

Bishop's Mass a first for Anglican cathedral

HISTORY was made in Salisbury last week when Bishop Alexander of Clifton became the first Catholic bishop to celebrate Mass in the Anglican cathedral since the Reformation.

More than 2,000 people attended the Mass which was concelebrated by the bishop with 60 priests from the diocese. Anglican Bishop of Salisbury Rt Rev John Baker was unable to attend through illness. The Mass was the last in a series of four to be celebrated by Bishop Alexander in the four Anglican cathedrals of his diocese.

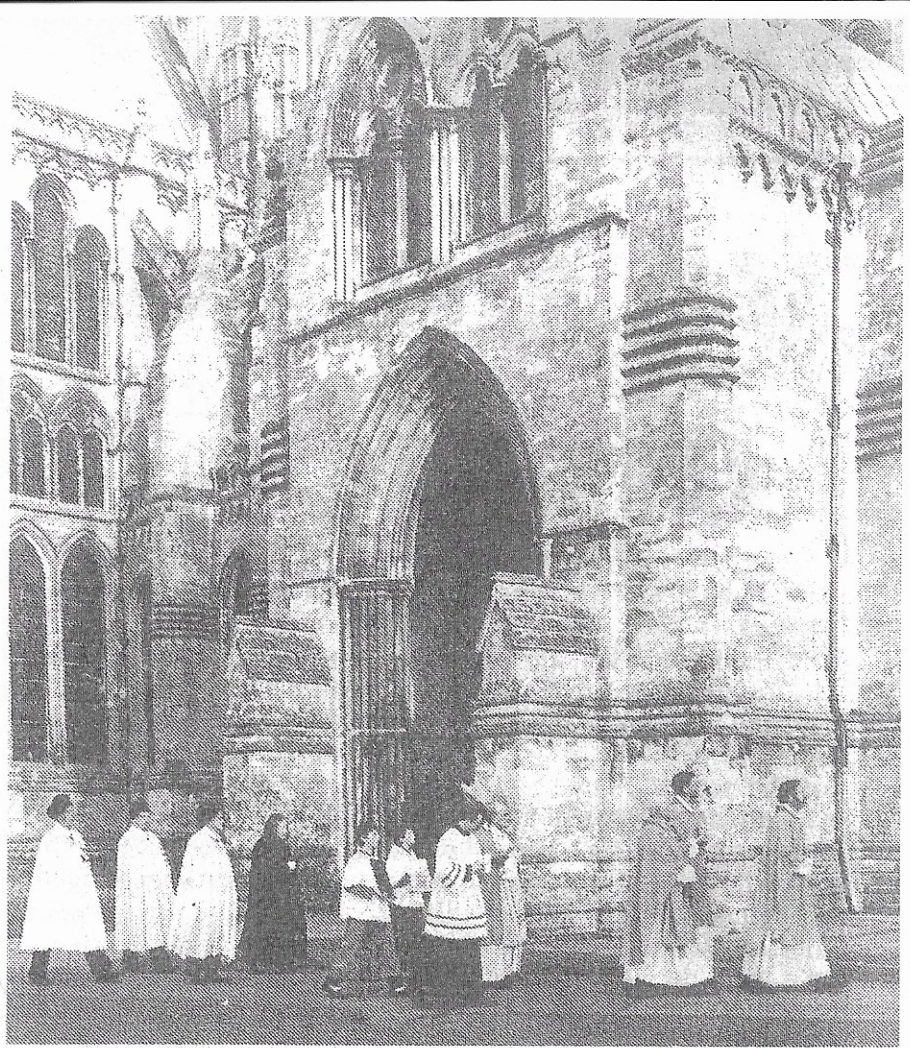
The congregation were welcomed by Dean of Salisbury V Rev Sidney Evans. The bishop, who spent his boyhood in Salisbury, then concelebrated Mass on a special altar.

Unity

Preaching on Christian unity, he said meditation and contemplation played a dual role in the process – through meditation we work for unity, and in contemplation we become aware of the gifts given us by God. He referred to unity as “God’s crowning gift” for which we pray, and likened it to the spire which tops the cathedral.

The choir of Clifton Cathedral led the singing at the Mass – some of the music was composed especially for the occasion by choir director Mr Chris Walker and organist Mr John Gibbons.

Organiser Fr Thomas Atthill of St Osmund’s Church, Salisbury said: “The mood was a combination of family atmosphere and grand celebration. The Mass was a very strong express-



Concelebrants at Salisbury

13th JUNE 1986