

Just a moment ago I received that message that your bishop passed away. What a shock for the whole diocese, for the priests and faithful to lose this gifted and charismatic shepherd!

On behalf of our archbishop Hans-Josef, whom you met on your visits to our Liborifest, on behalf of the whole archdiocese of Paderborn we would like to send you and your people a sign of our compassion. We feel with the whole diocese of Sandhurst to whom this severe loss means a lot of grief and sorrow.

Our young people who came to Bendigo for the days in the diocese before World Youth Day 2008 were so enthusiastic about this fascinating bishop who could interact so well with young people and whose enthusiasm for our faith was so inspiring.

In our prayers and in the celebration of Holy Mass we will include Bishop Joe Grech the eternal shepherd may give him the reward of heaven for his apostolic work and witness.

I will commemorate Bishop Joe tonight in our new year's mass in our cathedral and will share the sad news with the congregation. Be assured that our prayers are with you.

Yours affectionate

+ Matthias König