

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL, PORTSMOUTH**

#### **RELEASE IMMEDIATE**

**Date of release: 30 January 2006**

St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth, celebrates the start of the Chinese New Year of the Dog.

## **STARTS**

### **GONG XI FA CAI**

St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth celebrated the start of the Chinese (Lunar) New Year, the 'Year of the Dog', in grand style with a Mass 'packed to the rafters' at noon on 29 January which was officiated by Canon David Hopgood and Fr Steven Restori.

The Cathedral, decked in colourful banners and Chinese lanterns, was filled to capacity with many present wearing something red in recognition of the Chinese colour for good fortune, happiness and prosperity.

The mid-day Mass was complemented by readings in Chinese and Chinese music under the direction of Sr. Marguerite Wong. Chinese tradition came to the fore with the ritual presentation of tea and the decking of the altar prior to communion.

'It is wonderful,' commented Canon David 'to see the multi-culturalism of our community brought so vividly to life.'

The festivities ended with the handing out to all present of traditional tokens of good will.

## **ENDS**

Notes to Editors

For further information and photo opportunities please contact:

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