



Dear Father,

## The Welcome Directory

I write to you from the Bishops Conference in my capacity as National Catholic Chaplain for Prisons to commend to you the work of The Welcome Directory.

The purpose of this letter is that it may be used in conjunction with an approach, by representatives of The Welcome Directory, to Roman Catholic Parishes in their efforts to recruit worshipping communities who might be willing to promote themselves as a community who will welcome men and women who are leaving prison. There are many prisoners who, on release, seek an understanding and accepting community that they can join for worship.

The Welcome Directory, whilst an initiative of the Free Churches Group, crosses the boundaries of faiths in providing Prison Chaplains with a tool that enables them to give guidance to prisoners as they approach their release. I wholeheartedly commend this initiative to you and can guarantee that the appropriate safeguarding measures have been considered and are in place to ensure that as a welcoming parish community you will have the support required.

With every good wish and prayer.

Yours in Christ

*Canon Paul*

From the National Catholic Chaplain for Prisons, HMPPS Roman Catholic Faith Advisor – Very Reverend Canon Paul Douthwaite BA Hons PGCE

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