



## REQUIEM MASS FOR FR THOMAS WILLIAMS

1 NOVEMBER 2020

### MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP BERNARD LONGLEY

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ and dear friends,

I am sorry that I cannot be with you today as the Requiem Mass for our dear friend and brother priest Fr Thomas Williams is celebrated in the Czech Republic and as Masses are celebrated for the repose of his soul at Our Lady and St John's in Goring-on-Thames and Christ the King in Woodcote.

I wish to extend my sincere condolences to Fr Tom's good friends, Dr Jarka Laňkova and all her family. On behalf of the Archdiocese of Birmingham I thank Dr Jarka and her family for the wonderful care and support that Fr Tom received from them in recent years and for their friendship which he had cherished for many years before.

I offer my condolences to all the members of Fr Tom's family, and to his devoted parishioners at Watlington and Goring-on-Thames with Woodcote. A particular word of gratitude must go to Fr Jacob Lewis who has shared so much with Fr Tom as a brother priest in serving the parish communities.

I want to express the thanks of everybody in the Archdiocese of Birmingham to Bishop Pavel Posád from České Budějovice for officiating at Fr Tom's funeral. I also thank the Parish Priest of All Saints Parish in Kamenice, Fr Vaclav Šika, and all his parishioners for making Fr Tom so welcome over many years.

As you know, Fr Tom served and witnessed as a priest with great faithfulness and dedication for sixty-three years. Fr Tom was a much-loved and faithful priest of our Archdiocese. He helped countless people to find their place in the Kingdom of God and we shall miss him greatly.

Now the Lord has called Fr Tom into the joy of the Father's Kingdom. I pray with you that Our Blessed Lady and St John and All Saints may welcome him into the company of the blessed. With my kindest wishes.

Yours sincerely in Christ

✠ Bernard Longley  
Archbishop of Birmingham