

SOLEMN PROFESSION OF BROTHER TOMAS MICHAEL VICIAN osb

In today's culture, organised religion and in particular Christianity, is often sidelined or relegated to the private domain. Even some of those who do profess a religion, tend to treat their faith in the manner of an 'added-extra', a hobby, something extrinsic to the rest of their living. Yet as we saw symbolised so powerfully in Bro. Michael's prostration on the floor of the sanctuary, covered with the funeral pall, not only for him but for anyone whom Jesus has called to be his disciple, faith can never be an added-extra. Our love for God, our discipleship of Christ, our Catholic Faith is never just a hobby. It has to be the most important thing in life. My faith is the most important thing in my life. My love for Jesus Christ has to be the most important thing in my life. –Because Jesus Christ and His Gospel is the only way to true, genuine, lasting human happiness and fulfilment. Indeed, as St. Augustine taught, the human heart is restless until it rests in God. This is why being a disciple of Christ, being a friend of Jesus, being in love with God and giving myself entirely to him, is the most exciting adventure a human being can ever undertake.

Today, we rejoice in the Solemn Profession and Monastic Consecration of Brother Michael Vician. It's a wonderful day, a day of great joy and happiness, a day never to be forgotten for Bro. Tomas Michael, for his family and for this dear community of Farnborough Abbey, dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel. I thank Abbot Cuthbert for the invitation to be here today as the Bishop of the Diocese in which this Abbey stands. And so on behalf of all the priests and people of the Diocese of Portsmouth, I invoke the prayers of our own patron saints and martyrs, above all Mary Immaculate and St. Edmund of Abingdon. May the Lord bless you abundantly. We wish you, Bro. Michael, every happiness in your vocation and we promise to pray for you that every day you will be faithful to your vows and grow deeper and deeper in love with the Sacred Heart of Jesus.