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-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

Fr William Matthews of the Salesians of Don Bosco presents **A Year to Celebrate**

2023 marks the 100th year of the Salesian presence in Australia and it will be a year of celebrations for this momentous achievement

Highlights of the year's celebration will be:

The issue of a commemorative book by Fr Frank Moloney, recalling the 100 years of Salesian presence in Australia.

January 24th: The Opening Centenary Mass and blessing of the newly minted memorial of gratitude to all benefactors at Rupertswood, Sunbury, VIC.

28th January: The priestly ordination of 5 Salesian deacons by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB of Perth in St Francis' Church, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, VIC.

April 21-28th: The visit of Fr Fernández Artime Ángel (Rector-Major), to the Province

Background:

On Friday 30th March 1923, a group of Salesians arrived with high hopes in Fremantle, WA later joined by Bishop Coppo. The genuine intention was to work with the indigenous in the Kimberley in the education of the young people.

Due to unforeseeable circumstances and difficulties, they encountered, some Salesians returned to Europe somewhat disappointment, and others moved onto Melbourne to minister to Italian immigrants. They also availed themselves in the education of the poor and abandoned young people in Victoria. These few determined Salesians moved forward in hope, trusting entirely in God's will, for their new mission in Melbourne.

With much gratitude to these dedicated first Salesians, the Australia-Pacific Province of Mary Help of Christians celebrates its centenary with pride. From a humble and trusting beginning in the West in 1923 to a daring celebration in 2023 is what God has brought to the young of the Australia-Pacific Province.

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(Accompanying Images on next page)



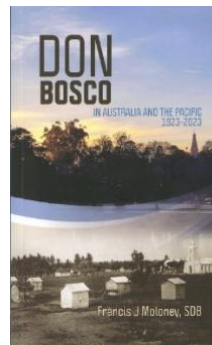
Fr Will Matthews,
Provincial



Fr Fernández Artime Ángel,
Rector-Major



Archbishop Timothy Costelloe
Archbishop of Perth, Salesian



Don Bosco in Australia & Pacific
By Fr Francis J. Moloney



The first group of Salesians pictured with then Rector Major, Fr Phillip Rinaldi and Bishop Coppo before setting out from Turin Italy