



## Welcoming the presence of Apostolic Administrator Archbishop Christopher Prowse

**D**ear Friends in Christ,  
You may have heard that the Holy See has appointed me as the Apostolic Administrator of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Military Services. This became effective on 24th May 2021.

Such an appointment happened because our Holy Father, Pope Francis, accepted the resignation due to reaching the age limit of our dear Bishop Max Davis. As the Holy Father has not yet appointed Bishop Max's successor, an Administrator is appointed in the meantime until a new Bishop is installed.

Therefore, I have the honour of offering all in the Diocese the closeness of the Holy Father in this period of waiting.

First, may I thank Bishop Max for his dedicated service to the Diocese since 2003. Bishop Geoffrey Mayne ordained him a Bishop at St Christopher's Cathedral on 22 August 2003. Bishop Aloysius Morgan assisted at the ordination. We pray for him and ask the Lord that he enjoys a restful retirement. We know that his pet dog, Jesse, will assist in taking him for lots of long walks!

Secondly, let us pray for a worthy successor to Bishop Davis. I understand that prayer cards will be distributed around the diocese to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance as we pray for this important intention. Let us pray for this together frequently in the time ahead.

Thirdly, in this 'in between time', I will be guiding the diocese as the Apostolic Administrator. It is beyond the scope of my governance to initiate anything structurally innovative. However, it will be my priority to gather all those in the diocese and encourage them in the faith. I wish to listen carefully to advice and wisdom about the diocese and its origins and future.

To assist me in this, I have appointed two delegates. They are Mgr Peter O'Keefe and Fr Richard Thompson. Mgr. Peter, the Vicar General, is well known to you all. Fr Richard is one of my priests from the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. For many years, he was a chaplain in the Royal Australian Navy before he returned full time into the Archdiocese. I am grateful that they readily accepted my invitation to assist me.

Lastly, I have already met on Zoom many of the chaplains scattered throughout Australia and beyond. I want them to know of my encouragement in Christ and learn from their wisdom. These 'chats' will continue.

Thank you for your prayers for me.

*May Mary, Help of Christians, lead us always to Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.*

*Archbishop Christopher Prowse*

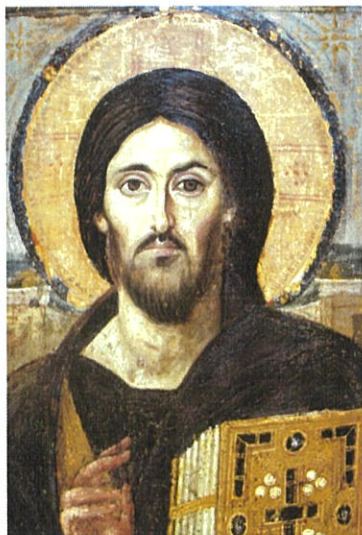


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Archbishop Prowse was Ordained into the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 1980.

He was appointed Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn in 2013. Prior to this appointment he was the Bishop of Sale (2009-2013), and was appointed Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2001.

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Prayer for the appointment of a new Bishop  
O God, eternal Shepherd,  
who govern your flock with unfailing care,  
grant in your boundless love  
a Bishop for the Diocese of the Australian Military Services  
who will please You by his holiness  
and to us show watchful care.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,  
who lives and reigns with You  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.  
Mary, Help of Christians, our Patron  
Pray for us.