# The Anglican Cathedral of St Paul Nicosia



# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Upon the occasion of the Enthronement of The Right Reverend Sean Alexander John Semple, Sixth Anglican Bishop in Cyprus & the Gulf.

> Saturday 22 June 2024 5pm

# A New Ministry Begins

Bishop Sean has served in the Archdeaconry of Cyprus before as a priest. There is a short biography at the end of this order of service.

He comes to us today after being Consecrated and Ordained a Bishop at our sister Cathedral of St Christopher, Bahrain, and after being enthroned in that cathedral church.

We welcome him today as he takes his seat, his cathedra, in this Cathedral Church of St Paul, Nicosia.

- He is admitted to his cathedral by the dean.
- The mandate of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East is read, giving authority to enthrone him.
- The consent of the people is sought and given.
- He is taken to his seat by the dean, archdeacon and canons.
- Greetings may be offered by civil and religious representatives.
- Bishop, clergy, lay readers and people commit to joint ministry.
- The newly enthroned diocesan bishop presides and celebrates the Holy Eucharist with us.
- The peace of the Lord is shared.
- We offer praises to the Lord and hear his Word.
- We receive our new bishop's charge to the diocese, and hear his vision for our future joint ministry.
- We pray for our new bishop, all the clergy and people; and intercede to the Lord for the needs of the church and the world.
- We confess our sins and are absolved by our bishop.
- We break bread together, remembering the saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.
- In conclusion we receive the blessing of our new diocesan bishop, Sean. May God bless him in his work with us,

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

# Upon the occasion of the Enthronement of The Right Reverend Sean Alexander John Semple in the Cathedral Church of St Paul in Nicosia

At the appointed time, led by the crucifer and gospeler, first the lay ministers, then the clergy, the archdeacons and the dean process from the west door to their places as organ music is played. The doors will then be closed with ushers outside to hold back latecomers.

After a short pause and any notices the dean goes to the west door with one cathedral warden and one warden from another church, both with wands. The Archdeacon of Cyprus goes to the lectern.

The bishop arrives outside the west door wearing chasuble and mitre and carrying his crosier.

#### THE ENTRANCE

The bishop knocks three times on the door with his pastoral staff. Facing east with wardens behind him the dean says:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we gather to welcome Bishop Sean, to place him in his episcopal seat as shepherd of Christ's flock and guardian of the faith, to ask God's blessing on his ministry, and to hear his charge.

The Dean faces the door and when it is fully open says:

Bishop Sean, in the name our Lord Jesus Christ we welcome you to your Cathedral Church of St Paul. All say:

# In the name of the Lord, we welcome you.

The Bishop responds:

I thank you with all my heart for your welcome and ask you to pray for me, that I may be a faithful pastor, teacher, and servant.

Peace be with you. And also with you.

# THE GATHERING PRAYER

The people now turn to face the altar and from the lectern the Archdeacon of Cyprus says:

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

During the processional hymn the Dean leads the Bishop to the sanctuary step.

The Bishop is escorted by the wardens and followed by his chaplain. The wardens take their seats in the body of the church, and the Bishop, with Dean on his right and the Archdeacon of Cyprus on his left kneel in private prayer at the altar rails until the hymn is ended.

#### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways; reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard beside the Syrian sea the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee, O calm of hills above, where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity, interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease; take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm!

#### THE MANDATE

The Dean says:

Let the Provincial Mandate now be read.

The Archdeacon of Cyprus first says:

As we hear and receive the mandate of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, we recall the mandate of our Lord Jesus, who, on the night of his betrayal, gave his followers the new commandment that they should love one another. As we follow our Lord in this school of love, let us pray for Bishop Sean, as he leads us in prayer and praise to God.

The legal mandate is read by Canon Georgia Katsantonis on behalf of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

#### THE ENTHRONEMENT

The Bishop says:

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I thank you more fully for your welcome. I come among you as your servant and pastor, humbly seeking the grace of God. In baptism, God has called us and draws us into the Church, commissioning each of us to witness to the faith of the crucified Christ in season and out of season and to be his faithful and joyful disciples to the end of our lives. With humility and with joy, I take on the yoke of obedience as your Bishop and for the love of Christ I seek to do his perfect will. I cannot do this in my own strength, but with God's love and your care and so I ask you to join with me in affirming our common faith, committing ourselves afresh to God's service that through our work, witness and prayer together we may proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour. And so, my brothers and sisters in the Lord I humbly ask you to consent to me taking the chair.

The people respond:

Bishop Sean, by the grace of God you are our bishop. Take your seat. Lead us in the ways of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Dean with the Archdeacon of Cyprus and those canons present escort Bishop Sean to the cathedra. As he is seated, the Dean says:

To our clergy and people who come to this cathedral church from many communities and from many lands, we present to you, Sean, our bishop, duly appointed and installed. We bid you welcome him.

All say:

# In the name of God, we welcome you. May God bless you in your ministry.

Applause may follow and greetings from leaders or representatives of other Churches and dignitaries are offered.

# THE COMMITMENT TO MINISTRY

The Bishop addresses the congregation from the altar rail:

People of God, I thank you for your welcome. I pray that we may all work together for the glory of God.

The Clergy and Lay Readers of the Diocese stand. The Bishop then addresses them:

My brothers and sisters, clergy and lay readers of this Diocese, you participate in the cure of souls that has been given to me as the Chief Pastor of the Diocese. Without Christ I can do nothing. To be fruitful we must edify one another in love. I ask for your help in bearing the Office of Bishop of this Diocese.

The clergy and readers respond:

Through the grace of God the Father and supported by your prayers, we pledge ourselves to share in your ministry of pastoral care; and under your oversight, to pursue God's mission in this Diocese, working for unity in Christ, by following His commandment to love one another. May we bear you in our prayers and stand with you by our actions, in the name of Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Bishop answers:

My fellow ministers in Christ, may we work together with all God's people to further the Kingdom of God.

## THE PEACE

### The Bishop offers The Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God. We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Bishop, clergy and people greet each other.

#### HYMN

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; tender to me the promise of his word – in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name! Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done; his mercy sure, from age to age the same – his holy name: the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might! Powers and dominions lay their glory by; proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight, the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word! Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure: tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord to children's children and for evermore!

#### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Bishop reads the collect

The Lord be with you And also with you

Let us pray that we may all be faithful to our calling.

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

#### THE FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

(The Deputy British High Commissioner)

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight and honoured and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Isaiah 43. 1 - 7.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### THE GRADUAL HYMN

Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness; And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, Alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Allelu, Alleluia! Man shall not live by bread alone, But by every word That proceeds out from the mouth of God. Allelu, Alleluia!

#### THE GOSPEL

All stand.

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the good shepherd, says the Lord. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. Alleluia.

# Fr George Vidiakin:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

John 15.5-17

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

#### THE SERMON

All sit for Bishop Sean's charge to the diocese.

THE CREED Dean Jeremy Crocker

The Dean says: We believe in one God, All: the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The four leaders of prayer line up behind the lectern. On finishing, each reader shall move to the rear of the queue, and all shall return to their place after the bishop has concluded the prayer of the faithful.

The Bishop opens the prayer of the faithful:

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

The first leader (Deborah Graham) says:

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For all the members of the Church in their vocation and ministry, that they may serve him in truth and love, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For Sean our bishop, for all bishops, priests and deacons, and for all lay ministers, that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy. The second leader (Sarel du Plessis) says:

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness we may proclaim the gospel of reconciliation to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the unity of the Church, that there may be one flock and one Shepherd, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For those who are lost and for those who have strayed, that they may return to the way of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

The third leader (Chris Clapham) says;

For the President of this Republic, for Charles, Head of the Commonwealth, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the hungry, for the homeless and the oppressed, for all prisoners and captives, and for those who suffer through war, violence or terrorism, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy. For the sick and suffering, for the aged and infirm, for the lonely and neglected, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

The Archdeacon of the Gulf says:

For all those who mourn their loved ones that the Lord of all life may comfort and console them in their grief let us pray to the Lord.

#### Lord have mercy.

For all who have died in peace and for all who have died in the terror of war or natural disaster. For all who have died after a full life, and for those whose time was cut short. Let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy.

For ourselves, for grace to repent and amend our lives, that we may be pardoned and absolved from all our sins, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

The Bishop concludes the prayer of the faithful with this absolution.

May God our Father hear our prayer, + forgive us our sins, and bring us to the fellowship of his table with his saints for ever. Amen.

#### THE OFFERTORY HYMN

A collection will be taken for the Bishop's and the Cathedral's outreach work.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for, with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood. He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

#### THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you and also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks through your servant Jesus Christ our Lord.

At his baptism he was revealed as your beloved Son and coming among us as one who serves, he taught that they are greatest in your kingdom who make themselves least and the servants of all.

Although he was their teacher and their Lord, he washed the feet of his disciples, and commanded us to do the same.

Through your Holy Spirit you bestow upon your people a rich diversity of gifts and ministries, and from this royal priesthood you raise up men and women to proclaim your word, to care for your people and to be the stewards of the mysteries of Christ.

You call them to serve the world your Son redeemed and build up his body, the Church, to the greater glory of your name. And so with angels and archangels and all the heavenly host, we proclaim your glory and join their unending hymn of praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,God of power and might,heaven and earth are full of your glory.Hosanna in the highest.Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

# Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Paul and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Fr George Vidiakin says: Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

The Bishop breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

#### THE AGNUS DEI is sung

Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace, Lord, grant us your peace.

#### **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

#### Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

This prayer of preparation is said.

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Bishop and people receive communion.

# MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Bach Violin and Oboe Concerto in C Minor, 2nd Movement. Adagio.

Oboe: Aggelos Charalambous

Violin: Sorin Alexandru Horlea

Piano: Laura Rodgers

As the Communion is ending this solo from Handel's Messiah is sung.

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things. *Romans 10:15. Valerie Fidelia.* 

# POST COMMUNION

The Bishop says:

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

### All say:

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

# SOLEMN BLESSING by our new Diocesan Bishop

The Father, whose glory fills the heavens, cleanse you by his holiness and send you to proclaim his word. **Amen.** 

The Son, who has ascended to the heights, pour upon you the riches of his grace. **Amen.** 

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, equip you and strengthen you in your ministry. Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.** 

#### DISMISSAL

Fr George Vidiakin: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.

#### **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art; be Thou my best thought in the day and the night, both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, be Thou my true Word; be Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord; be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son, be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight; be Thou my whole Armour, be Thou my true Might; be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tow'r, O raise Thou me heav'nward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, be Thou mine inheritance, now and always; be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart, O High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun, O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won; Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be Thou my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Please join us for a reception in the Cathedral Garden

#### The Order of the Recessional Procession

Crucifer Gospeler Lay Ministers Visiting Clergy Archdeaconry Clergy Canons of Nicosia Archdeacon in Cyprus Dean of St Paul's, Nicosia Escorting Wardens Diocesan Bishop Sean Semple Bishop's Chaplain

#### The Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf

Established in 1976, the Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf is one of the three dioceses that make up the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Geographically, the diocese includes Cyprus, the Sultanate of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq and the Yemen. The diocese is divided into two archdeaconries, that of Cyprus and the Gulf, with two cathedrals, St Paul's in Nicosia, Cyprus, and St Christopher's, in Bahrain. In 1984 the diocese established companion links with the Diocese of Exeter in England and in 2005 with the Diocese of Thika in Kenya. In addition to its many parishes, the diocese is also host to a substantial and growing Mission to Seafarers ministry.

### **Biography of Bishop Sean Semple**

Sean has served in three provinces of the Anglican Communion. He was ordained priest in the Diocese of Natal in 2011 following a decade of ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa. He served in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf as Assistant Priest at St Helena's, Larnaca and moved from there to the Diocese of Hereford, England in 2015, where he was appointed Rector of the Benefices of Weobley and Staunton. In 2019 he was collated to Rector of the Benefice of Ross with Walford and Brampton Abbotts, and served as Rural Dean of the Deanery of Ross and Archenfield from 2020 until 2023. He will be the first African-born Bishop of the Diocese, and the first to be consecrated in the Gulf.

Sean's undergraduate studies in Psychology and Theology were undertaken at the University of Natal and the University of South Africa, followed by post-graduate studies in Spirituality and Clinical Psychology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the University of Nicosia respectively.

Sean is married to Jenny. They have five children and one grandchild.

Sean was elected Bishop in Cyprus and the Gulf on 6 February 2024. He was consecrated and ordained bishop in the Cathedral Church of St Christopher, Bahrain on 24 May 2024, and enthroned there the same day. Today the process of installing our new bishop is completed with his enthronement in St Paul's Cathedral, Nicosia, whose bishop's seat, called a cathedra, prominently bears the coat of arms of this Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf.