



Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL
Bishop of Parramatta

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Dear friends,

I write to inform you of a significant announcement. Fr Chris de Souza, one of the Vicars General of the Diocese of Parramatta and the Parish Priest of St Oliver Plunkett, Harris Park, has been selected as the new General Secretary of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC).

Fr Chris is an excellent choice, and while he will be sorely missed here in the Diocese of Parramatta, I am confident that he will contribute to the mission of the Church in Australia in his new role at the ACBC.

Fr Chris has been involved in the Diocese of Parramatta since its inception in 1986 and has been a trusted and loyal advisor to all four bishops: Bishop Bede Heather, Bishop Kevin Manning, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, and myself. He has been appointed to numerous roles, including the Director of Vocation and Formation from 1993 – 2003 and in 1994, he was appointed Director of Deacons and Students. Between 1998 – 2011 he was Director of Prison Chaplains, and in 1998 he was appointed Episcopal Vicar for Formation. In 2003 he was appointed Parish Priest of St Nicholas or Myra Parish, Penrith.

In 2012, Fr Chris was appointed Vicar General, Episcopal Vicar for Education, Vice Rector of Seminary, and in 2014 was appointed Parish Priest of Harris Park.

He was reappointed Vicar General in 2016 and Episcopal Vicar for Education and Formation. Fr Chris is widely recognised as an outstanding spiritual leader and a dedicated pastor who has always been grounded in parish life.

Most will know Fr Chris for his pleasant and affable personality and ability to work with and respect all people, especially those with differing viewpoints. He is a renowned pilgrimage supervisor and is well known for his spirituality, spiritual direction and discernment and his outreach to young people. I will miss his deep knowledge, wise counsel, and measured approach.

Fr Chris replaces the current General Secretary of the ACBC, Fr Stephen Hackett MSC, who has been elected provincial superior of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Australia. Fr Chris will commence his new role in Canberra in August.

Please join me in congratulating Fr Chris and praying for his ministry on the national stage.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv STL DD
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