

## Media Release

### **Dr Andrew Watson Commissioned as Director of Catholic Education.**

Dr Andrew Watson was formally commissioned as Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga at St Michael's Cathedral on Thursday, 28 April 2022, at 4:00pm.

The commissioning Mass was concelebrated by the Most Reverend Mark Edwards OMI, Sixth Bishop of Wagga Wagga, Fr Neville Stanislaus (Ballarat), Fr Peter O'Neill SSC (Columban Leader) and Fr Paddy Sykes.

Special guests in attendance included the Federal Member for the Riverina, Michael McCormack MP, the State Member for Wagga Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr, Mayor of Wagga Wagga, Councillor Dallas Tout, former senator and Executive Director of the National Catholic Education Commission, Mrs Jacinta Collins, distinguished public servant Steve Sedgwick AO, CEO of Catholic Schools NSW, Mr Dallas McInerney, Congregation Leader - Presentation Sisters, Sr Margaret Barclay and representatives of various religious communities, principals from the 29 diocesan Catholic schools and Dr Watson's colleagues, family and friends.

During the commissioning, Bishop Mark presented Dr Watson with a gift and a lit candle, saying, "Andrew, please accept this candle as a symbol of The Light of Christ, who is the divine energy, power and influence that proceeds from God and gives life and light to all things. Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others" (Matthew 5:16). He explained that no one lights a lamp just to hide it under a basket. A lamp is meant to be placed on a stand to give light to everything around it. Concluding, "Andrew, you too are called to be a light to the people around you".

In his Homily, Bishop Mark spoke about the adventure of God's calling for us.

"I came late to the understanding that the language you use is very important. My sister-in-law was my educator, teaching me that my Grandma would so much have preferred '*going on an adventure*' to '*going out for a cup of coffee*'."

“Today, I want to think a little bit about the adventure that God's calling you on, Andrew and perhaps, in that, I could challenge all of us to think about the adventure that God is walking with us.”

“How do we discover that calling? How do we discover the purpose that God made us for? I want to suggest two things. First is through our dreams, and particularly, Andrew, the children we have in our schools, have dreams about what they'd like to do. In many cases, that dream will be their calling.”

“The second way that we find our vocation is through God. Andrew, I suggest that those two have come together here today. For your leadership in education and the needs of this diocese are both ways that God has called you. He hasn't just called you to be a Director of Catholic Education, he has called you to be the Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.”

“This is the journey that He shares with you, the *'adventure'*. “

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

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