



## The Diocese of Southwark

## The Bishops of Southwark

The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun  
Bishop of Southwark

The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark  
Bishop of Croydon

The Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham  
Bishop of Kingston

The Rt Revd Karowei Dorgu  
Bishop of Woolwich

7 March 2019

### To all Clergy of Incumbent Status

#### Leaving the European Union

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There are a little over three weeks now before the United Kingdom (UK) is due to leave the European Union (EU). This is a time of great uncertainty for everyone as the country waits to hear the outcome the vote due to take place in the House of Commons on Tuesday 12 March. Even when this vote has taken place it is still difficult to know how life will be here in the UK in the next weeks, months and years.

At this time we want to encourage our churches and congregations to pray for unity and for people, whatever their personal views, and to come together to ensure that whatever the outcome we work together to bring about the best possible way forward for the communities we serve in Christ's name.

At a recent meeting of Diocesan clergy who are from the EU 27 remaining nations we heard powerful testimonies of the costly nature of leaving for those who have been very secure in their identity as fellow European nationals. Some have even received taunts on social media. So we commend to your prayers the healing of the divisions which have been caused by the political turmoil of the last three years.

On the Friday 29 March, assuming that is when we leave the EU, our Cathedral will be open all day for people to come in to pray and to light a candle at the dedicated prayer station. There will be Choral Evensong that day at 5.30pm at which the Dean will preach and the Bishop of Southwark will pronounce the blessing. All are, of course invited to join this act of prayer and witness. We hope that you will feel able to open your church and invite people to come and pray together and alone for our nation, for the countries that remain in the EU and for our world.

We encourage you pray for the future of our nation and Europe in your services leading up to the day upon which we are due to leave and encourage members of your congregations to pray and continue to do so in the coming weeks.

May we commend the prayer that the Dean has written to you and your congregations:

*Contd...*

God of reconciling hope,  
as you guided your people in the past  
guide us through the uncertainties of the present time  
and bring us to that place of flourishing  
where our unity can be restored,  
the common good served  
and all shall be made well.  
In the name of Jesus we pray.  
Amen.

With our thanks for all we share in the Gospel,



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*The Dean of Southwark's prayer is available on the Diocesan Website at*  
<http://southwark.anglican.org/news/press-releases/2019/a-prayer-from-the-dean-of-southwark-for-the-future-of-our-nation-and-europe>