

BISHOP'S HOUSE
PO Box 246
BATHURST NSW 2795

12th December 2014

Dear Friends,

Bishop Pat O'Regan's appointment to Sale is wonderful news for my old Diocese and I pray it will be a blessing for Pat. He has responded generously in accepting this call to leave his home and serve the Gospel in a new place and a new way. The consequences of his departure from Bathurst summon us in a similar manner.

Over the past week, I have asked our priests to be ready to move if that is what our circumstances demand. With a small number of priests, it means that each move sets up another move and in the end, almost every parish is affected. I am very grateful for the spirit of cooperation with which our priests have responded. They have shown a real sense of priestly service and dedication to our local church.

I know that the changes will disturb the comfort of the priests involved and of their people. However, to accept this generously is to open ourselves to the enormous generosity of God, who never lets us down. If we live this moment well, it can be one of new life for the mission which we have given ourselves - priests and people - to serve.

The new appointments, to take effect on 20th January 2015, are as follows:

Bathurst: Father Paul Devitt, Dean of the Cathedral; Father Owen Gibbons, Assistant Priest.

Coonabarabran and Coonamble: Father Reynold Jaboneta, Parish Priest

Dunedoo-Coolah: Father Greg Kennedy, Administrator; Father Augustine Mathew cmi, Priest in Residence

Dubbo: Father Greg Kennedy, Parish Priest; Father Joshy Kaithakulangara cmi, Assistant Priest.

Lithgow and Portland: Father Mark McGuigan, Parish Priest.

Mudgee, Gulgong and Kandos: Father Tony Hennessy Parish Priest; Father Antony Vattakkunnel cmi, Assistant Priest, resident in Gulgong.

Orange and Molong: Father Garry McKeown Parish Priest; Father Ephrem Thadathil cmi and Father Thuc Le, Assistant Priests.

Wellington: Father Carl Mackander Parish Priest.

Please pray for our priests and the parishes they have been sent to serve.

With every good wish.

Sincerely yours in Christ.

+ Michael McKenna
Bishop of Bathurst