

FRANCIS, BISHOP, SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD, to our beloved son **Thomas Joseph Neylon**, of the clergy of the Archdiocese of Liverpool and Vicar General there, appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the same ecclesial community and assigned the title of Plestia, greeting and an Apostolic Blessing.

“I am with you always until the end of the age” (Mt 28:20). All the Christian faithful, rejoicing on account of the promise of Our Lord Jesus Christ, are regarded inheritors of these words, to whom it is said on their pilgrim journey that they never walk alone, because Christ himself and his grace, kindness and mercy follow us all the days of our life, so that we may live in the house of the Lord for length of days (cf. Ps 23:6). In order, however, that the flock of the Lord may arrive safely at eternal, verdant pastures, it is necessary to appoint suitable shepherds who will lovingly tend this sheepfold. Assuredly, we now turn our attention to the community of Liverpool, whose Metropolitan Archbishop, our venerable brother Malcolm Patrick McMahon O.P., has petitioned for an Auxiliary Bishop on account of pastoral needs. We have readily assented to his requests and we have resolved that you, beloved son, should be the one chosen to discharge this office, you who are outstanding in the spiritual life, organisational skills, sound doctrine, prudence and charity, and in fact diligently fulfil there the office of Vicar General. Therefore, by the fulness of our Apostolic Authority, having accepted the advice of the Congregation for Bishops, we name you **Bishop of the Titular See of Plestia** and at the same time appoint you Auxiliary of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, with all due rights bestowed and the corresponding obligations imposed, according to the norms of the Code of Canon Law. You may receive episcopal ordination from a Catholic bishop anywhere outside of Rome, observing the liturgical regulations. Beforehand, however, just as ecclesiastical law prescribes, you must make a formal profession of faith in the customary manner and swear an oath of fidelity to us and our successors in this See. Finally, we urge you to carry out your ministry lovingly and zealously, in communion with your Archbishop, entrusting yourself to the protection of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph her spouse, who will help you to shepherd with the heart of a father, so that in you the Christian faithful may recognise Christ, who is always close to his people.

Given at Rome, at the Lateran, on the sixth day of July in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-one, the ninth of our pontificate.

FRANCISCUS PP.

Unofficial translation of the original Latin.