



7<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
Good Shepherd Sunday

Dear Members and Friends of the Ordinariate

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord.

The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is being held today, Good Shepherd Sunday, and Pope Francis urges all the faithful to pray that more men will respond to God's call to serve him in the priesthood and permanent diaconate and that more women will respond to His call to serve him in the Religious Life and other important lay ministries.

In common with the Catholic Church in the Western world, Australian Dioceses are suffering from a shortage of local vocations. Dioceses that have churches, presbyteries and financial parishes are able to accept priests from overseas to fill some of the gaps.

We in the Ordinariate are not able to do that. We own no church buildings, have one presbytery in Perth, and only one community that is financially able to maintain such properties if we had them as well as support a full-time priest.

In the next five years several of our priests will have retired and without replacements and finances to support, our ability to maintain the communities we have will be a challenge. Without resources we cannot grow.

In His infinite mercy, God is already stirring the hearts of younger men from both inside and outside the Ordinariate to explore whether they are being called to serve him in the ordained ministry. Nigel McBain, our first seminarian, will begin his studies in the Sydney Seminary in July this year. Hopefully more of those on their journey of exploration will follow in the near future.

In unity with the Holy Father, I ask you to continue to pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. I ask you to hold some prayerful event, such as a week of prayer, Eucharistic devotions for the promotion of vocations. Perhaps one or two members of your community will promote vocations in an ongoing way, and encourage young people to think about where God is calling them to witness to him in their lives. I myself felt called to the priesthood when I was 14 yrs old, and nurtured in a group of like-minded teenagers.

I also ask you to contact Fr Stephen Hill, our Director of Vocations for advice and resources to assist you in this vital task, and invite him to talk to you as a community at a time convenient to you both.

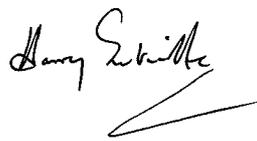
Not only do we need to pray that God will stir the hearts of young people to consider their vocation, we need to pray that God will stir the hearts of all our members and supporters to finance the training of our seminarians and support our future priests as full time stipended pastors of our communities. Each diocese has to fund its own seminarians, and each diocesan parish has to fund its own priest.

We are now in the fifth year since we were erected as an Ordinariate and our financial resources are very limited. We will launch an appeal for ongoing support for our future priests, but we cannot expect outside organisations and those who are not Ordinariate members or worshippers to support us, if we ourselves are not committed to securing our own future.

Each one of us has to own our future that God is revealing to us and be prepared to be sacrificial in ensuring its realisation. I urge you to be innovative in finding ways to contribute to the Ordinariate Education Fund so that the vision of Pope Benedict XVI can enrich the Church and her mission.

God always takes the initiative in his dealings with his people, but he always needs a little help from his friends!

With every blessing and continuing Easter Joy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Entwistle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Rev Msgr Harry Entwistle  
Ordinary