

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF THE RESURRECTION, MIRFIELD

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For immediate release

CELEBRATING GOD'S CALL

Archbishop Desmond Tutu to lead and inspire new trainees for the church and lay the foundation stone for the future.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu, one of the best known and most outstanding religious leaders in the world today, is to visit the College of the Resurrection, West Yorkshire on 7 November.

He will meet men and women considering training to become vicars in the Church of England and lay a foundation stone for a new monastery planned for the Community of the Resurrection.

The College of the Resurrection in Mirfield is one of 12 training colleges for the Anglican Church and welcomes around 40 new students each year. They study and worship alongside the Community of the Resurrection, a monastic community formed more than 100 years ago.

As a child growing up in the townships of South Africa,

Desmond Tutu was inspired to join the church when he met leading anti Apartheid campaigner, Fr Trevor Huddleston who was a member of the Community of the Resurrection. He still tells the story of how as a young boy he was struck by the fact that Fr Trevor was the only white man he saw ever take his hat off to his mother. Tutu then went on to train for the priesthood at a sister College of the Resurrection in South Africa.

Archbishop Tutu will speak to men and women who are considering a future as priests in the Anglican Church and will lead a service celebrating God's call.

College Principal, Joe Kennedy said: "We are thrilled that the Archbishop is honouring us with this visit."

"He represents all the best Christian virtues and values we seek to live out in the College. He is an inspirational man of faith who has dedicated his life to Christ and social change," he added.

The Rev'd Dr Kennedy said the Archbishop's visit came at a time of growth and renewal for the College, as people from increasingly diverse backgrounds were drawn by the unique opportunity to train for the ordained ministry while living alongside a monastic community. The monastic community itself, the Community of the Resurrection, was also entering an exciting and bold period of change with plans to develop a new monastery on the existing campus.

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Notes for editors

There will be picture opportunity of the Archbishop with young trainees laying the foundation stone and a brief opportunity to speak with him 10.00 – 10.15am, 7 November, College of the Resurrection, Stocksbank Road, Mirfield, WF14 0BW.

For more contact: the Rev'd Dr Joe Kennedy, College Principal
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Brief biographical details: Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Born in Klerksdorp on 7th October 1931, Anglican priest Desmond Tutu became the first black General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches in 1978. He called for equal rights for all South Africans and a system of common education. Tutu encouraged nonviolent resistance to the apartheid regime, and advocated an economic boycott of the country. His extraordinary contributions to this cause earned him a Nobel Peace Prize in 1984. A month after winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, Tutu was elected the first black Anglican bishop of Johannesburg. In 1986 he was elected Archbishop of Cape Town, the highest position in the Anglican Church in South Africa. In 1989 he led a march to a whites-only beach, where he and supporters were chased off with whips. In December 1995, President Nelson Mandela appointed him to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission a body set up to probe gross human rights violations during the apartheid era. This Commission and the role played by Archbishop Tutu, was a crucial component in the transition to a free democracy in South Africa. Today Archbishop Tutu is regarded as an elder world statesman with a major role to play in reconciliation and as a leading moral voice. He has become an icon of hope far beyond the Church and Southern Africa. Throughout his life, he has been known pre-eminently as a spiritual leader caring deeply about the needs of people around the world, teaching love and compassion to all.