



# Diocese of Armidale

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **BISHOP TIMOTHY O'MAHONY SESQUICENTARY**

The Diocese of Armidale has celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bishop Timothy O'Mahony being installed as the first bishop of the Diocese.

The first event was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 when an evening of Sacred Music, Scripture, Prayer & Oration was held in the Cathedral. The Oration was delivered by His Grace Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP the Metropolitan Archbishop of Sydney. He followed in the footsteps of his predecessor Archbishop Bede Polding who had installed Bishop O'Mahony as Bishop of Armidale on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1871.

In his oration Archbishop Fisher said "With St Paul I ask that God grant that you be "God's chosen ones, holy and beloved", dressed in "compassion, kindness, humility and patience", demonstrating forbearance, forgiveness and above all love, with Christ's peace in your hearts, His word in your minds, and spiritual songs on your lips, so that whatever the Church in Armidale does, it will do "in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

A Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral on the actual anniversary date, 25<sup>th</sup> March the Feast of the Annunciation, with Bishop Michael Kennedy, the 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Armidale, presiding and Bishop Gerard Hanna, Emeritus Bishop of Wagga Wagga, and priests from the Diocese concelebrating. A memorial stone to Bishop O'Mahony was blessed during the Mass which will be affixed to the Cathedral in coming weeks.

The anniversary was also celebrated with the publication of a commemorative booklet giving a history of Bishop O'Mahony and the production of a special O'Mahony Sesquicentenary medallion.

Bishop Michael Kennedy said he was delighted that the Diocese had come together to celebrate the important anniversary in the life of the Diocese. "I hope," he said, "that Bishop Timothy O'Mahony inspire us and the Blessed Virgin Mary pray for us."

Transcripts of Archbishop Fisher's oration and Bishop Kennedy's homily along with photographs and videos can be accessed via the Diocese of Armidale webpage [www.armidale.catholic.org.au](http://www.armidale.catholic.org.au)