



Diocese of Armidale

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MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 14th October 2020

Commissioning of Diocese of Armidale Plenary Council delegates

At the 10.00 am Mass on Sunday 11th October at Saints Mary & Joseph Cathedral, Armidale, Bishop Michael Kennedy commissioned the delegates to the Plenary Council.

Monsignor Ted Wilkes (in his role as Vicar General), Mrs Alison Hamilton and Mr Karl Schmude (selected as lay delegates) will join Bishop Kennedy in representing our Diocese.

Monsignor Ted Wilkes, Parish Priest of Uralla and Walcha, was selected in his role as Vicar General. He brings his dedication to the Armidale Diocese and a wealth of knowledge.

Karl Schmude, an Armidale parishioner, has lived experience in the Church at Diocesan, Parish and tertiary education levels and he brings an intellectual understanding of issues formed by his high-level engagement with the teachings of the Church. He is a person who has had experience of collective discernment and being part of a group to arrive at appropriate outcomes. He provides insightful leadership to discussions.

Alison Hamilton, a Tamworth parishioner, is a professional involved in governance at Church on Diocesan and Parish Boards. She is also involved at a practical level in social justice issues and as a catechist. As the mother of adult children, she knows the challenges of raising children within the modern world. She is a person of deep faith with inquiring mind, keen intellect and willingness to listen as part of a discernment process.

The selection process involved calling for Expressions of Interest for the role. A selection panel of the Diocesan Plenary Council Coordinators and Bishop Michael Kennedy then chose the successful applicants from a wide range of candidates across the Diocese.

Bishop Kennedy said he was "greatly encouraged by the number and quality of people who submitted expressions of interest. They were all busy people willing to give significant time to serve their Church. It was a true expression of faith and love." Of Alison and Karl, he said "both have the ability to listen carefully and to speak their mind honestly and respectfully. They will be excellent delegates."

We pray that all delegates will have the courage to listen with their hearts to the voice of the Holy Spirit and the conviction to speak with love.



(Left to Right: Mrs Alison Hamilton, Monsignor Ted Wilkes, Bishop Michael Kennedy & Mr Karl Schmude

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