

Address to Bishop Hopes and Mgr Fallon

On Vietnamese New Year of the Buffalo 2009

At Vietnamese Hall 1/2/09

By Trang Tran, Safeguarding Representative of Vietnamese Chaplaincy in London

Good afternoon Bishop Alan Hopes and Monsignor Fallon! Welcome to our celebration of the Vietnamese New Year!

When we heard that you would be here with us today, father Paul Chanh asked if I would prepare a speech to speak on behalf of our Community. So here I am. It is a real privilege to be given such an important task. So thank you very much for that Father Paul Chanh!

I now like to address our bishop.

My Lord! I don't know if you are aware that this is the first time that we have a bishop joining us in the celebration of the Vietnamese New Year. Therefore it is a great honour to have you here today. Your presence means a lot to us. We acknowledge and appreciate the precious time that you have set aside just to be here with us.

We are also very touched by the concern and support you've given to us over the past years. Thank you very much and please continue to support us, pray for us so that we may grow to be a much stronger community.

My Lord! I like to take this opportunity to wish you, on behalf of our community a happy Vietnamese new year! May your 2009 be a year of PEACE, GOOD HEALTH, JOY, STRENGTH and COURAGE so that you can continue to be a good shepherd to his flock! God bless you! Chuc Mung Nam Moi Duc Cha!

Next, I'd like to address Monsignor Fallon.

Father, today is a very special day for all of us. We meet here to celebrate two very important occasions – the Vietnamese New Year and most importantly, your Golden Jubilee – which is 50 years since you took your marriage vows with God! WOW! I can't imagine how one can keep their vows for that long! It is a great achievement! Congratulation father from all of us!

Monsignor Fallon, You have a very long history and a very close bond with the Vietnamese catholic community. We are very grateful and feel indebted to you because you played a very important part in the formation of the Vietnamese Catholic Church in the UK. I've known you since I was a little girl, living next door to Monsignor Peter, about thirty years ago! But I can never remember any of our celebrations without you. You were always here sharing in times of happiness and times of sorrow. You have a very special place in the hearts of all the Vietnamese Catholics in the UK. It is really a great honour to have you here today

too. Thank you so much for coming such a long way just to be here with us! Please continue to pray for us, support us as you have always done so right from the beginning!

Now I'd like to take this opportunity here to wish you, on behalf of our Community good health, peace, joy, strength and courage so that you can continue to be an excellent priest in your role of serving God's people. All the best for the Vietnamese New Year father! Chuc Mung Nam Moi Duc Ong!

Bishop Alan Hope and Monsignor Fallon! We hope that your time here with us today is both memorable and a happy one. I guess that you both want to say a few words to everyone here today, and I am positive everyone here would like to see me end this speech and you on stage!

Bishop Alan Hopes, Monsignor Fallon and Father Paul, can I now invite you all to come on stage.