



Moving forward: The congregation at Taranaki Cathedral helped rehouse hatchments from the Taranaki land wars yesterday.

Photos: ROBERT CHARLES/FAIRFAX NZ

Moving ceremony at Archbishop's last visit

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A top Anglican church leader set to take up a high-ranking job in the Vatican gave his last sermon in Taranaki yesterday.

Archbishop of the New Zealand dioceses and Bishop of Waikato David Moxon was among the clergy visiting for a ceremony to rehome important historical military art in a different part of Taranaki Cathedral.

Mr Moxon is resigning his posts and moving to Rome next month to take up a position in the Anglican Centre as the Archbishop of Canterbury's

representative to the Pope and the Vatican.

"It's quite a responsibility," Mr Moxon said.

"They tapped me on the shoulder. I wasn't expecting to leave."

Taranaki Bishop Phillip Richardson will pick up Mr Moxon's Waikato duties and a successor to the national archbishop position will be appointed in three weeks.

For several years Mr Moxon was the bishop of both Taranaki and Waikato and 20 years ago



Archbishop David Moxon

raised the issue of moving the 17 hand-painted military coats of arms, or hatchments, from the main area of St Mary's Cathedral to be displayed in the chancel and vestry.

He was pleased to see the art finally housed in an appropriate part of the church.

"It's a wonderful moment in history, it's a very wise and fair result and it's balanced."

During the service the congregation passed the hatchments from hand to hand to

their new location, ending 40 years of discussion about whether symbols of discord and war between Maori and Pakeha should hang on the walls of a church.

Explanatory panels accompanying the hatchments in their new space will tell how Archdeacon Phillip Walsh gave them to the parish as tributes to the fallen men in the New Zealand land wars.

Dean Jamie Allen said the relocation of the art was the most spiritual moment he had experienced and he had found it difficult to speak.

"It was profoundly moving. "There was an incredible sense

of God in the building."

Mr Allen said he was thrilled with the number of people who had taken part.

"It was a remarkable turnout from so many parts of the community," he said.

As well as Mr Moxon, the Senior Bishop of the Maori Tikanga, Bishop of Aotearoa Archbishop of New Zealand Brown Turei, other distinguished clergy, iwi representatives and kaumatua, retired servicemen, the Minister of Treaty Settlements Chris Finlayson, Taranaki politicians and other community leaders all attended the service, which lasted three hours.