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News Story

For Immediate Release

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR ANGLICAN CHURCH'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY



The commemorative stamp featuring the logo of the Diocese of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands was unveiled by (from L-R) The Rt. Rev. Garth Minott, Suffragan Bishop, Kingston and Chair, 200th Anniversary Planning Committee; The Rt. Rev. Leon Golding, Suffragan Bishop, Montego Bay; Mrs. Edna Black-Wilson, a member of St. Saviour's Church in Harewood, St. Catherine, the first church consecrated in the Diocese of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands; Mrs. Sophia Hamilton Brown, Deputy Postmaster-General, Business and Regional Operations, Post and Telecommunications Department and Mrs. Diane Thompson Clarke, Senior Legal Officer, Post and Telecommunications Department.

Kingston, Jamaica. July 30, 2024: A Commemorative Stamp bearing the logo of the Diocese of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands was launched by the Diocese on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at a ceremony held at the St. Luke's Church Hall in Cross Roads, Kingston.

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The Rt. Rev. Garth Minott, Suffragan Bishop of Kingston and Chair of the Diocese's 200th Anniversary Planning Committee explains that: "The launch date for this stamp is significant as it is the exact date in 1824, 200 years ago that the Diocese was established by Letters Patent issued by King George IV of England and Dr. Christopher Lipscomb was appointed Bishop of the "See of Jamaica, the Bahama Islands and the Settlements in the Bay of Honduras and their respective dependencies."

Historical Background

The establishment of the Diocese of Jamaica was a seminal development in the history of the Anglican Church in Jamaica. Prior to that, the Church was operated under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London, who was 5,000 miles away. In practice, this meant that the Church was controlled by the local governing class who also owned enslaved persons. Some members of the clergy were corrupt; many of them also owned enslaved persons, and had little interest in ministering to them. Pressure from anti-slavery groups in England and the growing presence of churches in Jamaica, such as the Baptists and the Methodists, who were actively working among the enslaved, persuaded the British Government to establish the Diocese of Jamaica, as well as the Diocese of Barbados, under the control of resident bishops.

Bishop Lipscomb came to Jamaica with a specific mandate to bring religious instruction to the enslaved population. This mission was advanced through Sunday Schools and Church Schools. Urban centres provided literacy education, while the emphasis in rural areas was on oral instruction since many planters refused to teach the enslaved population to read and write. By the end of his episcopacy Bishop Lipscomb had consecrated 31 churches and established more than 50 national schools, paving the way for the growth and development of the Church.

The Stamps

The stamps will be in two (2) denominations - \$60.00 and \$100.00. They will also be available in a variety of customised gift options such as souvenir sheets, first-day covers, framed stamps, key rings, and paperweights.

"Jamaica Post congratulates the Diocese of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands on this momentous achievement. We are grateful for this partnership and to share in this historic event through the production of this special set of stamps that will help to create awareness locally and internationally, while etching this occasion on the pages of history" noted Mr. Lincoln Allen, Postmaster-General, Post and Telecommunications Department.

"Jamaica Post is the only entity in Jamaica that can facilitate the production of commemorative stamps. In the past, we have produced some of the most iconic commemorative stamps to include our national heroes, Olympic champions, national symbols and emblems, the national team that qualified for its first ever FIFA World Cup, Reggae Super Star Bob Marley, and now the latest series from the Diocese of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands forms part of our expansive catalogue of commemorative stamps," Mr. Allen added.

The historic 200th Anniversary of the Diocese of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands is being celebrated under the theme “*Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow; Celebrating Service, Guarding Justice Affirming Hope.*” The year-long programme closes on February 16, 2025.

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