

International award for English liturgical musician

Paul Inwood – liturgist, composer, organist, workshop leader and author – has been designated “2009 Pastoral Musician of the Year” by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) in the USA. NPM is North America’s national body for Roman Catholic music and liturgy, and this award, similar to a lifetime achievement award or an honorary degree from a university, has been given “for creating beautiful music for the liturgy and leading others to drink deeply from the wellspring of the Church’s prayer”. It will be bestowed during NPM’s national convention in Chicago in July.

Paul Inwood is Director of Liturgy and Music for the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, and is well known as a writer and teacher in addition to his diocesan work. He is a member of the England and Wales Bishops’ liturgy formation subcommittee, a regular columnist in the Society of St Gregory’s journal *Music and Liturgy*, a former president of the international liturgical music study group *Universa Laus*, and the only person from an English-speaking country to be invited to speak at an international conference at the Vatican in 1998 preparing for the papal millennium liturgies in 2000.

He says that he is “astonished and humbled” to be the recipient of the NPM honour.

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