

Media Release: Diocese of Wagga Wagga History Book – *Consider the Crows*

A book chronicling the people, events and situations which have shaped the Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga has been officially released.

Written by Father Justin Darlow, *Consider the Crows* is a comprehensive history of the diocese, from its establishment in 1917 to the present day.

Originally commissioned to celebrate the centenary in 2017, it focuses on the diocese's growth and development in a way that readers will find both informative and enjoyable.

The work depends solidly on primary source material and has been divided into chapters that correspond to the episcopates of the successive bishops.

Bishop Mark Edwards comments:

This history brings many strands together including stories of influential laypeople, clergy and religious, the changing demographics of this beautiful part of the country, and important events – all presented in the context of the changes in the wider local society and in the world generally. This exploration of our roots both honours the efforts and faith of our predecessors and ancestors, and enables us to understand this part of the Church in which we live and its culture.

Dr Nancy Blacklow, local historian and former history staff member at Charles Sturt University, writes:

While it is of particular interest to the clergy and parishioners of the diocese as well as students, the book's approach and writing style would appeal to a wider audience. Based on extensive research and attention to detail, *Consider the Crows* provides valuable historical documentation of the Catholic Diocese of Wagga and its spiritual leaders.

In the foreword to the book, Archbishop Frank Carroll, former Bishop of Wagga Wagga, says:

All of us in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga are indebted to Father Darlow for this broad understanding of our identity, strength and vitality. He has been assisted diligently by many persons of the diocese to whom we also owe a sincere vote of thanks. This history is also of deep relevance and interest to many beyond the diocese, and I trust that it will be read widely.

The book's title is the beginning of the diocesan motto taken from the Gospel of Luke: "Consider the Crows: God feeds them" (Cf. Luke 12:24).

Father Darlow hopes that this history "will foster the Catholic life of the diocese by giving every reader an opportunity to 'Consider the Crows' and so be led to deep trust in and love for our provident heavenly Father."

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