



St. Catherine's Anglican Chaplaincy  
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DIOCESE IN EUROPE  
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



## **Announcement of the appointment of Bishop Antonio Ablon as Chaplain of St. Catherine's Anglican Chaplaincy, Stuttgart – with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

1st June 2023

Dear All,

We are pleased to announce that Bishop David, after careful consideration and consultation with the candidate, your Wardens and the Archdeacon, has appointed Antonio Ablon as our new Chaplain effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023. He will be licensed 24<sup>th</sup> September.

We have both met Bishop Antonio twice, once at the Archdeaconry Synod in October 2022 and during an interview in the appointment process. We found him to be very friendly and approachable. He has a lot of experience with building up a community and with missionary work. We were also impressed by his emphasis on pastoral care.

Antonio Ablon is a bishop in the Independent Church of the Philippines, also called Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI), which is in full communion with the Church of England and is part of the Anglican Communion. The IFI also works closely with the Nordkirche of the EKD and the USPG in England. After serving the church there in various capacities for over 20 years, he had to leave the Philippines in autumn 2019 because the situation had become too dangerous for him. Bishop Ablon's persecution began in June 2018 when he joined a human rights fact-finding mission.



Since October 2020 he has been working with the Nordkirche as an ecumenical Mitarbeiter and as Port Chaplain at the Deutsche Seemannsmission – Hamburg. In his time in Europe Bishop Antonio has made numerous ecumenical contacts and attended the General Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe as well as the Lambeth Conference in London last year.

There is a lot more that we could say about our new Chaplain, but for today may we just say that we are thankful that we have found a leader who will add a new dimension and a fresh vision to all that the Chaplaincy of St Catherine's has achieved so far.

We are grateful to the Evang. Landeskirche in Württemberg for their allocation of a grant to support Bishop Antonio's ministry in Stuttgart. Archdeacon Leslie is also in conversation with USPG and looking to continue its engagement with our refugee project. Let us pray that this initiative will continue to be successful.

St. Catherine's is a diverse church and we realised this once again on Pentecost Sunday. We have members from all parts of the globe. The majority is not from Europe or the US. Now we also have a chaplain who is from the Global South. It is a witness and a statement of our faith to have Bishop Antonio as our Chaplain – and it fits.

We invite you to rejoice with us in this good news and to welcome our new Chaplain with open arms and open hearts.

Thank you!

With Pentecostal blessings

Alison Seyerle and Howard F. Perry

Wardens