

THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER

The Rt Revd Dr David Walker



4th March 2026

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Many of you will be aware that in 2027 I reach my 70th birthday. To avoid speculation, and to minimise the gap between my retirement and the arrival of the next Bishop of Manchester, I wish to set out my intentions as early as possible.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that I have now heard that His Majesty the King has agreed to my retirement. Further to this, last week I received a signed Declaration from the Archbishop of York declaring that the See of Manchester will become vacant as from 31st July 2027. In making this Declaration, the Archbishop has confirmed that I can continue for what will be two months beyond my actual birthday. This is to allow me, amongst other things, to preside at the Petertide Ordinations, and to relinquish my responsibilities at a point when things calm down for the summer holidays.

Until then, I intend to remain fully engaged in the service of Manchester Diocese as your bishop. There will be a time for formal farewells to be made, but it is not yet for a while!

Please continue to hold Sue and me in your prayers, as I hold you all in mine.

Yours ever,