

John V C Butcher
18 Bramble Rise
Cobham, Surrey KT11 2HP

tel. 01932 867511 and 07899 891685
e-mail: jvcbutcher@btinternet.com

Peter J Fisher MA(Oxon) MBE
183 Central Park Road
London E6 3AE

tel. 020 8472 7873 and 07504 306379
e-mail: peterfisher183@virginmedia.com

Please reply to the above address

His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster
Archbishop's House
Ambrosden Avenue
London SW1P 1QJ

5 November 2013

In a letter dated 1 October 2013 from the Ministry of Justice's Crown Office, in the House of Lords, we have been informed that a 'Red Mass' was said in Westminster Cathedral that morning. We understand that a number of Her Majesty's judges attended the Mass, as has been customary at the start of each legal year for many years.

May we ask you to supply some factual information about the Mass, please. We should be grateful if you would advise us of the names of each of Her Majesty's judges who attended that service and the position that each holds. Also, please would you advise us of the names of each of Her Majesty's present judges who, as a judge, attended any such previous service since 2007 and the position that he or she then held.

If you do not keep records of which judges actually attended each such service, please would you list the names of those judges who accepted an invitation so to attend (and did not subsequently withdraw that acceptance), even if some of them may not have attended.

Please would you also advise us:

- (a) Whether all of the judges who attended wore their judicial robes?
- (b) Whether their attendance was in their official capacity?
- (c) Whether the Mass is restricted to Roman Catholics, or open to others?
- (d) If it is open, in the list of those judges whose names you provide to us, please would you indicate those who are known not to be Roman Catholics, if any.
- (e) Whether Red Masses have been said in other locations in England and Wales since 2007?

We are grateful for your helpfulness and courtesy in providing this information.

John V C Butcher

Peter J Fisher