

**Opening Words of Bishop John Buckley at the beginning of the
Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-elect Fintan Gavin at the
Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne, Cork
June 30th 2019.**



Fáilte roimh go léir go dtí an ócáid speisialta seo, an ócáid lúcháireach seo, i saol na deoise. Cuirim fíor-chaoin fáilte roimh Msgr. Fintan agus cuirim fáilte freisin roimh gach éinne atá bailithe san Ard-Eaglais anseo i gCorcaigh.

I know too that Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and the Auxiliary Bishops from Dublin, priest colleagues and friends of Msgr. Fintan are very happy here in Cork today as they are simply travelling from one capital city to the alternative capital!

Today is a historic day in the life of the diocese. There have been only four bishops in Cork since 1916 – Bishop Coholan, Bishop Lucey, Bishop Murphy agus mé féin. Cork bishops are noted for their longevity! Today therefore is a milestone in the life of the diocese.

I know that Msgr. Fintan feels very much at home here in Cork. He has been among us for the past couple of months. They say that the Dublin football team does not play well outside of Dublin, but this does not apply to Msgr. Fintan! He is a man of wide and varied administrative and pastoral experience and I know too that he has the prayerful support of everyone in Cork.

I also know that the hardworking priests of the diocese, who are very much aware of the primary focus of their ministry, which is to bring people closer to Christ and who are responding creatively to current pastoral needs, are looking forward to serving with Msgr. Fintan as he begins his ministry here in Cork of, in the beautiful words of Pope Francis “*warming people’s hearts with the good news of Jesus Christ*”.

I have the honour today of ordaining Msgr. Fintan as my successor and I know that you will continue to pray for him during this ceremony that the Lord will give him the health and the strength in guiding the people in the years ahead.

The most moving part of the ceremony is when I lay my hands on Msgr. Fintan. It is a very simple gesture, it takes only a short time, it is full of mystery and holiness, an invisible movement of the Spirit, a movement enriched by silence. It signifies the transmission of Christ’s priestly power, unbroken, in succession from the Apostles down to the present time.

To prepare ourselves now as we begin our ceremony let us call to mind our need for the Lord’s forgiveness and mercy through the rite of the blessing of water...

<ENDS>