



Induction Mass Speech

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today is a day filled with immense joy and gratitude, and I thank God for bringing us together on this special occasion. As I stand before you, I feel deeply blessed by the support and love that has guided me to this point in my priestly journey.

I would like to begin by thanking Archbishop John Wilson, who has appointed me as the Parochial Administrator of St. Ann's Parish. Special thanks as well for his lovely email wishes for my induction. I also wish to express my sincere gratitude to Bishop Philip Moger, auxiliary bishop of Southwark, who, despite his busy schedule as the newly elected Bishop of Plymouth, has graciously accepted being the main celebrant today. Bishop Philip, your presence is a great honour, and I am truly thankful for your kindness. I am also honoured to have Canon Gerald Bradley, the Episcopal Vicar for the South Area, with us today. Special thanks as well to Fr. Michael Lovell, the Dean of Kingston Deanery, for gracing this occasion by reading my appointment letter.

I must also acknowledge and thank my Bishop Antonysamy S., from my home diocese in India, for sending me to work in the Archdiocese of Southwark. His blessings and encouragement have been my guiding strength throughout this mission.

I am delighted to be sharing this special moment with my family. Coincidentally, my mother is currently visiting my brother and sister's family here in London, and I am overjoyed that they are all present with me today. To my mother, brother, sister in London and my sister in India, and their families, thank you for sharing in my joy. Your love and support have been invaluable to me.

I am equally grateful to my school friend Guru, college friend Jothi, and seminary friend Fr. Victor, who are also present today. Seeing you here fills me with joy and brings back cherished memories. Your friendship and presence have been a blessing throughout my life.

I want to offer my sincere thanks to my brother priests, particularly Mgr. Gerry Ewing, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese, who has been more than just a mentor to me—he has been a true guiding light in my ministry. Your wisdom, kindness, and example have

profoundly shaped the way I serve, and I will always be deeply grateful for your influence in my life. I also wish to thank Mgr. Kevin Toomey from the Archdiocese of Boston, United States, who has graciously accepted my invitation to attend my induction during his holidays in London.

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Canons: Luke Smith and David Gibbons, and the many priests who journeyed with me through good times and hard times, including the members of my priests support group and my close friends. Your guidance and fraternity have meant the world to me.

Special thanks also go to my dear former parish priest, Fr. Shaju Varkey, from St. Boniface Tooting, whose kindness for over the past two years and has tirelessly supported me while starting here in my new parish and also in helping to organise today's event. Your support, along with the St. Boniface parish family, has been a blessing throughout my ministry. How lovely it is to see Fr. Antony, my fellow diocesan, serving as the assistant at St. Boniface, replacing me. I am sure you will enjoy their love and care as much as I have. I would also like to recognize and thank the communities of St. Andrew's, Thornton Heath, and English Martyrs, Streatham, where I have been assistant priest for the love and encouragement they have given me. You have all contributed immensely to my journey as a priest.

To my new parish family here at St. Ann's, thank you for your warm welcome, care, and the family atmosphere you have created. I am blessed to be part of this faith community as we begin this journey together. I look forward to serving you and growing in faith with you. I am also grateful for the warm welcome and collaborative ministry approach from the St. Ann's parish school community, including Holy Angels Preparatory School and Marymount International School. Special Thanks to Mrs Sarah Hair, Mrs Margret Giblin and the staff. I look forward to working together in building a vibrant, Christ-centered community.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who helped make today's celebration possible—the volunteers, the choir, the altar servers, welcoming team, catering team, technical team, decoration team, Knights of Columba and all those who worked behind the scenes to ensure everything has run smoothly so far. Your dedication and hard work are deeply appreciated.

As I begin this new chapter of ministry here at St. Ann's, I humbly ask for your prayers and support. Together, let us walk in the light of Christ, serving one another with joy and love. Let us invoke the intercession of the saints: St. Ann, pray for us. St. Luke, pray for us.

Thank you all, and may God bless you abundantly.