

Serving Faithfully

Newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Military Services
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Along with so many around the world, we pray for the repose of the soul of Queen Elizabeth II at this time of her death. So many use words such as duty, service, wisdom, steadfast, to describe her time as Australia's Head of State.

Two praiseworthy expressions come to my heart.

Firstly, she was a woman of deep Christian Faith. This animated her great dutiful service to us all, her long marriage and love of her family.

Secondly, she was a kind of Mother figure to all Australians in a 'change of era', as Pope Francis expresses our time.

May she rest in peace!

May our merciful Lord Jesus, who she trusted so much in life, now lead her to life eternal.

I kindly ask you to pray for the soul of Queen Elizabeth II, her family, and for peace in our world in your Masses and prayers. We also pray for King Charles III.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

***Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn
Apostolic Administrator, Military Ordinariate of Australia***



We in the Military Diocese are saddened and deeply mourn the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II. We are profoundly grateful for her life; she has been a treasured gift to our world and will be long remembered.

As current serving members of the Australian Defence Force, together with our veterans, we have enjoyed a unique and intimate association with our Queen as our Sovereign Lady, signified in the unfurling of Her Colour, and unifying us in the profession of arms as the beacon of peace, faith, fidelity and selfless service.

May she rest in peace!

The Catholic Military Ordinariate expresses its heartfelt condolences to King Charles III and to the Royal Family at this sad time. We pray that our new monarch, His Majesty King Charles III, will be blessed and strengthened as he assumes the Crown.

The death of Queen Elizabeth II, after a long reign marked by extraordinary constancy, fidelity, courage and service, will bring great sadness to many people in Australia, including members of the Catholic community.

As the Queen enters into the great mystery of eternal life with the Lord, we will pray for the repose of her soul and for the support and comfort of her family, her nation and the wider community of the Commonwealth.

Queen Elizabeth was never reticent about acknowledging her Christian faith. Her annual Christmas message invariably focused on Jesus Christ as a model of humble and generous service. It was a model she strived to emulate throughout her long life. May she rest in peace.

***Archbishop Timothy Costelloe Sdb,
President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference***

Around the Diocese

CHAP Leo Orreal CSM



The Military Ordinariate congratulates one of our Chaplains, Deacon Leo Orreal, on the honour of being a recipient of the Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM), in the

Queen's Birthday Honours 2022.

The citation:

Major Lionel Edward Orreal. *For meritorious devotion to duty as the Chaplain of the 6th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, Regional Support Chaplain, Headquarters Forces Command and the Chaplain of the 8th/9th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.*

After 40 years of service as a chaplain in the Army, Leo has retired in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Thank you for your service Leo. We wish you a well-deserved and fulfilling retirement.

CHAP Bradley Rafter



Congratulations to Fr Brad Rafter, Australian Army Reserve, who recently received his four-year service Australian Defence Medal.

Before entering Vianney College, the Wagga Wagga Catholic Diocesan seminary, in 2006, he was a greenkeeper in Sydney specialising in bowling greens and golf courses.

In 2012 he qualified for the Bachelor of Sacred Theology from the Urbaniana University in Rome and was ordained in Wagga Wagga in 2013. He subsequently undertook various parish appointments and is now Vice-Rector and First Year Formator at Vianney College Seminary.

Fr Brad has been an Army Chaplain since 2017 working 1-2 days a week at Kapooka with the 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Wagga Wagga.

Congratulations Fr Brad, here's to many more years of service.

CHAP Thomas Zaranski



CHAP Thomas Zaranski, a priest of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, has joined the Australian Army as priest Chaplain.

On completion of secondary school he was

employed at Marist College, Ashgrove as a Resident Boarding Supervisor. He completed a Bachelor of Economics at the University of Queensland and was employed by Queensland Treasury and Brisbane City Council.

In 2011 Thomas took a break from full-time employment to discern his vocation to the priesthood. During this period, he completed a Graduate Diploma of Education (Secondary) and a Graduate Certificate in Religious Education at the Australian Catholic University. He is currently a Registered Teacher in Queensland.

For a YouTube video of Fr Thomas speaking about the Power of Priesthood, open:

[Tinyurl.com/zaranski](https://www.tinyurl.com/zaranski)

Fr Thomas joins Fr Xiang Feng and Chaplain Joe Moloney at Lavarack Army base in Townsville.

We welcome Fr Thomas into the Diocese with much joy.

CHAP Adrian Gomez

Deacon Adrian Gomez is a permanent Deacon from the Diocese of Broken Bay. He is married to Christina with two children, Julian and Sophia.

Adrian currently works as a chaplain/teacher at St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga NSW, and is also the chaplain to the diocesan youth ministry team—Catholic Youth Broken Bay.

To hear an interview with Adrian about the permanent diaconate and its role and function in the Church, open:

[Tinyurl.com/adrian-gomez](https://www.tinyurl.com/adrian-gomez)

Adrian is currently undertaking training as a Naval Reserve Chaplain.

We welcome Adrian with great joy.



CHAP Clint McGoldrick

CHAP Clint McGoldrick is a program leader for ministry and service at St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe, on Moreton Bay, about 30 minutes north of Brisbane. He is married to Karley and they have sons Nate and Levi.

Before becoming an educator, he was an Army combat engineer for four years. He is now on a



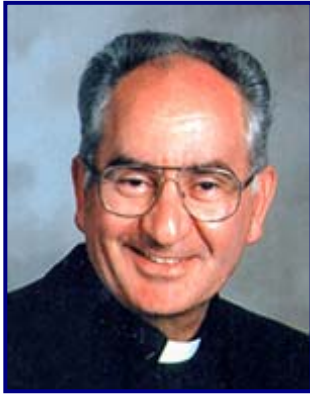
Continued p 3

Fr Michael Gatt and Fr Joseph Walsh RIP

Recognition of two WA Chaplains' Service

Fathers Michael Gatt and Joseph Walsh, both of the Archdiocese of Perth and former RAAF Reserve Chaplains, recently died in Perth.

Fr Michael Gatt



Fr Gatt, born in Malta, served in many parishes in Perth and joined RAAF Chaplaincy in 1985. He had previously served in the Royal Air Force before his Ordination.

Michael was a long-serving Air Force Chaplain at RAAF Base Pearce WA, retiring in 2007.

Fr Joseph Walsh

Fr Joe Walsh, born in Ireland, served in the Archdiocese of Perth for 46 years in several parishes. He joined Air Force Chaplaincy as a reservist in the late 1980s serving at RAAF Base Pearce WA. Joe was a very effective Chaplain not only within Defence but also in WA's prisons and he was a constant visitor to comfort patients at St John of God Hospital Subiaco.

Along with many priests across Australia who have served in Defence over many years, we give thanks for the effective and colourful ministries of Frs Michael and Joe.

May they rest in Peace.



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,
Pray for us.



From p2

formation path that could lead to his being the first Indigenous man ordained a deacon for the Brisbane Archdiocese and Military Ordinariate. He has been instituted into the ministry of lector at St Joseph's Church, Bracken Ridge - the first of three ceremonies along the formation path to being ordained a permanent deacon, with candidacy and acolyte being the next two steps.

Clint recognises that there is a way to go before any decision about ordination. He said, 'I'm in God's time ... but I'm looking forward to what each day brings in Christ and sharing that with my family.'

'I'll just take each day as it comes; I'm not trying to get too hopeful but I can't wait for that day that I'm ordained.'

'That will have a lot of meaning to it, because ... I would be the first Aboriginal deacon in this archdiocese so there's a lot of enjoyment and a lot of celebration; a lot of people are very happy for me in regards to that.'

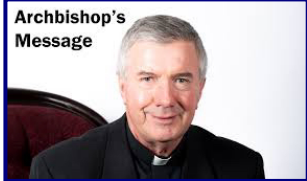
He has received messages of prayer and support from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council, and from Townsville Bishop Tim Harris, who is a member of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The Military Ordinariate welcomes Clint to Army Reserve Chaplaincy. He has joined us as a Pastoral Associate and is on the path to be ordained to the Diaconate towards the end of the year.

Congratulations and welcome Clint.

Second Assembly of the Plenary Council

Archbishop's
Message



Following attendance at the Fifth Plenary Council in Sydney, Archbishop Christopher Prowse had these observations on the

assembly. (The following has been drawn from a report of 14 July in *Catholic Voice*, Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.)

1. Some of the highlights of the Plenary Council

There was a real sense that the Holy Spirit was present. Be careful when you pray to the Holy Spirit! Make sure you have your seat belts on! When the Holy Spirit answers, we are in for quite an unexpected ride!

Firstly, it became very clear that the newer Catholics, coming to Australia as migrants and refugees over recent decades from Eastern countries of the Catholic world, are making an increasingly mature contribution to Australia in the present moment. These ... represent the 'Eastern lung' of the Catholic Church. Joining the Western or 'Latin Lung', we form the Body of Christ in Australia in such a wonderful fresh way.

Second, another great surprise of the Holy Spirit was the increasing contribution the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics of Australia are making in our Church. They were also very much present in leading us in morning prayers, acknowledgment of country, and sharing with us their stories in a way that was quite refreshing and at times essential if we want to be truly Australian Catholics.

Third, there were some moving liturgical moments in our continuing lament for the victims of Sex Abuse in our country.

Finally, there was a surprise to witness the deepening ecological dimensions of our Catholic faith expressed in the Council. The impulse that Pope Francis has given us in his document *Laudato Si'* was clearly evident. It is quite clear that understanding what Integral ecology means not only for the environment but also for our relationships with each other, is certainly becoming a more vital component of our mission.

2. Some of the challenges that we faced

A major challenge or flash point, which created tension earlier in the week, pertained to our

discussion regarding 'Witnessing to the Equal Dignity of Women and Men.'

This created a real rupture in our proceedings and caused great tension. However, given the deep tone of respect and determination to allow the Holy Spirit's action to guide us, we were able to reset procedures and re-write paragraphs. Indeed, at the end, we concluded with a better statement.

Other important topics were considered, but perhaps not considered enough. I think particularly of topics regarding the role of Men in the Church, Marriage and Family life, Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life.

3. Synodal listening

Listening attentively over a whole week is not as easy as one would think. Pope Francis is always keen to note the difference between hearing and listening. We can hear sounds but when we truly listen, we are trying to communicate.

The first part of any consideration was the proclamation of the Word of God, the introduction to the topic, and then significant periods of listening in silence and then listening to each other as we responded to what we believe the Holy Spirit was communicating to us.

There was a great sense that the fruit of Synodality was a real determination for the Catholic Church to advance in the future with a renewed impulse in evangelisation and in our culture and world of today.

4. What will be the next steps now that the Plenary Council has concluded?

In one sense, the Plenary Council has concluded, but in another, it has just begun. The final stage of the Plenary Council is the implementation of the Decrees that we have approved.

The next period will be for the refining of these motions, the cataloguing of them and the presentation of them to the Holy See seeking Papal approval. Once this is given, there is a six-month hiatus whereby we can wait for a maturing of the understanding of what these Decrees mean for the Dioceses of Australia, after which they will be implemented in all the Dioceses of Australia.

Therefore, on the conclusion of the 2nd Assembly of the 5th Plenary of the Australian

Continued p7

A Gift in Your Will

Making a gift to the Catholic Military Ordinariate is a meaningful way to fund the education of future priests and deacons and to support our clergy in providing spiritual guidance to our service men and women and their families.

To make a bequest, you should consult your solicitor or trustee company. It may be sufficient to make an addition or amendment to an existing will by adding a codicil.

A useful website for more information is: includeacharity.com.au

From p6

Church, we thank the Lord for His many blessings and the undeniable presence of the Holy Spirit leading us on in the midst of our own selfishness and woundedness.

Whatever the future may look like for the Church's pastoral evangelising in the years ahead, it will be clearly centred on Jesus Christ. Anything that is enacted must help us to become more and more the evangelising people of God that we are called to be.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn
Apostolic Administrator Catholic Military Ordinariate

On behalf of the Military Ordinariate Delegation, Major Gavin Keating reports:

Contrary to some media reporting the Second Assembly was not a Catholic version of 'The Hunger Games,' where different groups fought out strongly held ideological positions until the victors had eliminated all opposition. In fact, the opposite was true – one of the remarkable, and most positive, features of the gathering (at least for me) was the respectful nature of the dialogue between groups and individuals, even when they held widely different perspectives.

The other notable feature of the gathering was the way in which it highlighted the immense variety of people within the Church in Australia. I was seated at a table with two lay women, two priests from one of the Eastern Eparchies (these include the Maronite, Syro-Malabar, Ukrainian Melkite and Chaldean Churches), a diocesan priest, a bishop and a religious sister. Each had a wide variety of different experiences within the Church and our discussions were a great opportunity to learn about the varying perspectives that these experiences have created.

The current emphasis on synodality within the

wider Church necessitates more frequent and constructive dialogue, both speaking and, more importantly, intent listening. At the very least the Plenary Council provided many opportunities for this process to be practised.

For military types, who like concrete outcomes, the results of the Second Assembly could be considered a little disappointing. The ten decrees approved by those members of the assembly with substantive voting rights (mainly the Church's bishops) are, by their nature, mostly general. In most cases they really talk more about 'commander's intent' than the specifics of how this intent will be realised going forward. One possible exception was the decree forming a 'National Catholic Synodal Life Roundtable,' with the view of fostering synodal leadership across the Church in Australia.

There is no doubt that the contents contained in most of the decrees, for example the stated desire for greater reconciliation with

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics, were overwhelmingly positive. In the six-month period it will take to receive Papal endorsement of these outcomes there is plenty of scope at the local level for thinking

about how intent can be transformed into action.

The Catholic Military Ordinariate of Australia is obviously only one very small part of the much broader national Church. There were no issues discussed at the Second Assembly that had special relevance to the Ordinariate's members. However, the distinctive nature of the Ordinariate, particularly its geographic reach and specific engagement with a very large national institution existing in the secular world, does give it a unique perspective and experience. These could well become increasingly important as the wider Church seeks to realise the 'Spirit of the Second Assembly' in meaningful ways.



Military Ordinariate Delegation L to R: Mgr Stuart Hall, Mgr Peter O'Keefe, Mgr Glynn Murphy, Major Gavin Keating

Donations

The sources of income for the Military Diocese are very limited, and have reduced significantly during the past year:

- ◆ All dioceses and parishes have been affected by the closure of churches as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. As a result, some generous donations previously received from other dioceses have not been possible.
- ◆ The Knights of the Southern Cross undertake annual fundraising to support the education and continuing development of Chaplains and Deacons at their annual conference, but that was cancelled last year.
- ◆ Our chaplains continue to donate selflessly a proportion of their salary.
- ◆ We have received continuing donations from supporters, but these are about half of normal expectations.

If you would like to support the Military Diocese with tax-deductable donations you can make a direct bank transfer to the Armed Services Catholic Diocese BSB: 062 786 ACCOUNT No: 18662.

Would you please contact the Chancery on 02 6248 0511 or email sec@cmoa.org.au so that a receipt can be provided.

Bringing the presence of Christ to the Military

Fr Damian Styles is a tank of a man – and that's apt. He's a military chaplain who trained as a tank soldier. He was once nearly crushed by a tank. He got his licence to drive a tank before he got his licence to drive a car.

Tanks are his thing.

And God: 'A chaplain walks with people in the environment that often leads to the big questions in life,' he says.

His role is, in effect, to be a priest in uniform.

Where soldiers deploy, he will also be. He says that gives him the opportunity to reflect the values of the gospels in the toughest situations.

'The Christian values and military values can uplift a person to be a genuine faith-filled person and live a great life within multiple forms of service for community and country,' he said.

His mission as a military chaplain is unlike many others, with what he calls its graces and challenges, sometimes in testing circumstances.

'The important element for successful ministry is that the chaplain identifies with military personnel, becomes one with them, wears their uniform and willingly shares their sacrifices,' he said.

'In this particular ministry of the Church, it is a mission to ensure that the presence of Christ reaches those women and men who offer themselves in service to the nation.'

His route started in Victoria when he joined the army in 1995 as a 17-year-old and served with the 1st Armoured Regiment, crewing a tank.

'I joke that as a 17-year-old, I wasn't able to get my licence until 18 in Victoria, so I had my tank licence before my car licence.'

He was once working under a tank when the driver, unaware that he was there, started to move it. Fr Damian was seconds away from being crushed before the tank stopped.

He likes the challenge of working with soldiers, some with faith and some without. 'It is a great opportunity to work with a dynamic and diverse group of people and their families, mostly young men and women, Catholic, denominational, inter-faith or even those without any sense of faith,' he said.

He has been deployed four times, including to Afghanistan and East Timor. He has also served in

Australia and received a Conspicuous Service Medal for service to the 1st Brigade in Darwin.

'A chaplain has opportunities to reflect gospel values and show how their calling to service in the military can be linked - and should be linked with their following of Christ if they are a Christian,' he said.

'There have been many grace-filled times, even though some have been in tragic circumstances.

'I think the satisfying times are the ones when I know I am being a priest. Baptising someone on a deployment after they have spent years searching for God. Sitting by the bed of someone sick and being thanked for supporting them in their hard time.

'We often look for the difficult times and dwell on them, but when I think about it, it is the grace-filled moments that give me great joy in service to the Lord.

'Ultimately, though, the Catholic chaplain is in uniform to be able to

ensure that Catholic members have access to the sacraments and be able to be enriched with Catholic spirituality.'

He believes it is important for Catholics in the military to have pastoral care.

And he has a message: 'If you know of someone whom you feel would be a good fit for military chaplaincy, encourage them to explore this unique ministry within the Church.'

Originally published by 'Catholic Voice', Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

CHAP Styles was awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2020: *For meritorious devotion to duty as the Coordinating Chaplain of 1st Brigade.*

The accompanying media note states, 'Chaplain Styles has tirelessly and selflessly dedicated himself to the pastoral care and support needs of Defence community in Darwin. His unwavering support to soldiers, their families, various supporting agencies, veterans and with wider Defence community in Darwin has provided immeasurable support to those in need, often in traumatic circumstances. Chaplain Styles' extraordinary efforts have brought enormous credit to the Army Chaplain's Department and enhanced the reputation of the Australian Defence Force.'



Fr Damian Styles CSM on exercise with 1st Brigade

Ordination: Deacon Gavin Keating DSC CSC

Gavin Keating has had a stellar army career: entering the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1991, graduating as an infantry lieutenant from the Royal Military College in 1994 and returning to the Academy to complete an honours degree in history.

This led to the publication in 2005 of the book, 'The Right Man for the Right Job: Lieutenant General Sir Stanley Savage as a Military Commander.'

As a result of Gavin's further study while at the Army Command

and Staff College, the Land Warfare Studies Centre published in 2007, 'A tale of Three Battalions: Combat Morale and Battle Fatigue in the 7th Australian Infantry Brigade Bougainville 1944-45'.

(tinyurl.com/gavin-keating)

Regimental appointments included service in the SAS as a troop commander. His overseas deployments have been to both East Timor and Afghanistan on two occasions, the peace monitoring force at Bougainville, to Iraq, to Israel and Lebanon as a UN Observer and to Indonesia for disaster relief operations.

In 2016 he was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for 'Outstanding achievement in the performance of duty as the commanding officer of 3rd battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.' The following year he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for 'Distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations as the Commander Task Group Taji Two on Operation Okra in Iraq.'

In the rank of colonel, with a career the envy of many of his peers, Gavin changed direction and commenced a five-year journey toward becoming a full-time army chaplain. His preparation has been through a mix of studies and practical experience culminating in his placement in Canberra at Corpus Christi Parish, Gowrie and ordination on 22 July. He is finding the Gowrie placement a particularly

rewarding on-the-job experience. At the end of the year he will be posted as a chaplain with the rank of captain at the Royal Military College.

In his homily at the ordination, Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Apostolic Administrator of the

Catholic Military Ordinariate, said, 'It is quite clear that our dear brother Gavin has had a vocation within a vocation. His primary vocation to date has been his marriage to Myra and the nurturing of his family life with the two boys.'

His career has been in the Army, which has successfully seen him promoted to a very high rank. A vocation and a career are similar but they are

quite distinct from each other. A career in the Army is something that Gavin has chosen. A vocation to married life and family life and now to the Diaconate is something God has chosen for him through his Baptism to which he has cooperated in faith.'

In addressing the congregation after the ordination Mass, Gavin said, 'Since the Second Vatican Council the Church has regularly described itself as a pilgrim on a journey towards the Kingdom of God. As an ex-light infantry officer and someone known to enjoy the occasional long walk this is an image which really resonates with me. And one of the ways God blesses our lives is by the people who walk with us along parts of our life journeys. I have

been very blessed by the many people who have walked with me: some for many track miles, some for only a few; some on the ascents and descents; some through rain and snow; some through the river crossings and some along the flats – but each leaving an important impression, no matter how imperceptible.'

Congratulations Gavin. We warmly welcome you and wish you success in your sacred ministry.



L to R: Fr Richard Thompson, Deacon Gary Stone, Fr Trenton Van Reesch, Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Mgr Peter O'Keefe, Deacon Gavin Keating, Fr Damien Ellis



Archbishop Prowse welcoming Gavin Keating as a Deacon

Chaplain Bernard Maxwell OP RIP



Bernard Joseph Anthony Maxwell (pictured) was born in January 1930 at Liverpool, NSW to a family impoverished by the great depression. He was educated by the Sisters of Charity, and then by the Patrician Brothers at Granville who inspired him to embrace education as the means to get ahead in

the world. This Bernie did all his life.

Yearning for the contemplative life never left him. He practised it; he read about it; and he was influenced by the trends of the time. He focussed on three aspects: his spirituality; his love of the scriptures; and the humanity of the man.

In 1964 he became an Army Chaplain and served in Vietnam. The following is an extract from the obituary given by Sr Jill Shirvington OP:

‘As a Chaplain in the Vietnam War, he made himself available on Saturday evenings to go with any soldiers who knew him, out of the camp and into Saigon. There they could forget the terrors of war, momentarily. They would share a meal, drinks, and conversation. The unspoken assumption was that, dressed as an Army Padre, he would protect them from the advances of the bar girls. It only took a well-chosen word or a look from Major Maxwell and the girls moved on.

‘As chaplain to the Military Hospital, he understood the sound of the helicopter: a Medivac operation. Lots of wounded soldiers coming in. Get yourself down there for the landing. The

Commander in Charge would say to him: “He’s yours Father! That one in the corner, he’s yours!”

‘One day it was a young soldier, very badly wounded, clearly dying and calling out for his mother. Bernie took him in both arms and held him until he died. In recent months, with death closer for him, Bernie tried to speak of this experience – of feeling the life force in that young man, drain away. Bernie died unexpectedly, quickly and peacefully on Tuesday afternoon 5th July at 4.30pm. I like to think that this young soldier came by for Bernie that Tuesday afternoon and that he accompanied him safely home to heaven.’

The funeral took place at St Margaret’s Chapel, Calvary Retirement Community Ryde on 13 July 2022.

**Eternal rest grant to Bernie, O Lord,
and let everlasting light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. AMEN.**



*Requiem Mass for Fr Bernard Maxwell.
Mgr O’Keefe AM, Catholic Military Ordinariate, is third from left*

Serving Faithfully

is a newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Military Services.

It is published quarterly by the Catholic Military Ordinariate of Australia.

The Diocese comprises members of the Australian Defence Force and their families, wherever they may be serving.

Its people are scattered widely across Australia and overseas.

Serving Faithfully aims to be a means of sharing events and experiences from across the whole Diocese.

Articles are welcome to be submitted for publication to
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