



Diocese of Plymouth
From the Office of the Bishop

BMOT/KP1024

Decree of Erection

Having received the request from the Rt Revd David Charlesworth, Abbot of St Mary's Abbey in Buckfast and Chairman of the Trustees of the School of the Annunciation and after reviewing the constitutional documentation of the School;

In accordance with the Sacred Canons regarding Catholic Universities and other Institutes of Higher Education and the Norms contained in the Apostolic Constitution of Saint John Paul II, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, issued on 15 August 1990, concerning Catholic Universities, these latter norms also applying the Catholic Institutes of Higher Education according to article 10 of the said Apostolic Constitution;

By this decree, I establish the School of the Annunciation as a Catholic Institute of Higher Education in accordance with article 3§1 of the norms contained in above-mentioned Apostolic Constitution and I give my consent to the use of the title "Catholic" in accordance with canon 808.

By virtue of this same decree, the School of the Annunciation is also erected as a public juridical person in the Church in accordance with canon 116.

In fidelity to article 1§3, the General Norms of the Apostolic Constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* are to be incorporated into the governing documents of the School of the Annunciation and these governing documents must conform with these Norms.

In granting these matters, I wish to recall the words of Saint John Paul II on the role of Catholic Universities – and therefore of Catholic Institutes of Higher Education – in the work of evangelisation:

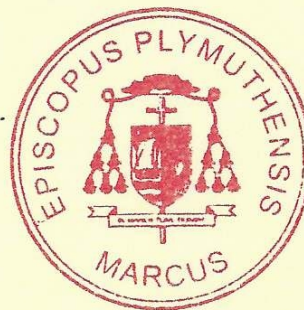
"By its very nature, each Catholic University makes an important contribution to the Church's work of evangelisation. It is a living institutional witness to Christ and his message, so vitally important in cultures marked by secularism, or where Christ and his message are still virtually unknown. Moreover, all the basic academic activities of a Catholic University are connected with and in harmony with the evangelizing mission of the Church...Precisely because it is more and more conscious of its salvific mission in this world, the Church wants to have these centres closely connected with it; it wants to have them present and operative in spreading the authentic message of Christ." (*Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, article 49).

It is my earnest desire that, by the provision of courses in Catholic doctrine and catechesis, the School of the Annunciation will make an invaluable contribution to the mission of this diocese and to the Church in England and Wales in the work of the new evangelisation set before us by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*.

Given this 1st day of July 2015 at the Office of the Bishop

+ Mark O'Toole

Rt Rev Mark O'Toole
Bishop of Plymouth



Katharine Paver
Chancellor