



The election of Pope Benedict XVI

On the announcement of the election of the new Pope, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, the Bishop of Rochester, comments:

"As a theologian, preparing the Church for the Second Vatican Council, the new Pope promoted collegiality in the Church's decision-making. The Council itself saw the Universal Primate as teaching **within** the college of bishops and not apart from them.

"He has also in his addresses (for example, to the bishops from Asia) and writings emphasised the importance of the interaction between Gospel and Culture and how the good news of Jesus transforms culture by becoming intelligible within it.

"The ratification by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith of the agreement with the Lutherans on justification shows us his commitment to the unity of the Church.

"It is these dimensions of his person and work which need to be to the fore in the coming papacy, not those aspects which are sometimes seen as unnecessarily conservative and even harsh by other Christians and people of faith."

Michael Nazir-Ali
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