



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**New Bishop for Sale Diocese**

On the Feast Day of St Cyril of Alexandria, The Holy Father has announced Monsignor Gregory Charles Bennet, former Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, as the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Sale in eastern Victoria.

In accepting this appointment, Bishop-Elect Bennet said, “I am humbled by Pope Francis’ nomination of me to be the next Bishop of Sale. It is an enormous responsibility and privilege to be asked to undertake this appointment.”

Well known and loved in the Melbourne Archdiocese, the Bishop-elect noted that whilst welcoming this new appointment, there will be sadness in leaving the Archdiocese of Melbourne, “I have served in the Archdiocese for 28 years and my heart is grateful for the many people who have formed, nurtured, cared, and supported me throughout my formation and my ministry.”

The second of four children to Len (RIP) and Maureen Bennet. Bishop-elect Bennet was educated in Victoria and completed his secondary education through Braemar College, Woodend.

Ordained in 1992 by Archbishop Little, he served as Assistant Priest in the parishes of Grovedale-Torquay, Greensborough and as Administrator of Seymour Parish before undertaking and completing a Master’s of Science in pastoral counselling at Loyola College Baltimore MD, USA, and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology at the Angelicum in Rome.

Upon his return from further studies, Bishop-Elect Bennet was appointed as Director, Ministry to Priests and as Director of Ongoing Formation for Clergy in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, followed by later appointments as the inaugural Director of the Archbishop’s of Evangelisation, and Parish Priest of St Bede’s, North Balwyn.

In 2012 Archbishop Hart appointed the Bishop-elect as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia and, in that same year, he was appointed a Prelate of Honour by Pope Benedict XVI. He has served as a Diocesan Consultor and on numerous committees of the Archdiocese including: the Archbishop’s Personnel Board, Curia, the Diocesan Finance Council, Catholic

Capital Grants Ltd and on advisory bodies associated with Catholic Education Melbourne. In March 2020, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli appointed him as Parish Priest of St Joseph's, West Brunswick.

"Mgr Greg has given a generous and deep commitment to the people of God in Melbourne over these 28 years," said Archbishop Comensoli.

"I am delighted at his appointment, but there is sadness to lose such a wonderful servant of God from our own Archdiocese. The people of Sale are blessed to have him as their new shepherd and I know they will welcome him warmly.

"He has also been a personal friend over many years and I wish to acknowledge his wonderful support to me in my own ministry.

"On behalf of the people of Melbourne, we offer our prayers for Mgr Greg and for the people of Sale."

Details regarding the episcopal ordination are still to be determined.

**For further information please contact:**

Annie Carrett, Director, Office of the Archbishop

E: [annie.carrett@cam.org.au](mailto:annie.carrett@cam.org.au) | T: 9926 5614 | M: 0439 600 233