

# Statement from Bishop-Elect Karol Kulczycki SDS



August 1, 2020

God is working in mysterious ways in my life. Firstly, calling me unexpectedly to religious and priestly life; secondly, directing my heart to serve Him in Australia and now serving Him and His people in Port Pirie Diocese.

Just a few weeks ago I had an interview for our Salvatorian newsletter and was asked how and where I see myself in 10 or 20 years. I replied that I would be where God sent me. I did not expect that God would act so quickly in my life.

Building my relationship with God, I have never envisioned myself as a bishop. To be one is a great privilege and responsibility. From the human perspective, it is a very challenging life. Maybe for these reasons I have not desired that ministry. Yet from a young age I adopted a short but powerful prayer that:

*With the love which is in God I should love life and people (...) listen to His call when it will be given and never look back. Then He can use me; maybe He is using me already.*

That prayer and example of the Blessed Virgin Mary responding “Yes” to God’s call to be the Mother of the Saviour gave me strength to accept the call to become the Bishop of Port Pirie Diocese. I have placed my trust in God and pray that I may fulfil the call which He has given me.

Serving in different ministries and places in Western Australia gave me a bit of understanding of the beauty and vastness of the Australian land. I love the Australian Outback. Of course, it will take a bit of time for me to know the land, people, parishes, schools and other ministries.

Trusting God, I ask for His blessing upon all people of the Port Pirie Diocese. I would humbly ask priests, religious and laity to pray for me and for each other as I am praying for you because “we are companions on the journey, breaking bread and sharing life”.

God has called me to be on the journey with the people of Port Pirie Diocese, so I pray to Him “may the Lord bless them and keep them, may the Lord make His face to shine upon them and give them His peace”.

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Bishop-Elect of the Diocese of Port Pirie*