



Date **28 May 2024**
To **Joseph Higgins, The Catholic Leader**
From **Vanessa Ramswarup, Community Engagement Manager**
Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton
Subject **BISHOP MICHAEL MCCARTHY 10 YEARS OF EPISCOPAL MINISTRY**

The Most Reverend Michael Fabian McCarthy DD, the 10th Bishop of Rockhampton, will celebrate ten years of Episcopal Ministry on Wednesday 29th May 2024.

Bishop McCarthy was announced as the 10th Bishop of Rockhampton by Pope Francis on 10th March 2014. His Episcopal Ordination was celebrated at St Joseph's Cathedral on 29th May 2014 with the Apostolic Nuncio and Bishops from across Australia in attendance, and the cathedral overflowing with members of the congregation.

The celebrations for Bishop McCarthy's ten years of Episcopal Ministry will be especially blessed by the presence of the current Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Charles Balvo.

Candidates for Confirmation and First Holy Communion were very fortunate to have His Excellency Archbishop Balvo presiding at their celebrations throughout Rockhampton last weekend.

His Excellency Archbishop Balvo will join Bishop McCarthy in travelling to Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton, and Mackay during his time in the Diocese.

In Bundaberg, His Excellency Archbishop Balvo celebrated Mass with Bishop McCarthy and the Priests of the Bundaberg Parish at Holy Rosary Church. Following the Mass there was the opportunity to meet Archbishop Balvo and to congratulate Bishop McCarthy on his 10th anniversary as Bishop.

During a visit to Chanel College in Gladstone, His Excellency Archbishop Balvo and Bishop McCarthy will bless a new classroom wing. Miss Leesa Jeffcoat, Diocesan Director of Catholic Education, will also be present for the opening, a significant occasion in the history of the College.

Tomorrow morning, Catholic Education will hold a Liturgy to celebrate Bishop McCarthy's 10th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination at St Joseph's Cathedral.

The people of the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton have been invited to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving to commemorate Bishop Michael McCarthy's ten years of Episcopal Ministry. The Mass will be held tomorrow at 5:30pm on Wednesday 29th May 2024 at St Joseph's Cathedral, followed by a formal reception. The Mass will be live streamed for those who are not able to attend.

His Excellency Archbishop Balvo and Bishop McCarthy will then visit the Diocesan Offices in Rockhampton as well as CatholicCare, the Diocese's social services agency.

The people of Mackay are invited to a public reception on the evening of Friday 31st May for the celebration of Bishop Michael McCarthy's 10th Anniversary. Confirmation and First Holy Communion candidates in Mackay will be blessed with both His Excellency Archbishop Balvo and Bishop McCarthy at their ceremonies.

We congratulate Bishop Michael on this wonderful milestone, and offer a heartfelt thank you for the guidance, leadership, and extraordinary service that he continues to provide to the Diocese.