



## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

MEDIA RELEASE

March 14, 2024

### **Vale Archbishop Francis Carroll**

**A statement from Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe:**

“Not just a man of God, but a man for God” was how Archbishop Francis Carroll was described at a civic dinner in 2006.

Labor leader Kim Beazley was at the time paying tribute to the retiring Archbishop of Canberra-Goulburn.

Archbishop Carroll died peacefully on the morning of March 14, aged 93, at Calvary Hospital in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales.

He once said: "I chose to become a priest, I accepted to be a bishop and an archbishop, but it was always with a sense of following what I believed was a call from God. Wherever that would lead, I was happy to go."

Studying Canon law in Rome at the time of the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s gave him what he described as a “vision of what the Church could be”.

The key message he took out of Vatican II was: "Everyone has gifts and if you can somehow bring together these gifts then you will have a vibrant body."

Archbishop Carroll showed a special love for the poor and struggling and was a great champion for Aboriginal people and refugees and asylum seekers.

Francis Patrick Carroll was Bishop of Wagga Wagga between 1968 and 1983, serving as the fifth Archbishop of Canberra-Goulburn from 1983 to 2006.

Born in Ganmain, New South Wales, he was ordained a priest in 1954 and served in Griffith and Albury.

He was appointed to the role of Assistant Diocesan Inspector of Schools and became Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga in 1965.

Archbishop Carroll was the first chairperson of the National Catholic Education Commission from 1974 to 1978, remaining a member until 1988.

We entrust Archbishop Carroll to the compassion and love of the God whom he served so well. May he rest in peace.