

PRESS RELEASE: STATEMENT

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL, PORTSMOUTH

RELEASE IMMEDIATE

Date of release: 12 September 2007

Bishop Crispian Hollis, Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, has issued the following statement on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales concerning the resignation of Archbishop Pius Ncube of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

STARTS

Archbishop Pius Ncube

I heard the news of Archbishop Pius Ncube's resignation from the diocese of Bulawayo with enormous sadness.

For many years, he has been outstandingly brave in the way that he has confronted the Mugabe regime in Zimbabwe.

No one could have done more to highlight the plight of that country's suffering people and I can only stand in admiration of his courage and in gratitude to him for all that he has achieved.

It is good to know that, far from being silenced, he will continue to campaign vigorously and courageously for justice for the oppressed people of Zimbabwe.

I am certain that Archbishop Pius' many friends and supporters throughout Africa and in the wider world will continue to hold him in their prayers.

**Bishop Crispian Hollis
Chairman,
Department for International Affairs,
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales**

ENDS

Notes to Editors

For further information please contact: St John's Cathedral, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth PO1 3HG
t: +44 (0) 23 9282 6613 e: stjath@portsmouth-dio.org.uk w: www.PortsmouthCatholicCathedral.org