

PRESS RELEASE

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL, PORTSMOUTH

RELEASE IMMEDIATE

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St John's Cathedral looks to erect a statue of St John the Evangelist sculptured in bronze by Philip Jackson. The statue to be placed in the open piazza at the west end of the Cathedral.

STARTS

RAISING THE IMAGE

St John's Catholic Cathedral in Portsmouth is looking to erect a bronze statue of St John the Evangelist sculptured by Philip Jackson, one of the foremost figurative sculptors in Britain.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Cathedral and subject to permission from the Portsmouth City Council and the Historic Churches Committee, the statue is to be erected on open the piazza outside the west end of the Cathedral in Edinburgh Road.

St John the Evangelist, patron of the Cathedral and one of the apostles of Christ, will be portrayed as a young energetic fisherman, eager to proclaim the Gospel.

A maquette of the statue was unveiled yesterday evening at the Cathedral in a special ceremony with Bishop Crispian Hollis. Canon David Hopgood, Cathedral Dean, commenting on the event, said: 'The Friends of the Cathedral and all others supporting this initiative feel excitement and pride at the opportunity to make such a statement of our faith and a worthy contribution to the cultural life of the City.'

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Philip Jackson is one of the foremost figurative sculptors working in Britain today. He has created works which are both haunting and dramatic. Some of his works have been, the sculpture of Her Majesty the Queen in Windsor Park, St Richard of Chichester, located outside Chichester Cathedral and of course the sculpture of the *Young Yomper* on the seafront in our own city. More recently we have seen the wonderful sculpture of the Queen Mother in the Mall unveiled by the Queen, which is one of Philip's latest creations to enhance our land.

Following the unveiling of the maquette, Philip Jackson continues with the preparations and complicated procedure of creating this sculpture in bronze, which will be completed by Easter and unveiled hopefully during the month of April or May 2010.

For further information and photo opportunities please contact:

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