

19th April 2008

BAMENDA DRUMS AND DANCING AT SOLEMN MASS IN PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL.....

On 19th April, at Portsmouth Cathedral, representatives of the Anglophone Cameroonian Community resident in our Diocese were prominent in a vibrant Pontifical Mass Dressed in the dramatic traditional Bamenda gowns and caps; they joined others from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe to make this celebration truly memorable.

What was the occasion? Bishop Crispian, along with many priests associated with the Mission of the Universal Church, was celebrating the Mass to mark the 50th anniversary of the Encyclical of Pius XII 'Fidei Donum', which encouraged established dioceses to reach out in brotherly affection and practical support to dioceses on the missionary front-line of the Church.

In the homily, the preacher, Fr Anthony Chantry, Superior General of the Mill Hill Fathers, highlighted the special contribution of the Diocesan Link with Bamenda:

Fifty years ago the call came from Rome for dioceses of the developed churches to send priests to the developing churches the Fidei Donum, the gift of faith, initiative.

Priests volunteered from this diocese and supported by you the people of this diocese, went out to make good things happen in Bamenda, Cameroon. In a recent visit to Bamenda, former archbishop of Bamenda, Archbishop Verdzekov spoke to me of the great affection and appreciation he has for the wonderful contribution of your priests who along with our Mill Hill Missionaries and other missionary groups have built up a strong and lively Church which is itself now becoming more missionary.



Our celebration today is rightly focussed on the good efforts of these priests from your diocese but would be lacking if it did not acknowledge the great missionary outreach of the whole diocese: men, women and young people Religious – Sisters, Brothers and Priests who in different ways have supported, encouraged and directly taken part in Mission abroad and at home, for Mission takes place wherever we are.

To see more pictures of the event, and to read the full homily of Father Chantry MHM, log on to the home-page of the Diocesan website

<http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/>.

