



Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

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STATEMENT FROM BISHOP TOMLINSON ON ELECTION OF POPE FRANCIS

Bishop of Sandhurst Leslie Tomlinson has welcomed with joy the election of Pope Francis in Rome this morning.

Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina, Pope Francis, is the first Latin American and Jesuit Pontiff.

“A man who has a strong reputation of priority for social justice; a man of simple life; and, as we expect, of deep holiness, has been appointed to lead our Church,” Bishop Tomlinson said.

“Much media attention has been focussed on the challenges facing the new pope. Such an enormous job, of course, brings many challenges. But what is also evident is the worldwide interest and support for our Holy Father. We can see this in the prayers that have been offered in preparation for the conclave, and, I believe, we can see it in the result that is now presented to us in the election of Pope Francis.

“I think we can look forward with great expectation for the way in which God will extend His care for His people and His world through the Petrine ministry of Pope Francis.

“The joy that is so evident in people at this election is a true indication of the joy that comes through this answer to our prayers – the prayers of the whole Church and many people of good will – that we have a worthy successor, and we have that in Pope Francis.

The Mass of Inauguration of the Petrine Ministry of Pope Francis will be held on Tuesday, March 19, the feast of St. Joseph.

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