



+ **Michael Joseph McKenna**

Bishop of Bathurst



Father Michael McKenna, Bishop of Bathurst, was born in Bairnsdale, Victoria in 1951, the first of the eleven children of Maxwell (deceased) and Marie (Warburton) McKenna.

He was educated at St Patrick's School, Stratford and St Patrick's College, Sale. From 1971 to 1974, he studied in the Honours Schools of Political Science and English Literature at the University of Melbourne.

He has worked as a producer and presenter on 3RRR-FM in Melbourne. He was also an early explorer of new video technologies, whose works have been shown at the Melbourne Fringe and St Kilda Film Festivals.

After preparation at St Paul's National Seminary, Sydney, he was ordained priest by Bishop Eric D'Arcy in 1983. The following year, he was in the first group of graduates in theology from the Sydney College of Divinity.

He served in the Diocese of Sale for three years as Assistant Priest in St Joseph's Parish, Warragul; then for four years as Bishop's Secretary, Diocesan Secretary and Chancellor. He was a regular columnist in the diocesan monthly, *Catholic Life*, and a member of the College of Consultors.

In 1991, while engaged in post graduate studies in Canon Law at the Gregorian University, Rome, he was elected to the first of his two terms as General Secretary of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, based in Canberra.

After leaving the Bishops' Conference, he spent six months as Administrator of Lumen Christi Parish, Churchill, before taking up a Resident Fellowship in the Divinity School of Harvard University in the Fall semester of 1998.

From 1999 to 2005, he was Rector of Corpus Christi College, the regional seminary for Victoria and Tasmania; and organised the College's move in 2000 from Clayton to Carlton. He established strong links between the Seminary and the Catholic Church in Vietnam. He was a member of the Senate of Catholic Theological College and of the Melbourne College of Divinity, whose Board of Ministry Studies he chaired.

In 2006, following study leave in Louvain and Hull, he was appointed by the Archbishop of Melbourne as Catholic Chaplain to the University of Melbourne, where he reintroduced the celebration of Mass on campus and started new groups in social service, biblical study, Christian meditation and philosophy and faith.

The following year, he also took on the pastoral care of All Saints Parish, Fitzroy, an inner city community of many cultures, most notably Vietnamese and Sudanese. That year, he was elected to the Archbishop's Council of Priests and appointed to the Melbourne Catholic-Evangelical-Pentecostal Dialogue.

His favourite exercise is swimming; he enjoys movies, music, books, wine, food and conversation; and says he is more skilled at watching cricket than playing it.