

**CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST MARY, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE**

**A prominent Christian leader is set to visit the North East of England. His Eminence Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle is to visit St. Mary’s RC Cathedral on Monday 9th March 2015. This is a pastoral visit to the Filipino community in the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle**

Cardinal Tagle has just hosted the visit of Pope Francis to the Philippines where a record crowd of six million turned out for the outdoor Mass. He is travelling to Newcastle to bring Pope Francis’ best wishes to the people of the North East. Luis Antonio Tagle was made a Cardinal by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012 and has many years of experience both in his own country and also in the Vatican. In 2014 he was made a member of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples and he is also a President-Delegate of the Third Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family

Cardinal Tagle is very aware of the effects of poverty and migration on families. He said recently that the airport "*has become a traumatic place for me -- not because of my travels and the dangers -- but to see and hear, especially mothers talking to their children in the airport, bidding them goodbye, and you can see how their hearts are broken. And then you wonder what kind of strength they need and you just pray, 'Lord give them strength.'" He goes on to say that the separation of families "definitely creates a wound and leaves a wound---they get separated because they love each other and the best way for some of them to show concern and love and support is to leave and find employment elsewhere." Catholic News Service Oct. 4 2014 (*[*http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1404115.htm*](http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1404115.htm)*)*

The Filipino Community is very prominent in Catholic parishes across the Diocese, especially working in the caring professions in local hospitals and nursing/care homes in the area. Statistics from the 2011 census show that there are over 3,000 Filipinos living in the North East. The Cardinals visit has caused a great deal of excitement within the Filipino Community since its announcement. It will give the Filipino Community the opportunity to meet with Cardinal Tagle and through him be united with their families back home.

Cardinal Tagle will preside at the 12.05pm Mass in St. Mary’s Cathedral with Bishop Séamus Cunningham, the Diocesan Bishop, and clergy on Monday 9th March. In the evening at 7.00pm there will be a special celebration presided over by Cardinal Tagle which will include prayers and music provided by members of the Filipino community. People are expected to attend from the North East and other parts of the country.

-ENDS-

Any further queries, please contact the Cathedral Office on 0191 232 6953

**Sources**

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/mro/news-release/census-2-1----north-east/census-gives-insights-into-characteristics-of-the-north-east-s-population.html>

<http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/briefings/north-east-census-profile>

<http://www.rcam.org/archbishops/luis-antonio-g-tagle-sec>