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THE BISHOP OF COVENTRY
The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth

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16th April 2019

His Excellency Jean-Pierre Jouyet
Ambassador of France to the United Kingdom
The Embassy of France in London
58 Knightsbridge
London SW1X 7JT

Your Excellency,

With millions of people across the world I watched in horror as the great Cathedral of Notre Dame burned with such ferocity.

For people of Coventry – and across the whole Diocese of Coventry – the scenes evoked images with which we are very familiar when our own Cathedral was destroyed by fire during the Second World War.

Our hearts go out to all Parisians and to the whole of France. We know something of your experience of tragedy and loss. We pray that over time you will know something of our experience of hope and new life, togetherness and common purpose that rose from the ashes of despair. That is the Easter Faith for which Notre Dame will remain an enduring symbol, perhaps even more in the years to come than in the years that are now past.

With solidarity in your sufferings and prayers for your nation from the Diocese of Coventry,

Yours sincerely
+ Christopher Cocksworth