



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND
WALES
39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX
www.catholicchurch.org.uk

14 July 2019

Your Eminences, Excellencies, My Brothers

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to greet the members of SECAM and to assure you of the prayers and warm wishes of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) as you celebrate your Golden Jubilee.

This is truly a wonderful occasion and I am very pleased that Christine Allen, the new Director of CAFOD, our development agency, is able to join you and to deliver this message. Christine's presence is a visible sign of the many bonds of fraternity and solidarity that unite the Church in Africa with the Catholic community of England and Wales through our missionary tradition and the work of our agencies.

Our country, and our Church, have been enriched by the presence of Africans from every part of the continent, and their contribution to British society is precious and much valued. I, and my fellow bishops, thank you too for the gift of your priests and men and women religious who minister faithfully and creatively within so many of our parishes and communities.

I know from my own participation in SECAM - CCCE meetings the importance of the work that you will be undertaking and I pray for a spirit-filled and fruitful gathering as you look to nurture and develop the Church in Africa and Madagascar over the next fifty years. You face many challenges but please be assured that you do so with the support and solidarity of the Catholics of England and Wales.

May the Holy Spirit guide you in your deliberations.

With the best wishes and prayers of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Yours in Christ

Bishop Declan Lang

Bishop of Clifton

Chairman of the International Affairs Department of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of
England and Wales