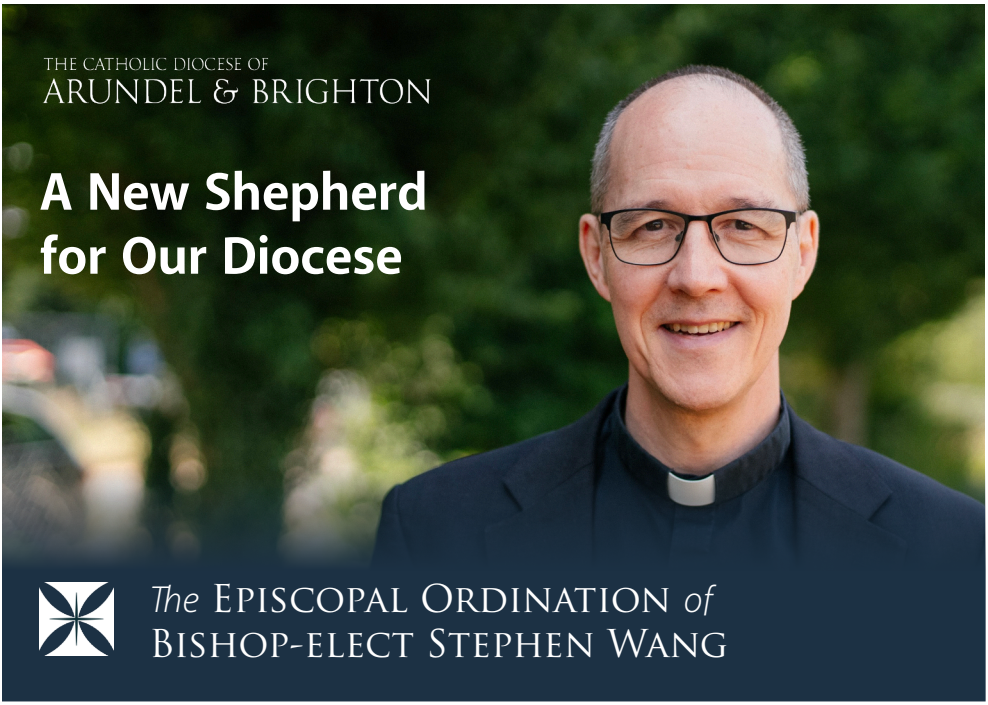

"Bishops are heralds of the faith, who lead new disciples to Christ, and are authentic teachers, who proclaim to the people entrusted to them the faith that is to be believed." - Lumen gentium, 24

Pope Leo XIV appointed Fr Stephen Wang as the new Bishop of Arundel & Brighton on Thursday 2 July 2026. Bishop-elect Stephen will be installed as the sixth Bishop of our Diocese at the Cathedral of Our Lady and St Philip Howard, Arundel, on **Monday 19 October, the Feast of St Philip Howard.**

At the heart of a bishop's ministry is service, responsibility and care for God's people. As space in Arundel Cathedral is very limited, attendance at the Mass is by invitation only. People across our parishes and schools are warmly invited to join the celebration online, by watching the cathedral's livestream.

Watch *the* Celebration

When: **Monday 19 October**.
Time: The livestream will begin at 11.15am, the Mass is at 12 noon.
Where: www.abdiocese.org.uk/livestream

To read the Order of Service visit:
www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/episcopal-ordination

The Principal Ordaining Bishop at the Mass of Episcopal Ordination is the Most Reverend John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark. The Co-Principal Ordaining Bishops are the Most Reverend Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster (Bishop of our Diocese 2015-2026), and His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster.

Let us pray for Bishop-elect Stephen, for our Diocese and for the Church.

Meet Bishop-elect Stephen

Fr Stephen was born in London and grew up in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. He studied Theology and Religious Studies at Cambridge University before undertaking priestly formation at the Venerable English College in Rome.

Ordained a priest in 1998, he served in parish ministry in Dollis Hill, London, before returning to Cambridge to study for a PhD on human happiness. He later lectured in Philosophy and Theology at Allen Hall seminary in Chelsea, where he also served as Dean of Studies. During this time, he was a visiting priest at Wormwood Scrubs Prison and a confessor at Notting Hill Carmel. He subsequently served as Senior University Chaplain for the Diocese of Westminster and Catholic Chaplain at the London School of Economics.

In 2014, a group of young people led by Fr Stephen developed *Sycamore*, a video-based Catholic formation programme exploring the Christian faith. Designed to make Christianity more accessible, *Sycamore* is now used by Catholic parishes, schools and university chaplaincies around the world.

After serving as Vocations Director for the Diocese of Westminster, in 2021 Fr Stephen was appointed Rector of the Venerable English College, a role he held until September 2026.

Reflecting on his Episcopal Ordination on Monday 19 October, Fr Stephen said:

> *"I am so grateful to God for his goodness. I'm so grateful to the many people who have helped and supported me throughout my life - living and dead - and to all those in the Diocese who have welcomed me and been preparing for this day.*
>
> *"Let's pray for one another, and let's pray for the people and mission of our Diocese. Let's put Jesus, our loving Saviour, at the centre of everything we do, and his blessed mother, Mary."*

A NEW CHAPTER *for our* DIOCESAN FAMILY *of* FAITH

As we welcome Bishop Stephen, let us give thanks for his vocation and for the ministry he is beginning among us. Let us pray for him, for our priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful, and for the whole Diocese. May we be united in faith, hope and love as we seek together to proclaim the Gospel and build God's Kingdom.

O God, eternal and loving Shepherd,
we bless and thank you for the appointment of your servant, Stephen,
to our Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.
May your Holy Spirit grace him with a spirit of counsel and fortitude,
a spirit of knowledge and piety,
so that he may gently and courageously sanctify, teach and govern
the Church of Arundel and Brighton as we work together to build up the kingdom of heaven.
May he be a shepherd after your own heart,
who, with compassion and wise discernment,
will care for and lead your people with the joy of the Gospel.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The passages of Scripture on the Episcopal Ordination Prayer Card shared with our church communities are particularly meaningful to Fr Stephen. They were also included on his priestly ordination prayer card in 1998.

A ⊠ in the beginning God created heaven and earth ⊠ draw me in your footsteps, let us run ⊠ when I am weak, then I am strong ⊠ how can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me? ⊠ the Holy Spirit will come upon you ⊠ he saw and he believed ⊠ Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' ⊠ all things were created through him and for him ⊠ peace be with you ⊠ take nothing with you for the journey ⊠ this is my body ⊠ we belong to one another ⊠ though there seemed no hope, he hoped and believed ⊠ not our love for God, but God's love for us ⊠ he who calls you is faithful, and he will do it ⊠ he is not here, he is risen ⊠ if I have not love, I am nothing ⊠ to unite all things in him ⊠ they crucified him ⊠ let us go to him, then, outside the camp ⊠ in you all find their home ⊠ what is truth? ⊠ be it done to me according to your word ⊠ shout for joy ⊠ give, and there will be gifts for you ⊠ Martha, Martha ⊠ blessed are you who are poor ⊠ nothing is impossible for God ⊠ Father ⊠ up! Go to Nineveh! ⊠ he healed them ⊠ God, be merciful to me, a sinner ⊠ come, Lord Jesus ⊠ Ω

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