

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

OBITUARY OF THE RIGHT REVEREND VINCENT MALONE AUXILIARY BISHOP EMERITUS OF LIVERPOOL



Vincent Malone was born in Liverpool on 11 September 1931. His early education was in the local parish school at St Oswald's, Old Swan. From 1942 to 1949 he attended St Francis Xavier College which was then run by the Jesuits in Salisbury Street, Liverpool. At the age of eighteen he went to St Joseph's College, Upholland to

study for the priesthood and was ordained in his home parish of St Oswald, Old Swan on 18 September 1955.

His first appointment was to be Chaplain at Notre Dame Convent and College in Mount Pleasant, Liverpool (1955-1959) and while there he studied at Liverpool University and was awarded a Bachelor of Science (B Sc) in 1959. From Cambridge University he obtained in 1960 a Post graduate Certificate in education (PGCE) and in 1964 a Diploma in Education (Dip Ed). In 1967 he became a Fellow of the College of Preceptors (FcollP).

From 1960 to 1961 he served as Assistant Priest at St Anne's, Overbury Street, Liverpool and was a part-time teacher at St Francis Xavier's Preparatory School which was at that time also the Cathedral Choir School. Then for the next ten years (1961-1971) he served on the staff of Cardinal Allen Grammar school for Boys, first as an assistant teacher and eventually as Head of the Department for Religious Studies.

In 1971 he was appointed by Archbishop Beck as Catholic Chaplain to the University of Liverpool based in the Chaplaincy on Mount Pleasant. In 1979 Archbishop Worlock appointed him as Administrator of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King and the following year he was appointed Honorary Prelate (Monsignor) and Canon of the Metropolitan Chapter.

In 1980 he was elected Chairman of Convocation of Liverpool University, the first churchman to hold that post. During his three-year term of office the University celebrated its centenary in 1981.

He has also served as Chairman of the Archdiocesan Council of Priests, Northern Regional Coordinator for the 1982 Papal Visit, Deputy Speaker of the Merseyside and Region Churches Ecumenical Assembly and Chairman of its Standing Committee. In 1981 he was appointed to be a member of Archbishop's Council and a Trustee of the Archdiocese, in which capacity he served until 2019.

He was ordained as Titular Bishop of Abora and Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool by Archbishop Worlock in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool on 3 July 1989. He served as Chairman of the Bishops' Conference Committee for Higher Education and as Episcopal Liaison for the National Board of Catholic Women.

His resignation as Auxiliary Bishop was accepted on 26 October 2006, shortly after his 75th birthday, but he continued in his roles as Vicar General and Trustee of the Archdiocese until last year and as Canon of the Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter until very recently.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

*Archbishop McMahon and Cardinal Nichols
pay tribute to Bishop Vincent Malone*

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon said:

‘Bishop Vincent had retired from his role as auxiliary bishop when I arrived in Liverpool six years ago, but he was still a very active member of the archbishop’s council and a trustee of the archdiocese. No report or set of accounts was safe from Bishop Vin’s eye for detail. As a young priest he had trained as teacher of mathematics, and numbers and diagrams certainly contributed to his view of the world or at least of the Church, but it would be very wrong to portray him as a person who was unfeeling.

‘His mild and polite manner found its fulfilment in his ministry as a priest and bishop which was characterised by unflinching kindness and respect to all those he met and served. Bishop Vincent told me that he enjoyed being an auxiliary bishop because it kept him close to people. He made a massive contribution to the life of the local church and city as dean at the Metropolitan cathedral, chaplain to Liverpool University and

chair of numerous committees including the early ecumenical bodies which laid the foundations for the harmony we enjoy between churches and people of faith in these days.

‘In life, Bishop Vincent Malone was peace with God and his creation, may he now be welcomed by his Lord into a place of peace and light.’

Cardinal Vincent Nichols said:

‘As a fairly young priest I was sent to live for a few years at the Clergy House of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool. Monsignor Vincent Malone was in charge. Above all I remember his endless patience to get right every aspect of the work of the Cathedral; his unfailing courtesy with every person he met, even those who were occasionally very difficult; his kindness to those in need who came to the door. He had a gentle rebuke for those who acted precipitously and a readiness himself to make amends. He offered warm hospitality without ever being ostentatious and a quiet witty conversation. He was a lovely man to be with.

‘He served the Archdiocese unfailingly and the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, especially in our ministry in universities, in which he had considerable experience.

‘We will miss him. We pray that he is received by our Heavenly Father with loving mercy and that he can look down upon us with an affectionate smile as he sees us still struggle to do our best. His service, his struggle is over. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.’