

The Confirmation of Election of Bishop Sarah Mullally as Archbishop of Canterbury

The Vicar-General introduces the ceremony, ending with the words

The Court will now proceed with the Confirmation of Election.

The Proctor says

Your Grace, I have the honour of appearing on behalf of the College of Canons of the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Christ Canterbury.

The Advocate says

Your Grace, I have the honour of appearing on behalf of the Archbishop-Elect.

The Proctor produces the document authorising her to act for the College of Canons of Canterbury and the Letters Patent.

The Proctor says

Your Grace, I exhibit my proxy for the College of Canons and make myself a party for them. I present to you the Letters Patent of Our Sovereign Lord The King issued under the Great Seal of the Realm requiring the Confirmation of the Election of the Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Elisabeth Mullally, Bishop of London to be Archbishop and Pastor of the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Christ Canterbury. I request that these Letters Patent may be read.

The Archbishop of York says

Let the Letters Patent be read.

The Letters Patent are then read by the Provincial Registrar.

The Proctor says

I humbly pray that you will be pleased to take upon you the duty of this Confirmation. I request you to decree that it be proceeded with according to the form of the said Letters Patent and in accordance with the Law.

The Archbishop of York says

In obedience to the Command of Our Sovereign Lord The King, we do take upon us the duty of the Confirmation of this Election. We do decree that it be proceeded with according to the form and effect of the said Letters Patent in the presence of the Provincial Registrar of the Province of Canterbury, a Notary Public.

The Archbishop-Elect proceeds to sit before the Archbishop of York at the table.

The Advocate says

Your Grace, it is my privilege to identify and present to you the Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Elisabeth Mullally as the person elected Archbishop and Pastor of the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Christ Canterbury.

The Proctor says

As Proctor for the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Christ Canterbury I now produce to you as an exhibit the Original Mandate requiring public notice to be given and stating that anyone wishing to oppose the election should do so at an appointed time and place prior to the date of the Confirmation, or else would be debarred from pursuing any objection. Endorsed on this Mandate is a certificate which verifies that public notice was duly given as required and that no person has appeared in opposition to the Confirmation.

The Archbishop of York says

Full opportunity having been given for opposers to appear whose objections could be lawfully received and none having appeared as ordered, we now proceed with the process of Confirmation of the Election.

The Proctor then presents to the Archbishop of York a Petition which sets out in detail the vacation of the See and the steps taken to elect an archbishop and asks that the election be confirmed.

The Proctor says

Your Grace, I present this Summary Petition in writing which I pray to be admitted in Court and that you will decree that I should proceed immediately to prove the matters recited in this Petition.

Then the Summary Petition is signed by the Advocate.

The Archbishop of York says

We do admit your Summary Petition so far as the same may by Law be admitted and do decree that you prove the matters recited in your Petition immediately.

The Proctor says

In supply of proof of the matters contained in my Summary Petition, first, I exhibit a Certificate touching and concerning the Election of the Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Elisabeth Mullally, Bishop of London to be Bishop and Pastor of the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Christ Canterbury made by the College of Canons of the said Cathedral and Metropolitan Church and issued under their Common Seal.

Secondly, I exhibit a public document containing the consent of the Archbishop-Elect to the said election. Thirdly, I refer to His Majesty's Letters Patent which have already been read. I submit that all the matters set forth in these exhibits respectively were and are true and were done as therein described. I pray that all these documents be admitted and accepted by the Court.

The Archbishop of York says

We do admit all these documents and accept their validity and the truthfulness of all that is contained in them.

The Proctor says

I request the court now to proceed to the pronouncing of the definitive Sentence or Final Decree in this matter and I porrect (that is produce) which I pray to be read.

The Schedule, which accepts that everything has been done in order and pronounces as contumacious (i.e., disobedient to the order of the Court) all who would oppose the election, is then read and signed.

The Proctor says

The Archbishop-Elect is ready to take the Oath of Allegiance and make and subscribe the Declaration of Assent as required.

The Provincial Registrar gives a Bible to the Archbishop-Elect as she takes the Oath kneeling, and standing (with all Royal Commissioners and Legal Officials also standing), makes and subscribes the Declaration.

The Proctor says

I porrect a definitive Sentence or Final Decree in writing which I pray to be read and declared.

The Archbishop of York then reads the Sentence or Final Decree of the Court that the Election was carried out in due form, that the Election is confirmed and that 'the care, government and administration of the Spirituals' of the See of Canterbury are committed to the Archbishop-Elect. The Sentence or Final Decree is then signed by the Archbishop of York and the other Royal Commissioners and countersigned by the Vicar-General, the Advocate and the Provincial Registrar.

The Proctor says

The Lord Archbishop, now Elected and Confirmed, and myself pray that a Public Instrument and Letters Testimonial shall be made and issued by the Commissioners as a record of these proceedings.

The Lord Archbishop of York says

We do decree as prayed.

The Bishops on the Dais stand and affirm the Confirmation of the Archbishop.