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From the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

18 June 2025



Shane Mackinlay appointed Archbishop of Brisbane



Pope Leo XIV has this evening appointed Most Reverend Shane Mackinlay, currently the eighth Bishop of Sandhurst, as the new Archbishop of Brisbane. Bishop Mackinlay will replace Archbishop Mark Coleridge, who is retiring after 13 years as the Archbishop of Brisbane and 51 years as a priest.

A Statement from Bishop Shane Mackinlay

I am deeply honoured by Pope Leo's decision to appoint me as Archbishop of Brisbane – a diocese that has such a strong tradition of fostering the liturgical, spiritual, evangelising and educational endeavours of the Catholic community, both within the Archdiocese and more broadly.

I am particularly pleased that I will be following Archbishop Mark Coleridge, who has been a friend and mentor to me for many years. In his thirteen years as Archbishop of Brisbane, he has led the Archdiocese with great conviction and generosity, as well as making a very significant contribution to the Church beyond the Archdiocese. In particular, I see the Action Plans that he promulgated after last year's Archdiocesan Synod as providing a clear direction for the Church in Brisbane, as we seek to develop a more synodal Church that effectively proclaims Jesus' good news in our contemporary world. I look forward to working to implement those plans, in collaboration with all who contributed to the process of developing them.

Since I became the Bishop of Sandhurst nearly six years ago, I have been greatly encouraged and inspired by the lively faith and commitment of the people, priests and communities of the Diocese, and by the generous friendship and welcome they have offered to me personally. I am grateful to have shared in the pilgrim journey of the People of God here, where we have together begun new initiatives in living out our mission as Jesus' disciples. While I will be sad to move on from the Sandhurst Diocese, I am excited by this opportunity to serve the broader Church in a new way.

I ask for your prayerful support for me, for the Archdiocese of Brisbane, and for the Diocese of Sandhurst, as I prepare to take up this ministry.

[Download Bishop Shane's message as pdf >>](#)

"Bishop Shane is an experienced pastor who knows how to listen, attuned both to the big picture and the practical details. That combination makes him a capable administrator, well-suited to lead a diocese as large and complex as Brisbane. I have no doubt he will bring exceptional gifts and fresh energies to the Archdiocese of Brisbane, where he will be creative in pursuing the path of synodality into the future God is preparing. I am grateful to Pope Leo for this wise choice of a new Archbishop."

Archbishop Mark Coleridge

[Read Archbishop Coleridge's full statement >>](#)

"The Archbishop-elect's pastoral experience in his home diocese of Ballarat, and his leadership of the diocese of Sandhurst, together with his strong academic background, will stand him in good stead as he takes up the new challenge of pastoral leadership in the Archdiocese of Brisbane."

So, too, will be his significant contribution to ecumenical and interfaith dialogue which has been a particular feature of his contribution to the work of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference."

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President

[Read the announcement from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference >>](#)

Bishop Shane will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving (Farewell Mass) at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo, on Sunday 7 September 2025.

He will be installed as Archbishop of Brisbane at St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane on Thursday 11 September.

After Bishop Shane's Installation, the Consultors will elect a priest to serve as Diocesan Administrator until a new bishop is appointed.

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Acknowledgement of Country

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