



YR EGLWYS  
YNG NGHYMRU



THE CHURCH  
IN WALES

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ARCHESGOB CYMRU AC ESGOB LLANDAF, Y PARCHEDICAF DDR BARRY MORGAN  
ARCHBISHOP OF WALES AND BISHOP OF LLANDAFF, THE MOST REVEREND DR BARRY MORGAN

## TO BE READ IN ALL THE CHURCHES OF THE DIOCESE AT ALL SERVICES ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2009

Every baptised member of Christ's church exercises a ministry by virtue of baptism and all of us are called upon to witness to Jesus in all that we do and say. That is our vocation - the call to each one of us and the New Testament stresses that fact over and over again. Crucial as that is, and we must never forget it, some men and women are called to ordained ministry, to serve and enable the ministry of the whole church by word and sacrament and never has the need been greater. In June 2010, for the first time since my consecration as bishop in 1993, there will be no stipendiary candidates to ordain to the diaconate. Moreover, when one examines the evidence emerging from an analysis of ordination and retirement figures in recent decades, together with projected trends, the results indicate a shortfall in the province as a whole of approximately 18 priests a year and the fall off in ordinations, particularly of younger people, has accelerated in recent years at the very time when the retirement rate is due to increase.

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