CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

AND LITURGICAL RECEPTION

Most Reverend

RENÉ RAMIREZ RCJ







THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST

welcomes you to the

CELEBRATION *of the* EUCHARIST *and* LITURGICAL RECEPTION

of

Most Reverend René Ramirez RCJ

Ninth Bishop of Sandhurst

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL
BENDIGO

30 JULY 2026

Most Reverend René Ramirez RCJ

Ninth Bishop of Sandhurst

Bishop René Ramirez RCJ was born on 28 March 1969 in Gapan, Nueva Ecija, The Philippines. Bishop René was ordained a priest in June 1998 after 13 years of seminary formation, having joined the Congregation of the Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus in May 1985. His first assignment as a priest was as the Vocation Director for his congregation in the Philippines.

From 1999 until early 2003, Bishop René served as Administrator, Treasurer and Vice Rector at Rogationist College in Cavite City while pursuing a Master's in Educational Management at De La Salle University in Dasmariñas City. He then moved to Rome in 2003 to complete his Licentiate studies in Spirituality and earn a Diploma in Social Communications from the Pontifical Gregorian University.

Upon returning to the Philippines in 2006, he was appointed Director of Social Communications and Spiritual Director for the seminary students of philosophy at Rogationist Seminary College in Parañaque City, where he also taught. From 2009 to 2015, he served as the Superior of St Hannibal Rogate Centre, which included the Communications Office, the Provincial House and the House for Rogationist Late Vocation Seminarians.

In Australia, Bishop René became the pastor of Holy Family Parish in October 2015, overseeing the Catholic communities of West Footscray, Maidstone and Braybrook within the Archdiocese of Melbourne. He played a crucial role in the amalgamation of the partnered parishes of Maidstone and Braybrook in 2018 and was actively involved in parish renewal through Ron Huntley Leadership Coaching.

In November 2023, he was assigned by his congregation to establish a new presence in the Diocese of Sandhurst as the Parish Priest of St Mel's Parish in Shepparton South and St Malachy's Parish in Nagambie. In January 2024, he was tasked by Archbishop Shane Mackinlay (then Eighth Bishop of Sandhurst) to be the Supervising Priest in Rushworth.

Bishop René was appointed as Auxiliary Bishop for the Northern Region in Melbourne by Pope Francis on 5 November 2024 and ordained in St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne by Archbishop Peter Comensoli on 1 February 2025.

Pope Leo XIV appointed Bishop René as the Ninth Bishop of Sandhurst on 11 April 2026.



Most Reverend René Ramirez RCJ



Coat of Arms and Motto

The impaled coat of arms visually proclaims that a bishop exercises his ministry in inseparable union with the Diocese he is appointed to serve.

The dexter (left) impalement is the coat of arms of the Diocese of Sandhurst, designed by Richard d'Apice and Fr Guy Selvester, originally illustrated by Sandy Turnbull. The gold of the field represents the goldfields which are located within the Diocese. The blue and the roses represent the Virgin Mary, Mother of God who, under the title "Our Lady of Good Counsel", is Patroness of the Diocese.

The star and the two roses have their origin in an earlier design. The Paderborn Cross at the base is an ancient Christian symbol discovered in an eighth-century grave beneath the Cathedral at Paderborn, Germany, which was the home city of Dr Henry Backhaus, the pioneer priest of the Bendigo Goldfields.

This cross was also depicted as the episcopal cross in the coat of arms of Bishop René as Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, to honour the Diocese of Sandhurst.

Most Reverend René Ramirez RCJ

The sinister (right) impalement is the coat of arms of Bishop René, designed by Mons. John Brillantes and illustrated by Johnel Dimco (both based in the Philippines) upon his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne in 2024.

The field of the coat of arms is divided into three compartments by a Y-shaped heraldic ordinary. At the top, or "chief," there is a radiant Sacred Heart, a symbol that, along with the wheat ears placed at the pall, is also found in the logo of the Congregation of the Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus, to which the Bishop belongs as a ESCUDOS ECLESIÁSTICOS PHILIPPINES professed member. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was promoted by St Hannibal Mary Di Francia (1851-1927), the Founder of the Congregation and an inspirational figure for the Bishop.

On the dexter side (right side of the shield, left side from viewer's point of view), there is a shepherdess' staff and hat, representing the Blessed Virgin Mary in her title "La Divina Pastora", who is the Patroness of the Bishop's birthplace in Gapan City, Philippines. The Bishop has lived under the protection of Our Lady, and he believes that it was in his birthplace that the initial seed of his vocation was sown.

The sinister side of the shield (the right side, as viewed by the observer) features five stars arranged in the formation of the Southern Cross constellation. This emblem not only represents Australia but also pays tribute to the Australian parishes of Braybrook, Maidstone, Shepparton South and Nagambie, where the Bishop dedicated his efforts working towards their renewal and growth as more mission-oriented communities of believers.

The tinctures (colours) used are Argent (silver/white), Or (gold), Azure (blue), and Gules (red)—the colours of the flags of the Philippines and Australia, both significant in the Bishop's life.

The green galero, with six tassels hanging on either side, along with the episcopal cross, signifies that the bearer of the coat of arms is a Bishop.

The motto "Zelus et Misericordia" captures the essence of Jesus' mission and his call for compassionate service, reflecting sentiments from Matthew 9:35-38, during his encounter with the multitude: He was moved with compassion because they were "helpless, like sheep without a shepherd". There is a profound connection between zeal and mercy: true zeal for the Lord's work arises from a heart that empathises with the suffering of others and compels action. As Bishop René assumes a higher responsibility as Ordinary of the Diocese of Sandhurst, his motto serves as a dynamic reminder of the call to service, urging not only feelings of compassion but also an active response to those in distress.

Bishops of the Sandhurst Diocese

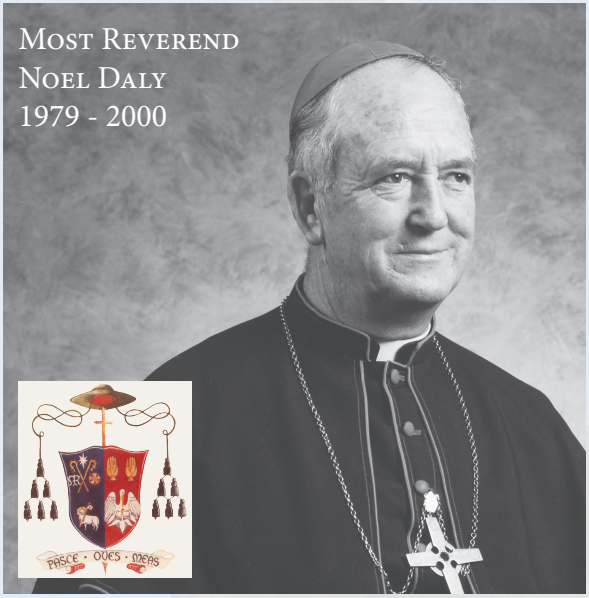








Bishops of the Sandhurst Diocese









Offices and Ministries

Principal Celebrant

Most Rev. René Ramirez RCJ
Bishop of Sandhurst

Concelebrants

Most Rev. Peter Comensoli DD
Archbishop of Melbourne

Most Rev. Shane Mackinlay DD
Archbishop of Brisbane

Most Rev. Anthony Ireland DD
Archbishop of Hobart

Most Rev. Greg Bennet DD
Bishop of Sale: Vice-Chair of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Most Rev. Mark Freeman DD
Bishop of Ballarat

Most Rev. Leslie Tomlinson DD
Bishop Emeritus of Sandhurst

Very Rev. Alfred De Souza
First Class Secretary to the Apostolic Nunciature in Australia

Very Rev. Dr Brian Boyle
Diocesan Administrator of Sandhurst

Together with visiting Archbishops and Bishops from Australia,

Priests from the Diocese of Sandhurst,

Priests and Deacons from the Province of Victoria and visiting clergy from Italy and the Philippines.

Offices and Ministries

College of Consultors

Rev. Vijay Bandanadam ALCP/OSS PP
Benalla Parish and Adm Euroa Parish
(in absentia)

Rev. Andrew Fewings Adm
Nathalia and Numurkah Parishes

Rev. Dr Jake Mudge PP
Kennington Parish

Rev. Junray Rayna Adm
St Kilian's Parish, Bendigo

Very Rev. Joseph Taylor
Retired Parish Priest of the Sandhurst Diocese

Deacons

Rev. Ferdinand Correya

Rev. Christopher Creo

Rev. Dominic Lawes

Rev. Rhys Lowther

Master of Ceremonies

Rev. Nathan Verallo PP
Christ the King Parish, Wangaratta

Mr Andrew Howe
Cathedral Sacristan

Offices and Ministries

Servers

Seminarians
Diocese of Sandhurst

Music

Dr Paul Taylor
Director of Music

Ms Jacqui Vine and Mr Tristan Vine
Trumpeters

Mr Dennis Freeman and Ms Kit Millais
Trombonists

Dr Anthony Halliday
Organist

Choir

Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir
and visiting Choristers

Cantors

Ms Joanne Bonazza

Ms Sarah Gould

Mr Harrison Jenner

Offices and Ministries

Procession of the Offerings

Mrs Rosita Camaya
Mother of Bishop Ramirez RCJ

Mrs Suzzette Fernandez
Sister of Bishop Ramirez RCJ

Readers

Mr Travis Pereira
Parishioner of the Sandhurst Diocese

Mrs Leslie Cooper
Parishioner of the Sandhurst Diocese

Ushers

Cathedral Guardians

Diocesan Chancery Staff Members

Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd Staff Members

To maintain a spirit of reverence and solemnity,
we request you turn off all mobile phones and other electronic devices.
Please be advised this Mass is being photographed and live-streamed.

A Message from the Holy Father

Leo, Bishop, Servant of the Servants of God

To our Venerable Brother René Ramirez RCJ, presently Titular Bishop of Mariana and Auxiliary of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Melbourne, the elected Prelate of Sandhurst, greetings and Apostolic Blessing.

Proclaiming the Kingdom of the Gospel, together with our brothers in the episcopate, We care for the feebleness of spirits and weakness of all of our brothers and sisters, so that—with zeal and mercy—Christ may be clearly manifested everywhere, and the flock may feel the gentle presence of their shepherds. (cf. Mt 25:35–36)

Always desiring to conform ourselves to this pastoral care, We consider the needs of Church communities, especially those of Sandhurst which now await the arrival of their newly appointed Bishop, after the transfer of Venerable Brother Shane Anthony Mackinlay to the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Therefore, after careful examination of the circumstances, We deem you, Venerable Brother, suitable for this task. Your diligence, together with your priestly qualities, convince us that you will be able to carry out this ministry of great importance fruitfully for the spiritual good of the aforementioned Church.

Accordingly, having heard the counsel of the Dicastery for Bishops, and exercising Our Apostolic Authority, We appoint and constitute you Bishop of Sandhurst, with all the privileges, rights, duties, and obligations pertaining to this office according to the norms of ecclesiastical law.

Finally, We ask that you make these Our Letters known as soon as possible to the clergy and people who have been entrusted to you, for their consolation of faith and strengthening of their trust in Divine Providence.

Lastly, Venerable Brother, We exhort you to become, before all the people entrusted to your care, an example of Christian prayer and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, cultivated with diligent zeal, so that with a fatherly heart you may wisely and joyfully lead all souls to the gates of heavenly Paradise.

Given at Rome, at Saint Peter's, on the eleventh day of April, in the year two thousand twenty-six, the first of Our Pontificate.

Leo P.P. XIV

Liturgical Reception

Gathering

Procession of Clergy

At 11am the Concelebrating Clergy, headed by the priests of the Diocese of Sandhurst, will process into the Cathedral, led by the Sandhurst Jubilee Cross. We ask all attendees to stand for the procession. Organ Music during the Procession of Clergy into the Cathedral:

Grave from Fantasia in G

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Before the commencement of the liturgy, Ms Kim Butler, Assistant Director: Catholic Mission and Formation, Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd, will remind people of practicalities regarding the Mass.

Reception of the Bishop-Designate into the Cathedral

The Bishop-Designate knocks ceremonially on the Western Door of Sacred Heart Cathedral. The doors are opened and the Bishop-Designate enters. Fr Jackson Saunders, Assistant Priest, Sacred Heart Cathedral, greets the Bishop-Designate and offers a crucifix to venerate.
After the veneration, the Bishop-Designate is offered the Aspergillum (Holy Water) and blesses those seated closest to him. The Bishop-Designate then processes up the nave of the Cathedral and stands in the crossing under the main spire and before the High Altar. Music during the Bishop-Designate's procession through the nave:

Entrata Festiva (Op. 93)

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony

Please sit. The Bishop-Designate and the whole assembly receive a Welcome to Country offered by Troy Firebrace. A traditional smoking ceremony is also performed. At the conclusion, the Diocesan Administrator, Fr Brian Boyle, will formally welcome the Bishop-Designate and all those present in the Cathedral. Following the greeting, the Bishop-Designate is escorted to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for a moment of prayer. You are invited to join the Bishop-Designate in personal prayer at this time. After a period of silence, he moves to the Chapel of St Joseph and lights a candle in memory of his deceased predecessors. The Bishop-Designate then moves to the Sacristy to vest for Mass. During the Vesting the Choir sings:

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

If ye love me, keep my commandments,
and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may bide with you forever, ev'n the spirit of truth.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Diocese of Sandhurst recognises the traditional owners of the lands upon which we live, serve and worship.

We acknowledge the people of the Northeastern regions of our Diocese, Djilmathang, Minjajambuta, Duduroa and Waywurru. We acknowledge the people of the Southern regions of our Diocese, the Dja Dja Wurrung and the Taungerung. We acknowledge the people of the Northern regions of our Diocese, the Yorta Yorta and Bangerang. We acknowledge the people of the Western regions of our Diocese, the Baraparapa peoples.

We respectfully honour and acknowledge their ongoing custodianship and their connections to the land, waters and animals. We pay our respects to their culture, their Elders, past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of their peoples. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and commit ourselves to actively working alongside First Nations People for healing, reconciliation and justice.

Celebration of the Eucharist

ENTRANCE HYMN

Please stand for the Entrance Hymn.
During the hymn concelebrating Bishops, the Bishop-Designate and Archbishop Comensoli process in.

God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

1.

God the Spirit, guide and guardian, windsped flame and hov'ring dove,
breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, pow'r of love:
give to those who lead your people fresh anointing of your grace;
send them forth as bold apostles to your Church in ev'ry place.

2.

Christ our Saviour, Sov'reign shepherd, Word made flesh, love crucified,
teacher, healer, suff'ring servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride:
in your tending may all pastors learn and live a shepherd's care;
grant them courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.

3.

Great creator, life bestower, truth beyond all thought's recall,
fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, giving and forgiving all:
as you know our strength and weakness, so may those the Church selects
be alert to her wellbeing, yet not blind to her defects.

4.

Triune God, mysterious being, undivided and diverse,
deeper than our minds can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse:
help us in our varied callings your full image to proclaim,
that our ministries uniting may give glory to your name.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr. (b.1944),
Tune: HYFRYDOL 87.87 D: Melody: Rowland Hugh Prichard 1811-1887. arr. Christopher Willcock, SJ (b. 1947)

INTRODUCTORY RITES

The Bishop-Designate waits at the foot of the sanctuary while Archbishop Comensoli, leads the Introductory Rites.

Archbishop Comensoli In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

Archbishop Comensoli Peace be with you.
All **And with your spirit.**

Archbishop Comensoli offers some words of welcome.

READING AND RECOGNITION OF THE PAPAL BULL OF APPOINTMENT

Archbishop Comensoli Let the Mandate from The Holy See be read.

Please be seated.

The Papal Bull will be read by the First Class Secretary to the Apostolic Nunciature in Australia, Monsignor Alfred De Souza. At the conclusion he will formally present the Bull to the College of Consultors and congregation.

At the end of the reading of the Papal Bull, all respond:

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Bishop-Designate stands.

Fr Brian Boyle takes the pectoral cross of the second Bishop of Sandhurst, Stephen Reville, and presents it to Bishop René Ramirez RCJ. Archbishop Shane Mackinlay presents the Bishop-Designate with the crozier of the first Bishop of Sandhurst, Martin Crane. All concelebrants turn to the Cathedra, or Bishop's Throne, and witness the unfurling of the crest of the new Bishop. The Bishop-Designate is then escorted to the Cathedra by Archbishop Comensoli & Archbishop Mackinlay. The Bishop-Designate sits in the Cathedra and at this moment formally takes possession of the See of Sandhurst.

Please join us in congratulating our Ninth Bishop with a round of applause.

WELCOME BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DIOCESE OF SANDHURST

Bishop René Ramirez RCJ will now be greeted by a representative group of the ordained ministers and lay people of the Diocese of Sandhurst, together with ecumenical and civic leaders. These will be announced by Ms Kate Fogarty, Executive Director of Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd.

Bishop Ramirez RCJ pauses as he walks to the crossing, acknowledging the two oldest ordained priests of the Diocese of Sandhurst, Monsignor Peter Jeffrey (ordained 62 years) and Fr Michael Grace (ordained 59 years). With them, is the youngest ordained priest, Fr Jackson Saunders (ordained 4 years). Bishop Ramirez RCJ continues to the crossing, where he is greeted by:

Ordained Ministry

Monsignor Peter Jeffrey

Fr Michael Grace

Fr Jackson Saunders

Religious Order Representatives

Sr Suzanne Fairbairn FMDM
Sister of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood

Br Massimo Chang CFD
Community of the Sons and Daughters of God

Diocesan Leadership

Mr Gregory Westbrook
Business Manager, Diocese of Sandhurst

Dr Christopher Cotter
Director of Mission and Pastoral Life, Diocese of Sandhurst

Educational Leadership

Ms Pam Betts
Chair, Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd Board

Ms Cathy Jenkins
Deputy Chair, Sandhurst Catholic Early Childhood Education and Care Ltd Board

Mrs Lisa Hitchcock
Principal and students of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School, Elmore.

Mr Shaun Mason
Principal and students of Galen Catholic College, Wangaratta.

Representatives of Diocesan Agencies

Mr Nick Collins
Group Director for Client Services, CatholicCare Victoria

Ms Susan Andrews
Sandhurst Clergy Health and Wellbeing Coordinator

Mr Michael Hogan
Chief Executive Officer, St John of God Hospital, Bendigo.

Ecumenical Leaders

Sheikh Atallah Al-Khwaldeh
Imam and Preacher, Bendigo Islamic Community

Dean George Hemmings
Vicar General of the Anglican Diocese of Bendigo

Dr David Kram AM
Representing the Jewish Community

Civic Leadership

Cr Thomas Prince
Mayor of Bendigo

Sandhurst Deanery Representatives

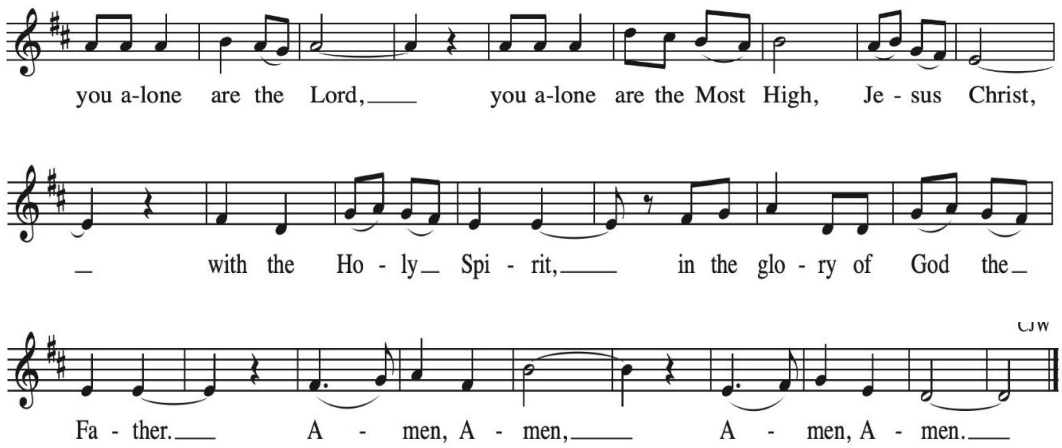
Parishioners of the
Western Deanery, Goulburn-Valley Deanery, North-Eastern Deanery

Bishop Ramirez RCJ returns to the Cathedra and intones the Gloria.

Glory To God

All sing





Mass: Our Common Home (2022) – Christopher Willcock, SJ (b. 1947)

The Collect

Bishop Ramirez RCJ Let us pray.
Clothe us, Lord God, with the virtues of the Heart of your Son and set us aflame with his love, that, conformed to his image, we may merit a share in eternal redemption. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Please sit

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading — Isaiah 61:1-3

Mr Travis Pereira reads

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord,
a day of vengeance for our God,

to comfort all those who mourn and to give them
for ashes a garland;
for mourning robe, the oil of gladness,
for despondency, praise.The Word of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm *Sung* — Psalm 27:4

All repeat Response after the Cantor and after each verse

Cantor One thing I ask, this alone I seek,
to dwell in the house of the Lord all my days.
For one day within your temple heals every day alone.
O Lord, bring me to your dwelling.

All One thing I ask, this alone I seek,
to dwell in the house of the Lord all my days.
For one day within your temple heals every day alone.
O Lord, bring me to your dwelling.

Cantor Hear, O Lord, the sound of my calling.
Hear, O Lord, and show me your way. *Response all*

Cantor The Lord is my light and hope of salvation.
The Lord is my refuge; whom should I fear? *Response all*

Cantor Wait on the Lord and hope in his mercy.
Wait on the Lord and live in his love. *Response all*

Text: Based on Ps. 27; music by Tim Manion, SJ/St Louis Jesuits.

The Second Reading — 1 Peter 5:1-4,

Mrs Leslie Cooper reads

A reading from the Letter of St Peter

I have something to tell your elders: I am an elder myself, and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, and with you, I have a share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be the shepherds of the flock of God that is entrusted to you: watch over it not simply as a duty but gladly, because God wants it; not for sordid money, but because you are eager to do it. Never be a dictator over any group that is put in your charge, but be an example that the whole flock can follow. When the chief shepherd appears, you will be given the crown of unfading glory.

The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

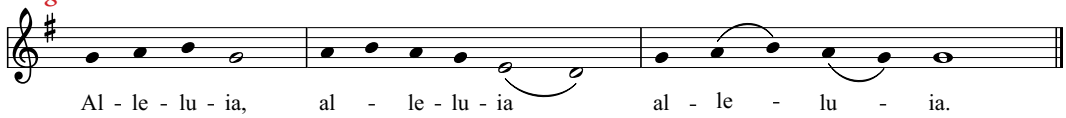
Please stand

Gospel Acclamation — John 10:14

The Deacon will receive the Book of Gospels at the foot of the sanctuary and process to the lectern as the assembly sings



All sing



Cantor

Go and teach all people my Gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

All repeat the Alleluia



The Gospel — Matthew 9:35-38

Deacon Lowther reads

The Lord be with you.

All **And with your Spirit.**

Deacon *A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Deacon Lowther proclaims the Gospel

Jesus made a tour through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness.
And when he saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The

harvest is rich but the laborers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest, to send laborers to his harvest.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

At the conclusion of the Gospel, all remain standing for the blessing with the Book of Gospels, whilst the Choir sings the Choral Alleluia (1965, 1999) by Colin Mawby (1936-2019).

Homily

The Most Rev. René Ramirez RCJ, Bishop of Sandhurst.

The Universal Prayer

The Universal Prayer or Prayers of the Faithful read by student representatives from schools of the Diocese.

Bishop Ramirez RCJ Sisters and brothers,
Gathered in faith and thanksgiving, and trusting in the love and providence of God, let us now offer our prayers for the needs of the Church, the world, and all those entrusted to our care.

Reader For the peoples of every nation;
that, in a world burdened by violence, fear and uncertainty, the Spirit of God may turn hearts from hatred to compassion, inspire leaders in the ways of wisdom, and establish among all people the blessed work of peace.
Let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

Reader For the Church throughout the world;
that, attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, she may faithfully discern the signs of the times, proclaim Christ with renewed confidence, and reveal God's steadfast love to every generation.
Let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

Reader For Pope Leo and all bishops;
that, as successors of the Apostles they may be generous servants of God's

people, steadfast in faith, rich in charity and untiring in their care for those entrusted to them.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

Reader For the Diocese of Sandhurst;
that, rejoicing in the gifts of this local Church we might continue to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ to all.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

Reader For Bishop René;
that, trusting in God's wisdom, he might be a courageous and generous leader, discerning and drawing forth the gifts of those entrusted to his care.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

Reader For those who have died;
especially for those who have been shepherds in their pastoral ministry — Fr Joseph Aveni, Fr Cesare Bettoni, Fr Franz Joseph Eilers and Lauro Ramirez Jr, may all who have proclaimed and placed their hope in Christ's mercy be led to share in the power of his Resurrection.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

Bishop Ramirez RCJ Almighty and ever-living God,
you call your people together as one body in Christ and guide them by the power of your Spirit. You know the needs of your people before we ask, and the desires of our hearts before we speak. Receive these prayers we place before you with confidence and trust, and grant that we may continue to grow in unity, holiness and love as faithful disciples of your Son.

Through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

PREPARATION OF THE OFFERINGS

The gifts are brought forward by Mrs Rosita Camaya, mother of Bishop Ramirez RCJ, and Mrs Suzzette Fernandez, sister of the Bishop. During the preparation of the offerings, the Choir sings

Ubi caritas

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exsultemus et in ipso, jucundemor.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus sincero.
Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Amen.

Where there is charity and love, God is there. The love of Christ has gathered us together into one. Let us rejoice and be glad in Him. Let us fear and love the living God. And let us love from a sincere heart. Where there is charity and love, God is there. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Bishop Ramirez RCJ Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

Bishop Ramirez RCJ We offer you the sacrifice of praise, O Lord, for the deepening of our service to you, so that what you have conferred on us, unworthy as we are, you may graciously bring to fulfilment.
Through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer 1 – The Roman Canon

Bishop Ramirez RCJ The Lord be with you.

All **And with your spirit.**

Bishop Ramirez RCJ Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them up to the Lord.**

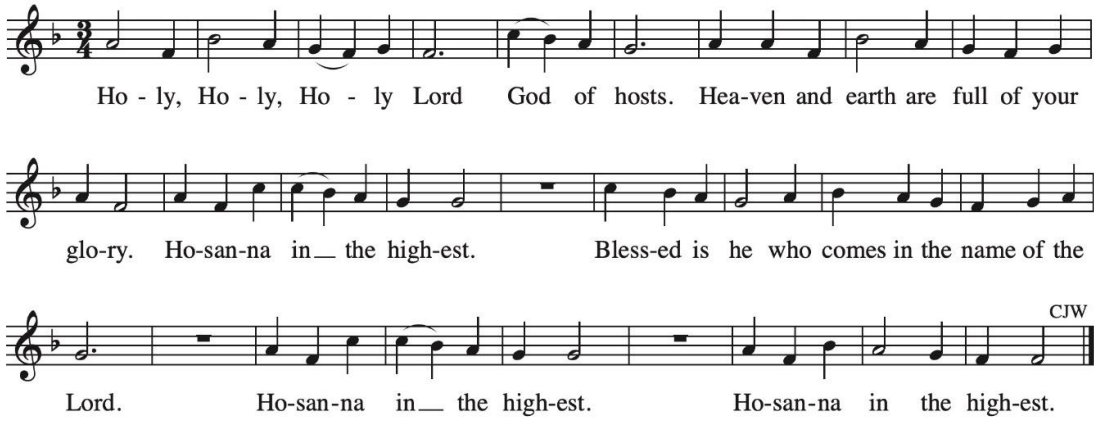
Bishop Ramirez RCJ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right and just.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just our duty and our salvation, Always, and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For raised up high on the Cross, he gave himself up for us with a wonderful love and poured out Blood and water from his pierced side, the wellspring of the Church's Sacraments, so that, won over to the open Heart of the Saviour, all might draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation. And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you as without end we acclaim:

All sing



Please kneel or sit

Bishop Ramirez RCJ

To you, therefore, most merciful Father, we make humble prayer and petition through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord: that you accept and bless ✠ these gifts, these offerings, these holy and unblemished sacrifices, which we offer you firstly for your holy catholic Church. Be pleased to grant her peace, to guard, unite and govern her throughout the whole world, together with your servant Leo our Pope and me, your unworthy servant, and all those who, holding to the truth, hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

Archbishop Comensoli

Remember, Lord, your servants and all gathered here, whose faith and devotion are known to you. For them, we offer you this sacrifice of praise or they offer it for themselves and all who are dear to them: for the redemption of their souls, in hope of health and wellbeing, and paying their homage to you, the eternal God, living and true.

Archbishop Mackinlay

In communion with those whose memory we venerate, especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ, and blessed Joseph, her Spouse, your blessed Apostles and Martyrs, Peter and Paul, Andrew, James, John, Thomas, James, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon and Jude; Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus, Cornelius, Cyprian, Lawrence, Chrysogonus, John and Paul, Cosmas and Damian, Hannibal Mary di Francia and all your Saints; we ask that through their merits and prayers, in all things we may be defended by your protecting help. (Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Bishop Ramirez RCJ

Therefore, Lord, we pray: graciously accept this oblation of our service, that of your whole family; order our days in your peace and command that we be delivered from eternal damnation and counted among the flock of those you have chosen. (Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

All concelebrants

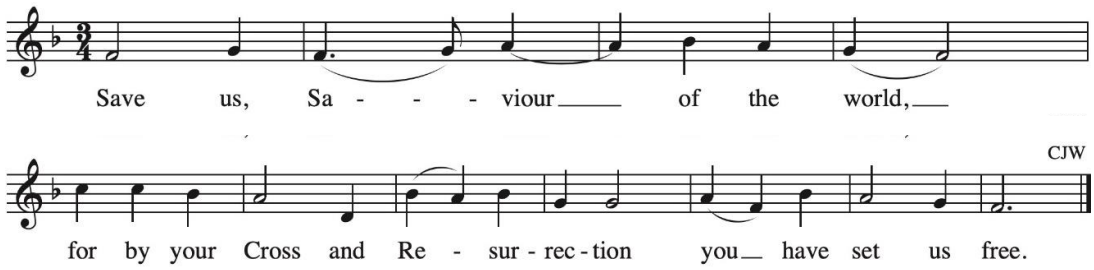
Be pleased, O God, we pray, to bless, acknowledge, and approve this offering in every respect; make it spiritual and acceptable, so that it may become for us the Body and Blood of your most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. On the day before he was to suffer, he took bread in his holy and venerable hands, and with eyes raised to heaven to you, O God, his almighty Father, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

> Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took this precious chalice in his holy and venerable hands, and once more giving you thanks, he said the blessing and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

> Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.

Bishop Ramirez RCJ The mystery of faith.



All concelebrants

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the blessed Passion, the Resurrection from the dead, and the glorious Ascension into heaven of Christ, your Son, our Lord, we, your servants and your holy people, offer to your glorious majesty from the gifts that you have given us, this pure victim, this holy victim, this spotless victim, the holy Bread of eternal life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation. Be pleased to look upon these offerings with a serene and kindly countenance, and to accept them, as once you were pleased to accept the gifts of your servant Abel the just, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek, a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim. In humble prayer we ask you, almighty God: command that these gifts be borne by the hands of your holy Angel to your altar on high in the sight of your divine majesty, so that all of us, who through this participation at the altar receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing. (Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Bishop Tomlinson

Remember also, Lord, your servants Martin, Stephen, John, Bernard, Noel and Joseph, who have gone before us with the sign of faith and rest in the sleep of peace. Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ, a place of refreshment, light and peace. (Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Bishop Bennet

To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners, hope in your abundant mercies, graciously grant some share and fellowship with your holy Apostles and Martyrs: with John the Baptist, Stephen, Matthias, Barnabas, (Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus, Peter, Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia) and all your Saints; admit us, we beseech you, into their company, not weighing our merits, but granting us your pardon, through Christ our Lord.

Bishop Ramirez RCJ

Through whom you continue to make all these good things, O Lord; you sanctify them, fill them with life, bless them, and bestow them upon us.

All concelebrants

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.



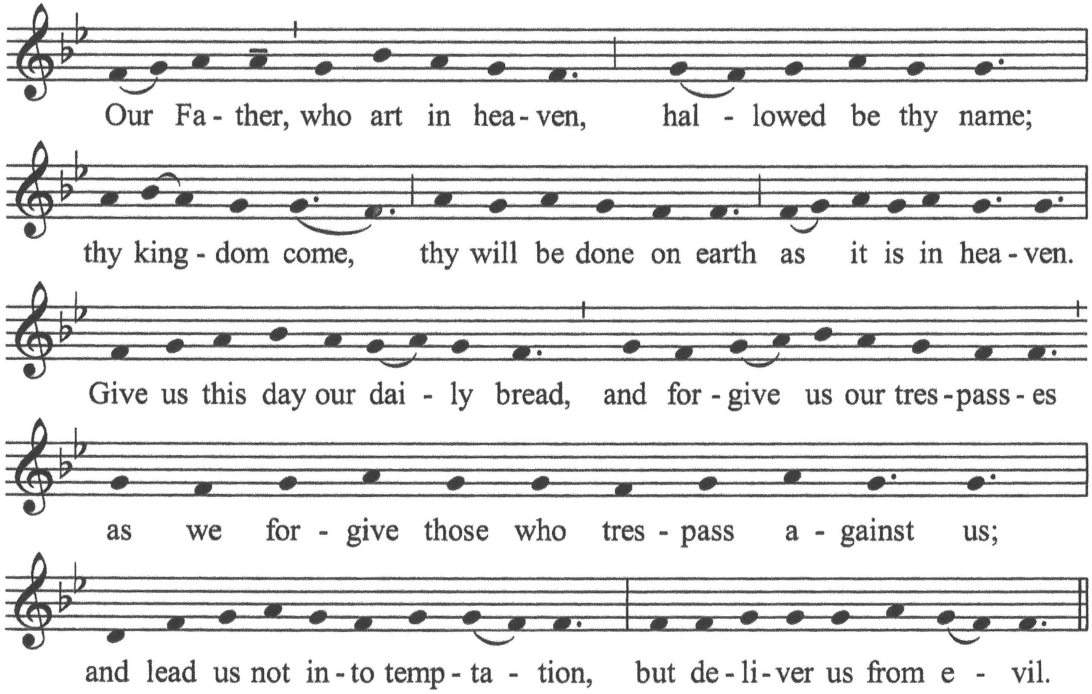
Please stand

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bishop Ramirez RCJ

At the Saviour's command, and formed by divine teaching, we dare to pray:

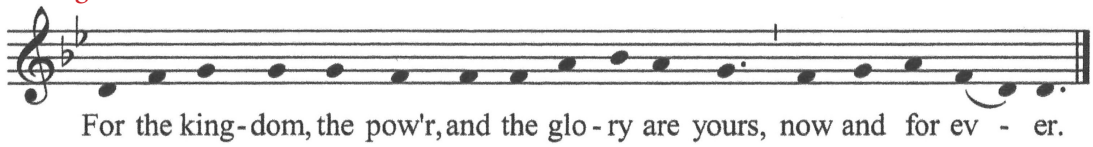
All sing



Bishop Ramirez RCJ

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All sing



Text: trans. Trad from The Roman Missal Music: Introduction adapt. ©2010, ICEL; Lord's Prayer © Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

RITE OF PEACE

Bishop Ramirez RCJ Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles: peace I leave you, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Bishop Ramirez RCJ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All **And with your spirit.**

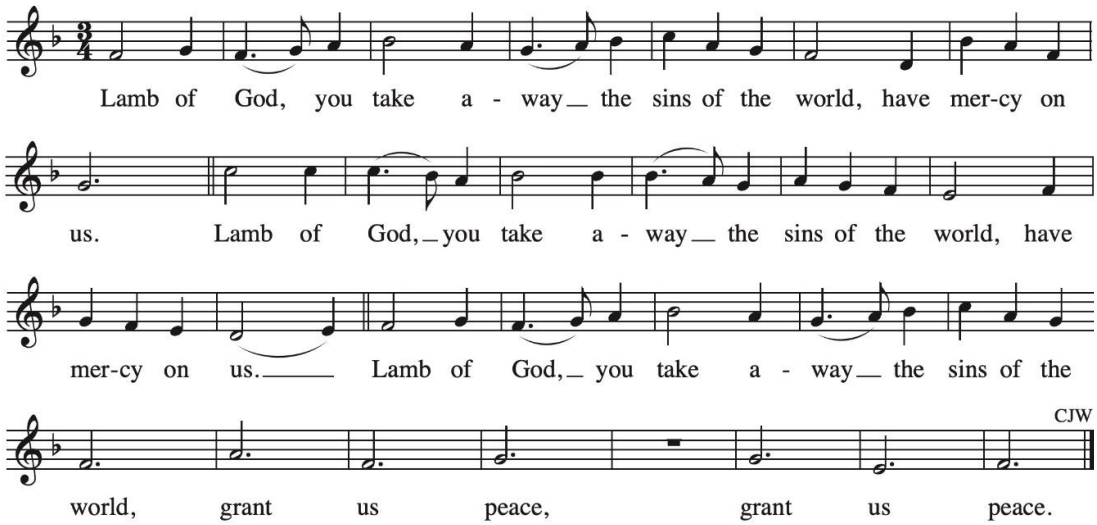
Deacon Creo Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Please turn to the person next to you and offer the Sign of Peace or a gesture of friendship.

ANGUS DEI

All sing



Please kneel or sit

FRACTION RITE

Bishop Ramirez RCJ Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

All baptised Catholics who have made their first communion may partake in the Eucharist. All others are welcome to receive a blessing. To indicate this, please cross your arms diagonally over your chest. Communion will be distributed from a number of points around the Cathedral, ushers will assist in directing you.

COMMUNION PSALM

All sing Refrain

Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord

Refrain: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord;
taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1.
I will bless the Lord at all times, with praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast, the humble shall hear and be glad. ***R.***

2.
Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise God's name.
I sought the Lord and was answered; from my terrors God set me free. ***R.***

3.
Look towards the Lord and shine in light; let your faces be not ashamed.
When the poor cry out the Lord hears them and rescues them from all their distress. ***R.***

4.
The angel of the Lord is encamped around those who revere God.
Taste and see that the Lord is good. They are happy who seek refuge in God. ***R.***

Text: Based on Ps 33/34 by Christopher Willcock, SJ

COMMUNION HYMN

All sing Refrain

One Bread, One Body

Refrain: One bread, one body,
one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many
throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

1.
Gentile or Jew,
servant or free,
woman or man no more. ***R.***

2.
Many the gifts,
many the works,
one in the Lord of all. ***R.***

3.
Grain for the fields,
scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. ***R.***

Text: based on scripture by John Foley, SJ (b. 1939)

COMMUNION HYMN

All sing Antiphon

Gift of Finest Wheat

Antiphon: You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat;
come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

1.
As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam'ly Lord,
we follow and rejoice. ***Ant.***

2.
With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude,
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heav'nly food. ***Ant.***

3.
Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ out-poured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
our oneness in the Lord? ***Ant.***

4.
The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world can not contain
comes in our hearts to dwell. ***Ant.***

5.
You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity. ***Ant.***

Text: Omer Westendorf (1916-1997); Music: Robert Kreutz (1922-1996) arr. John Ferguson

POST-COMMUNION MOTET

Choir sings

Ave verum corpus

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Ave verum corpus,	Hail, true Body,
natum de Maria Virgine,	born of the Virgin Mary,
vere passum,	truly suffered,
immolatum in cruce pro homine	sacrificed on the cross for mankind,
cuius latus perforatum fluxit	from whose pierced side flowed
aqua et sanguine:	water and blood:
esto nobis prægustatum	Be for us a foretaste [*of the Heavenly banquet*]
in mortis examine.	in the trial of death!
O Iesu dulcis,	O sweet Jesus,
O Iesu pie,	O holy Jesus,
O Iesu, fili Mariae.	O Jesus, son of Mary.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand

Bishop Ramirez RCJ Made partakers in the Sacrament of charity, we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that we may be conformed to Christ on earth and merit to be coheirs of his glory in heaven.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Concluding Rites

VOTE OF THANKS – Bishop René Ramirez RCJ

Please sit

Solemn Blessing and Dismissal

Please stand

Bishop Ramirez RCJ The Lord be with you.

All **And with your spirit.**

Deacon Lawes Bow down for the blessing.

Bishop Ramirez RCJ May the God of all consolation order your days in his peace and grant you the gifts of his blessing.

All **Amen.**

Bishop Ramirez RCJ May God keep your hearts attentive to his Word, that you may be filled with everlasting gladness.

All **Amen.**

Bishop Ramirez RCJ And so, may you always understand what is good and right, and be found ever hastening along the path of God's commands, so that you may become coheirs with the citizens of heaven.

All **Amen.**

Bishop Ramirez RCJ And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All **Amen.**

Deacon Correya Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All **Thanks be to God.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

All sing

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

1.

Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the Church neglect its mission and the Gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry..

2.

Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptise and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervour, draw us closer in community;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

3.

Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood."
Let your priests, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us share your children's liberty;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

4.

Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society;
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

5.

Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity;
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

Text: Jeffrey Rowthorn (b. 1934) Tune: HYMN TO JOY by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), arr. Christopher Willcock, SJ.

POSTLUDE

Grand Chœur Dialogué

Eugène Gigout (1844-1925)

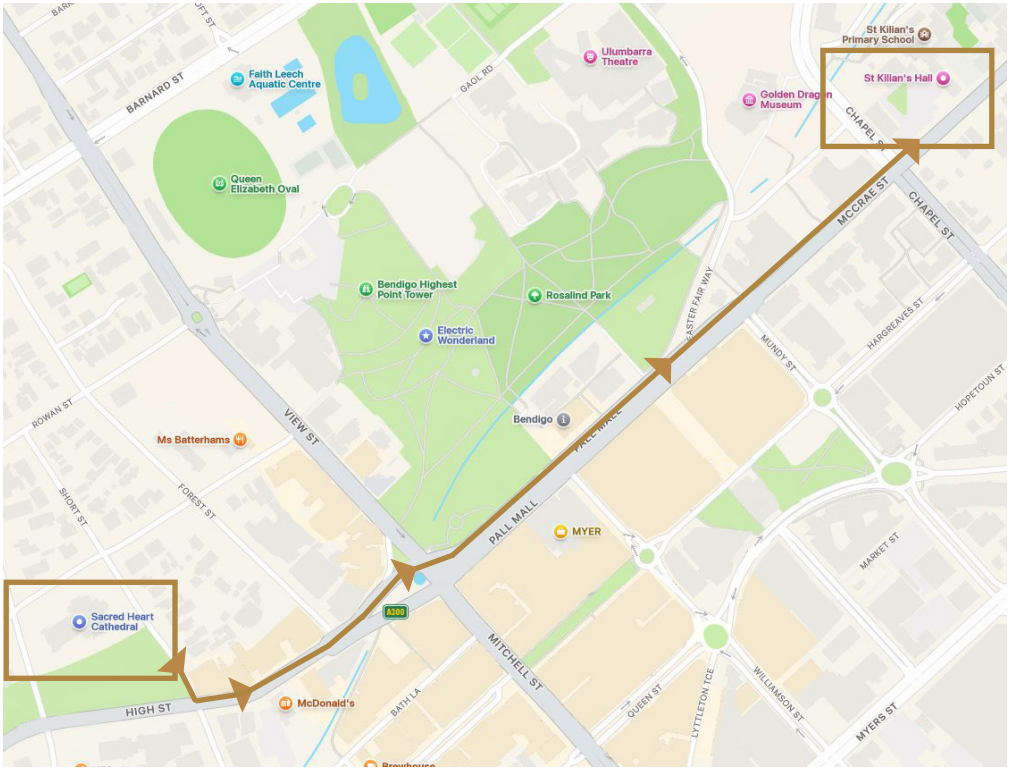
At the conclusion of Mass, a group photo of Bishop René, all concelebrating Bishops and Priests will be taken on the front steps of the Cathedral.

Photos

If you would like a photo taken with Bishop René, please approach him at the luncheon following Mass.

Following the Mass

Please join us for a light lunch at St Kilian's Hall, 161 McCrae Street, Bendigo: Map below.



The Diocese of Sandhurst

Erected in 1874



The Diocese of Sandhurst was established in 1874. It represents the Catholic Church in a region in Victoria bounded on the north and east by the Murray River, extending from Kerang to Corryong and as far inland as Euroa and Bright, covering 45,196 square kilometres.

A diocese is simply a community of Christ's faithful – it represents a portion of the people of God in a particular area, which is entrusted to a bishop. In the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst, Bishop René Ramirez RCJ is the pastoral leader of more than 84,000 Catholics. He is assisted by priests who minister in 38 parishes within the Diocese. The parishes are grouped into three Deaneries, the Western, Goulburn Valley and North Eastern.

The Sandhurst Diocese's vision and mission is "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). We welcome all who would like to join our communities or be guided by the principles and teachings of Christ.

409,994	Total Population
84,607	Catholics in region
48	Clergy
9	Religious Congregations
34	Religious
38	Parishes
55	Catholic Schools
19,902	Students in Catholic Schools
6	Preschool and Day Care Centres
550	Children in Preschool and Day Care Centres
1	Catholic Hospital
6	Catholic Aged Care Facilities

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The Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst