



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

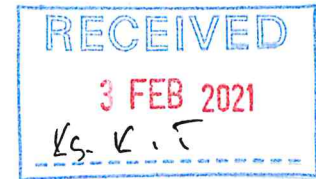
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From the General Secretary – Rev. Canon Christopher Thomas

2nd February 2021

Bishop Wieslaw Lechowicz
Delegate of the PBC for Polish Emigration
Skwer Kard. Stefana Wyszyńskiego 6
01-015 Warszawa
Poland



Your Excellency, dear Bishop Lechowicz,

I have been asked to write to you following a recent meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. At that meeting, Cardinal Nichols, the President of the Conference, reported from a recent COVID-19 Places of Worship Task Force, that faith communities had been asked by HM Government to promote the vaccination programme that is currently being undertaken in England and Wales. Among the reasons that faith communities were being asked to assist in this way was that there is not only a strength of relationship between those communities and their religious leaders, but also evidence of a scepticism, referred to as "vaccine hesitancy," regarding the vaccine and its reception in some groups in society.

In the discussion that followed, it was agreed that we would approach those chaplains who have a connection with diverse groups in the Church in England and Wales to ask their support for the vaccine programme and encourage members of their communities to receive the vaccine when it is offered to them. This is the purpose of this letter.

We would be grateful if you could speak directly to the Polish faithful in England and Wales to make this important point. We request you to issue a pastoral letter or a statement to be read by all of the Polish chaplains, utilising the good offices of the Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales, so that the faithful can hear directly your support for the vaccination as an act of personal and communal benefit. You will be aware, of course, of the full support of the Holy See in this regard.

I have copied this letter to the Rector of the Polish Mission, Monsignor Stefan Wylezek, so that he is aware of our request and will ask his cooperation in due course.

With all good wishes and prayers,

Rev. Canon Christopher Thomas
General Secretary

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