



# Diocese of Down and Connor

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To the People of Down and Connor

Feast of the Presentation 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Síocháin libh. Peace be with you.

Today, on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, it has been announced that, having accepted the appointment of Pope Francis, I will soon take up office as the Bishop of Down and Connor.

My faith roots are entirely in the Diocese of Down and Connor. It has been my great privilege to live in Jesuit community for many years and then to serve as Bishop of Raphoe. However, Down and Connor is where I come from and I am humbled and privileged that, after all my wanderings, the bishop of Rome has chosen to send me home. It will take me some time to take my leave of Raphoe and I want to make a good retreat before arriving into the diocese. I will certainly be here for the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday.

One of the first duties of a bishop is to pray for the people of his diocese. Please be assured of my prayers for you and I sincerely ask you to pray for me. Both in my family and in my Jesuit religious life the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus has been a constant companion. I pray that we will be united in the love of his Heart.

I gCroi Íosa

+Alan McGuckian SJ