



Priests, bishops, archbishops and cardinals stand in the sanctuary of St Peter's on Monday night *Photo: Bruno Medici*

Leaders mark Italian church's 150th anniversary

CARDINAL Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Cardinal Renato Martino, Archbishop Vincent Nichols and Archbishop Antonio Mennini were among those who gathered to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of St Peter's Italian church in London on Monday night.

Archbishop Nichols opened the solemn Mass with a short speech in Italian welcoming those gathered to mark the anniversary of the church in Clerkenwell. In his sermon he spoke about the life of St Catherine of Siena and at the end of Mass he read a letter from Queen Elizabeth

II to Fr Carmelo di Giovanni, parish priest of St Peter's, congratulating the parish on its anniversary.

Archbishop Mennini, the Apostolic Nuncio, read a message sent by Vatican secretary of state Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone conveying Pope Francis's best wishes.

Fr Carmelo ended the

evening by recalling Cardinal Nicholas Wiseman and the 10 bishops who were present at the church's opening on April 16 1863. He also thanked those present for their attendance.

For information about other anniversary year events visit Italianchurch.org.uk.