



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

media release

Friday 08 November 2024

Two New Auxiliary Bishops Appointed for Melbourne

As we prepare to enter a year of Jubilee for the Church, it is with great joy that the Archdiocese shares the news of Pope Francis' appointment of two new Auxiliary Bishops for Melbourne – **Reverend Father Think Nguyen** and **Reverend Father Rene Ramirez RCJ**.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne said; "I am deeply grateful to the Holy Father for this gift and blessing to our Archdiocese."

"The Melbourne Archdiocese is the largest in Oceania, and we have waited a long time to have our full complement of Auxiliary Bishops to assist in ministering to God's people.

"Both Fr Nguyen and Fr Ramirez are men who have a heart for the Gospel and a missionary energy for God's people," said the Archbishop.

"They are well-known to the Melbourne Archdiocese, and have already made valuable contributions to the life of the local Church. I know that each will continue to share their distinctive gifts and passionate commitment to our faith communities in the years to come.

"I ask for your prayers as they begin this new journey in their ministerial lives."

Both Frs Nguyen and Ramirez expressed their surprise at the news of their appointment.

"I felt overwhelmed at first by the responsibility and the weight of the task ahead," said Fr Nguyen. "However, I am reminded of the scene where Jesus appeared to the frightened disciples in the boat, saying, '*Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid!*' (Matthew 14:27). It is this voice of Jesus that empowered me to say YES to the call. I am grateful to Pope Francis and Archbishop Comensoli for trusting me with the responsibility of watching over the people of God".

Fr Ramirez too, shared his reaction to the unexpected news. "My first thought was to visit the Blessed Sacrament in prayer, and to ask of the Lord – 'Why me?'"

"I have since been reflecting deeply on St Matthew '*For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners,*' and humbly accept that my pathway and commitment is to serve the community with faith and trust in God's plan."

Both Bishops-elect will join Bishop Martin Ashe and Bishop Tony Ireland in bringing together the leadership of the four regions of the Archdiocese.



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In welcoming the news, Archbishop Comensoli also expressed his acknowledgement and deepest gratitude to Bishop Terry Curtin who has ministered as an active Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese well past his formal retirement date.

“Bishop Curtin’s dedication and care for our people has been exceptional,” he said. “I ask that we keep him in prayer as he concludes his role and prepares to take up a joyous time of well-deserved rest!”

The Episcopal Ordination for the Bishops-elect is to take place in the morning of 1 February 2025 at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Melbourne. More information will be shared as planning gets further underway.

Further information on the Bishops-elect may be found at:

www.melbournecatholic.org.

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