

**THE APOSTOLIC LETTER**  
***UNIVERSALIS ECCLESIAE PROCURATIO***  
**OF POPE BENEDICT XV, 20 July 1917**

¶**BENEDICT**, Bishop, Servant of the Servants of God, For  
Remembrance in Perpetuity

¶**THE WELFARE OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**, which is the concern of the Roman Pontiffs, moves them to the erection of new dioceses throughout the Catholic world whenever this seems to promote the greater good of the People of God. Since, therefore, it seemed opportune and even necessary for the increase of religion and the good of souls to divide the far-flung Archdiocese of Westminster in England into two parts, so that a new and distinct diocese might be formed, We, with the agreement of Our beloved son Francis Bourne, Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church with the title of St Pudentiana, presently Archbishop of Westminster, together with the advice of others whom it may be presumed to concern, and with the assent of Our brethren in the Sacred Consistorial Congregation, did take from the Archdiocese of Westminster the County of Essex, establishing it as a distinct diocese, and did decree that it be a Suffragan See of the Metropolitan Church of Westminster.

In the Consistory held on 22 March 1917, so that the matter might be settled as speedily as possible, We chose Our beloved son, Bernard Ward, to be Titular Bishop of *Lydda* and Apostolic Administrator in the new diocese until such time was required to determine the further needs of the see. In the present Consistory, since both the Archbishop of Westminster and the Apostolic Administrator considered it appropriate to locate the Cathedral in the town of Brentwood, We, all things considered and with the fullness of Our Apostolic power, constitute the aforesaid town of Brentwood as an episcopal see and the seat of the Bishop, with all the rights and privileges which the other English dioceses enjoy.

We decree that all things pertaining to the government and administration of the new diocese, the authority, rights and privileges of the new Bishop and

his successors, together with the rights and responsibilities of the clergy and laity, be governed by the canons of the Church, especially those of the Council of Trent, and that all things be observed as they are in the other English dioceses.

The boundaries of the new Diocese of Brentwood are to be coterminous with those of the civil County of Essex. We therefore translate the same venerable brother, Bernard Ward, to the Cathedral Church of Brentwood as Bishop and Pastor, absolving him at the same time from any link binding him to the Titular See of *Lydda*. That which We have set forth in this Apostolic Letter by Our own authority let no one ever impugn, infringe or contradict in any way. For the execution of all these matters We depute the same Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, granting him the necessary faculties or of sub-delegating some other prelate. Should there be any difficulties or objections these must be communicated to the Consistorial Congregation in a formal manner within six months.

¶GIVEN FROM ST PETER'S, ROME, on the Twentieth day of July in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventeen, the third of Our Pontificate.