

**THE CATHEDRAL
AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH
OF ST PETER IN YORK**



**The Confirmation of Election of
Mark Simon Austin Tanner as
Bishop of Chester**

**Wednesday 15 July 2020
at 11.00 am**

Welcome and Introduction

The Archbishop of York says:

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

Welcome to this service of Prayer with the Confirmation of the Election of Mark Simon Austin Tanner as Bishop of Chester.

We gather together in Christ during a time of uncertainty when many are suffering, many are fearful, and the foundations of our society have been shaken to their core by the ravages of the coronavirus. In faith, we meet in peace, and are upheld by the Spirit who even now intercedes for us. So, we join with the whole church in praying for all those who have been affected and continue to be affected by this pandemic, as Jesus teaches and enables us to keep on praying and not to lose heart.

Into this world of challenge and change this service seeks to share the encouragement and peace we receive in Christ. A new ministry is begun: a joyful ministry of service and leadership, a faithful ministry of prayer and proclamation, a loving ministry which gathers the people of God in mission and nurtures them in hope.

This ministry, which begins today in a digital environment, is earthed in the world that Christ came to save and seeks to engage with the rich breadth and variety of human community and experience.

Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,
look favourably upon your whole church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery;
and by the tranquil operation of your perpetual providence
carry out the work of our salvation;
and let the whole world feel and see
that things which were cast down are being raised up;
and those things which had grown old are being made new;
and that all things are returning into unity
through him by whom all things were made,
even your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

from the Gelasian Sacramentary, 5th century

Hymn

The hymn was recorded by members of Chester Cathedral Nave Choir. The organ is played by Philip Rushforth, the Cathedral's Director of Music.



I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,
should set his love upon the sons of men,
or why, as shepherd, he should seek the wand'ers,
to bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that he was born of Mary,
when Bethl'hem's manger was his only home,
and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently he suffered,
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,
the crown of pain to three-and-thirty years.
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted,
and stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,
and lifts the burden from the heavy-laden,
for yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.

I cannot tell how he will win the nations,
how he will claim his earthly heritage,
how satisfy the needs and aspirations
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.
But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,
and he shall reap the harvest he has sown,
and some glad day his sun will shine in splendour
when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
when, at his bidding, every storm is stilled,
or who can say how great the jubilation
when all the hearts of men with love are filled.
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
and myriad, myriad human voices sing,
and earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:
'At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'

Words William Young Fullerton (1857–1932)

Tune Traditional Irish melody

The Legal Process

The Vicar-General of the Province of York introduces the legal proceedings, explaining their origin and purpose, and how they have been adapted in the unusual circumstances of the coronavirus so that they can be held ‘virtually’ with the participants taking part via Zoom.

The Vicar-General says:

We now commence the legal process by which the election of the new Bishop of Chester is to be confirmed.

There are three stages in the appointment of a bishop.

¶ The first is the selection. That process involved the Crown Nominations Commission which, after consultation in the diocese and the wider church, recommended that the Prime Minister should submit Mark Tanner’s name to Her Majesty The Queen for appointment as the next Bishop of Chester.

¶ The second stage involved the Queen giving permission to the College of Canons of the Cathedral to elect the next Bishop of Chester and recommending to them the person they should elect. The Queen then by her Letters Patent required the Archbishop of York to confirm that election.

¶ The third stage is usually the enthronement of the Bishop in the cathedral which marks the effective commencement of the new ministry. In the present circumstances that cannot take place immediately, and the commencement of the new bishop’s ministry will be marked in an appropriate manner in due course.

The act of confirmation involving the Archbishop of York reflects the fact that since at least the fourth century it has been a fundamental principle that confirmation of an episcopal election on behalf of the wider church is necessary.

The act of confirmation is legally very important because it confers upon the bishop the spiritual jurisdiction over the diocese by committing to him ‘the care, government and administration of the spirituals’ of the bishopric. It is, therefore, the confirmation of the election which makes the bishop-elect into the bishop of the diocese.

The wording used in the process of confirmation has a long history. Before the eighteenth century it was in Latin, but in about 1733 an English translation was introduced. Today a somewhat modernised version is used which has been adapted to deal with the restrictions that prevent us being together in one physical space.

Sitting as a court of law on behalf of the Archbishop, I, as his Vicar-General, have to decide whether the procedural steps have been properly carried out so that the election of the new bishop can be confirmed.

There are several stages in the proceedings.

¶ First, in accordance with the Appointment of Bishops Act 1533, there is the direction from Her Majesty in the form of Letters Patent requiring the confirmation of the bishop's election.

¶ Secondly, the Advocate will introduce the bishop-elect, and the Proctor will prove that all the necessary procedures have been complied with and that no objections should be permitted to be heard.

¶ Thirdly, the bishop-elect will take the Oaths of Allegiance and Canonical Obedience and make his Declaration of Assent.

¶ Fourthly and finally, if I am so satisfied, I shall read the sentence or decree of the Court, which confers upon the bishop the spiritual jurisdiction over the diocese.

In the unusual circumstances that have prevailed by reason of the coronavirus, I have directed that the proceedings will take place through a video conferencing facility.

To the extent that such a novel approach might raise questions of validity or identification, I can confirm that the Vicars-General of both Provinces, along with other senior legal officials in the Church of England, have expressed themselves satisfied that in these present circumstances, this approach using electronic means to fulfil the requirements of the historic legislation is entirely appropriate; and, I might add, the bishop-elect, who has been the Bishop of Berwick is well-known to all those taking part in these proceedings today.

I will ask him to acknowledge his presence and identity on screen now.

Bishop-Elect:

I am Mark Simon Austin Tanner, until today the Bishop of Berwick.

The Vicar-General says:

There are a number of documents that are formally presented to and examined by me and I am going to ask the Provincial Registrar to confirm that the originals of all the documents to be referred to have been supplied to me in advance of the hearing, other people having certified copies of them.

Provincial Registrar:

I do so confirm.

The Vicar-General says:

With those preliminaries performed, I will now proceed with the Confirmation of Election.

The Confirmation of Election

Proctor:

Right Worshipful Sir, I have the honour of appearing on behalf of the College of Canons of the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chester. My name is Lisa Moncur.

Advocate:

Right Worshipful Sir, I have the honour of appearing on behalf of the Bishop-Elect. My name is Rachel May Brown.

The law requires that the Proctor (representative) of the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chester, produce a certificate of the Bishop's election by the College of Canons of Chester, and that the Bishop-Elect should give his consent to his election being confirmed.

The Proctor addresses the Archbishop of York:

Archbishop Stephen, I respectfully ask that this Court shall witness the formal consent of the Bishop-Elect.

The Archbishop of York responds:

You may proceed.

The Archbishop endorses his consent on the Letters Patent that the process may proceed.

The Proctor addresses the Bishop-Elect:

Mark Simon Austin Tanner, I have formally exhibited my Proxy of the College of Canons of Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chester, and have presented to you a Certificate of your being elected to be Bishop and Pastor of the See of Chester and pray that you will be pleased to give your consent to the said Election.

The Bishop-Elect reads the Schedule of Consent. The Schedule is signed by the Bishop-Elect, in the 'virtual presence' of the Advocate and the Provincial Registrar who will subscribe their signatures as witnesses in due course.

The Proctor puts into evidence the document authorising her to act for the College of Canons and the Letters Patent.

Proctor:

Right Worshipful Sir, I have formally exhibited my proxy for the College of Canons of the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chester, and make myself a party for them. There are before the Court the Letters Patent of Our Sovereign Lady The Queen issued under the Great Seal of the Realm requiring the Confirmation of the Election of the Right Reverend Mark Simon Austin Tanner now the Bishop of Berwick, to be Bishop and Pastor of the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chester. I pray that these Letters Patent may be read.

The Letters Patent are opened and shown to the Vicar-General by the Provincial Registrar of the Province of York.

Vicar-General:

Let the Letters Patent be read.

The Letters Patent are then read by the Provincial Registrar.

Proctor:

I humbly pray that you will be pleased to take upon you the duty of this Confirmation. I request you to decree that it be proceeded with according to the form of the said Letters Patent and in accordance with the Law.

Vicar-General:

In obedience to the Command of Our Sovereign Lady The Queen we do take upon us the duty of the Confirmation of this Election. We do decree that it be proceeded with according to the form and effect of the said Letters Patent in the presence of the Provincial Registrar of the Province of York, a Notary Public.

Advocate:

Right Worshipful Sir, it is my privilege to identify and present to you the Right Reverend Mark Simon Austin Tanner as the person elected Bishop and Pastor of the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chester, and I do here judicially produce His Lordship.

Proctor:

As Proctor for the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chester, I formally produce to you as an exhibit the Original Mandate requiring public notice to be given and stating that anyone wishing to oppose the election should do so at an appointed time and place prior to the date of the Confirmation, or else would be debarred from pursuing any objection. Endorsed on this Mandate is a certificate which verifies that public notice was duly given as required and that no person has appeared in opposition to the Confirmation.

Proctor

All persons having been given public notice and an opportunity to oppose the Election, and none having appeared with objections which may be here and now lawfully entertained, I pray that all such persons be precluded from the opportunity of opposing the said Election, and that the Court will proceed with the next steps in the Confirmation of the Election. I have produced a schedule which I pray to be received.

The Provincial Registrar has previously submitted the Schedule to the Vicar-General who now reads and signs it. The document decrees that it is now too late for anyone to object.

Proctor:

Sir, I pray that the Court do now proceed to further acts in this Confirmation.

Vicar-General:

Full opportunity having been given for opposers to appear whose objections could be lawfully received and none having appeared as ordered, we now proceed with the process of Confirmation of the Election.

Proctor:

I have submitted my Summary Petition in writing which I pray to be admitted in Court and that you will decree that I should proceed immediately to prove the matters recited in this Petition.

The Proctor then formally produces to the Vicar-General a Petition which sets out in detail the vacation of the See and the steps taken to elect a bishop and asks that the election be confirmed.

The Summary Petition, which has been signed previously by the Proctor, Advocate and the Provincial Registrar, is read by the Provincial Registrar.

Vicar-General:

We do admit your Summary Petition so far as the same may by Law be admitted and do decree that you prove the matters recited in your Petition immediately.

Proctor:

In supply of proof of the matters contained in my Summary Petition, there have been provided for you the following documents, each of which I have formally exhibited.

¶ First, a Certificate touching and concerning the Election of the Right Reverend Mark Simon Austin Tanner to be Bishop and Pastor of the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chester. This was made and issued by the College of Canons of Chester.

¶ Secondly, you saw and heard the Bishop-Elect consent to the said election and sign a Public Instrument containing his said consent.

¶ Thirdly, I refer to Her Majesty's Letters Patent which have already been read.

I submit that all the matters set forth in these exhibits are true and were done as therein described. I pray that all of them shall be admitted and accepted by the Court.

Vicar-General:

We do admit all these documents and accept their validity and the truthfulness of all that is contained in them.

Advocate:

The Bishop-Elect is ready to take the Oaths and make and subscribe the Declaration of Assent as required.

Vicar-General:

Let the Oaths be taken and the Declaration of Assent be made and subscribed.

The Bishop-Elect takes a Bible in his right hand and takes the Oaths.

The Vicar-General reads the Preface to the Declaration of Assent.

The Bishop-Elect makes and subscribes the Declaration.

The Bishop-Elect then signs the documents; the Vicar-General and Provincial Registrar will subscribe their signatures as witnesses in due course.

Proctor:

I pray that the Court shall now proceed to make an Order confirming the Election. I have submitted and corrected a definitive Sentence or Final Decree in writing which I pray to be read and declared.

The Vicar-General then reads the Sentence or Final Decree of the Court that the Election was carried out in due form, that the Election is confirmed and that 'the care, government and administration of the Spirituals' of the Bishopric are committed to the Bishop.

The Sentence or Final Decree is then signed by the Vicar-General and in due course will be signed by the Provincial Registrar, and countersigned by the Advocate.

Proctor:

The Bishop, now Elected and Confirmed, I pray that a Public Instrument and Letters Testimonial shall be made and issued by the Court as a record of these proceedings.

Vicar-General:

We do decree as prayed.

The Mandate

Vicar-General:

The business of the Confirmation of Election of the Right Reverend Mark Simon Austin Tanner as Bishop of Chester is now complete. I now ask His Grace formally to deliver his Mandate to the Dean of Chester.

The Archbishop's Mandate for Induction and Enthronement is addressed to the Dean of Chester and requires the Dean to ensure that the new Bishop of Chester is inducted into the actual and corporeal possession of the Bishopric of Chester.

This will take place at the enthronement in the Cathedral Church and is symbolised by the act of the Dean placing the new Bishop in the seat of the Diocesan Bishop in the Cathedral.

The Archbishop of York:

I mandate you to admit and induct the Right Reverend Mark Simon Austin Tanner into the actual and corporeal possession of the Bishopric of Chester. I further require you to certify in writing to the Provincial Registrar of York that this has been done.

The Dean of Chester:

I accept your Mandate, and will so do.

Vicar-General:

Let us now hear the Charge.

The Charge

The Archbishop reads his Charge to the Bishop of Chester. The Charge is based on the work done by the Diocesan Vacancy in See Committee and by the Crown Nominations Commission as they sought to discern the needs of the Diocese

Bishop of Chester:

I accept your Charge. By the help of God, with trust in Our Lord Jesus Christ and in the strength of the Holy Spirit, I will faithfully endeavour to honour this mission.

The Archbishop prays for the Bishop, saying:

Almighty God, giver of all good things,
mercifully behold Mark your servant, elected to be Bishop of Chester.
Fill him with the grace of your Holy Spirit,
that he may be a faithful witness and teacher of the Gospel,
an example to those among whom he serves
in holiness of life and in the practice of Christian ministry,
and a wise and loving pastor of the people committed to his charge.
We ask this for the sake of him who came not to be served but to serve,
even your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

sung on a recording by York Minster Choir directed by Robert Sharpe

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a Way, as gives us breath;
such a Truth, as ends all strife;
such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a Light, as shows a feast;
such a Feast, as mends in length;
such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a Joy, as none can move;
such a Love, as none can part;
such a Heart, as joys in love.

Words George Herbert (1593–1633) ♦ *Music* Richard Lloyd (b. 1933)

New Testament Reading

read by the Revd Isaac Lawrence

*Vicar of Scotby (All Saints) and Cotehill with Cumwhinton, Diocese of Carlisle
and formerly Curate of Holy Trinity Ripon*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians:

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by those who are called ‘the circumcision’—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Ephesians 2.11–22

The Address

The Archbishop of York

Prayers of Intercession

led by Hannah Egan and the Dean of Chester

*I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,
should set his love upon the sons of men,
or why, as shepherd, he should seek the wand'ers...*

We pray, dear Lord, for Mark today—a bishop in your church,
called now to shepherd your people in the diocese of Chester.
We pray that he may lead by example
and go where you long for your people to serve you.
Bless Mark and his family as they prepare to move to a new home,
a new context for their lives and ministries;
Bless the church he comes to serve through this new ministry,
and bless your world with your Gospel truth.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

*I cannot tell how silently he suffered...
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted,
and stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear...*

We pray, O Lord, for all who know brokenness today:
For those who suffer because of infection;
Those whose wellbeing is harmed by isolation;
Those who grieve and who have been close to death;
Remembering the ones who are lost.
Heal your world we pray,
and empower your church, your people,
to be a source of your healing nature.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

*I cannot tell how he will win the nations,
how he will claim his earthly heritage...
But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,
and he shall reap the harvest he has sown...*

O God, we live among nations that stand against one another:
politically, economically, by values and identity and culture and structure;
This rich abundance you offer to us, we weaponize and harm.
Yet we long to see the glory of your kingdom,
made real for all to embrace.
We pray for this world and for all who announce your kingdom,
that peace and love may abound
and the earth become rich with the blessings of heaven.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

*I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
or who can say how great the jubilation...
'At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King.'*

Father of all, we bring these prayers before you
in the hope of him who was born and who died
for our salvation,
and who shares your eternal kingdom.

We pray that we may be faithful to his calling,
and for Bishop Mark in the great responsibility he must now prepare for,
that, in faith and trust, he may depend on you
and lead your people in Jesus's way.

God of mercy,
**you know us and love us
and hear our prayer:
keep us in the eternal fellowship of
Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.**

The Commission

led by the Bishop of Chester

We are all one in Christ, we are called to love and serve the Lord.
We are ambassadors for him.

There are varieties of gifts,
but the same Spirit.

There are varieties of service,
but the same Lord.

There are different kinds of working,
but the same God is at work in all.

Let us affirm our commitment to mission as the household of faith.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?
With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.
Amen.

This Collect is said by the Archbishop of York:

Almighty God,
who called your Church to witness
that in Christ you were reconciling the world to yourself:
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be reconciled to you
through him who died for us and rose again
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said.

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.**

The Blessing

The Rt Revd Mark Tanner, Bishop of Chester

May God who gives patience and encouragement,
give you a spirit of unity to live in harmony
as you follow Jesus Christ,
so that with one voice
you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of Almighty God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Thank you to everyone who has made this service possible and all those who have contributed to the music and liturgical content.

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