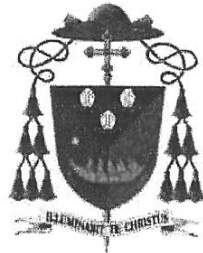


# **APPENDIX 7**



BISHOP OF MEATH

Minister Simon Coveney, TD  
Minister for Defence,  
Department of Defence,  
Station Road,  
Newbridge,  
Co. Kildare. W12 AD93

8 October 2020.

Dear Minister,

Following the recall of Fr Sean McCartan, Chaplain with the 27 Battalion (Dundalk and Gormanston), to the Archdiocese of Armagh, we are anxious to fill the position of Chaplain which is about to become vacant in Aiken Barracks, Dundalk and Gormanston Army Camp as soon as possible.

The pastoral care and spiritual support of members of our Defence Forces is important to the Irish Bishops and I am mindful that Gormanstown is in the Diocese of Meath. With the understanding of the Archbishop of Armagh, I now write to nominate **Father Michael HINDS** a priest of the Meath Diocese, as a replacement for Fr Sean McCARTAN, for your consideration/approval as Chaplain to the Forces, to be based at Aiken Barracks Dundalk and Gormanston Army Camp.

Fr. Michael is a priest in good standing and I am happy to recommend him to you for your approval. Following consultation with the Head Chaplain, Fr. Seamus Madigan, I understand his appointment will be subject to the usual security clearance and medical examinations.

Subject to your approval, I would be happy to appoint Fr. Michael to begin ministry as Chaplain with the Defence Forces with effect from 1st November 2020 or as soon as is practicable thereafter.

With every good wish and blessing,

Most Reverend Tom Deenihan,  
Bishop of Meath.



**APPENDIX 8**

Oifig an Aire Cosanta agus Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Office of the Minister for Defence and Minister for Foreign Affairs



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The Most Reverend Tom Deenihan  
Bishop of Meath  
Dublin Road  
Mullingar  
N91 DW32

*Copy to*

6 November, 2020.

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 nominating Father Michael Hinds as Chaplain to the Defence Forces.

I am most pleased to accept your nomination in this regard, and Father Hinds' appointment will be effective from the 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2020, subject to the normal security and medical clearance requirements.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish Father Hinds every success in his new position.

Yours most sincerely,

Simon Coveney, T.D.,  
Minister for Defence and  
Minister for Foreign Affairs