

May 6, 2016

## **ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY**

### **Archbishop Anthony Fisher Congratulates New Bishop of Parramatta**

Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher OP today joyfully welcomed the appointment of Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen as the Bishop of Parramatta.

Pope Francis yesterday announced the appointment of Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen, O.F.M. Conv. as the fourth Bishop of Parramatta.

Bishop Long Van Nguyen succeeds Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP who was Bishop of Parramatta from January 2010 until September 2014 when Pope Francis appointed him the ninth Archbishop of Sydney.

“Knowing the vibrancy and complexity of the Diocese of Parramatta, I am confident Bishop Long’s excellent pastoral gifts will be a great blessing to his people,” said Archbishop Fisher.

The Diocese of Parramatta spans one of the fastest growing areas of Australia, incorporating the greater Western Sydney metropolitan area and is home to 330,000 Catholics in an area of over 1 million people.

Following the announcement, Bishop Long expressed his gratitude.

“I feel a sense of responsibility and honour to be appointed to the Diocese of Parramatta. I accepted the appointment by Pope Francis with humility.

“This appointment comes with great care for the people of Parramatta and for the Church locally. My immediate priority is to get to know the clergy and the people across the diocese.

“Coming to Australia by boat as a refugee from Vietnam, I found myself a newcomer in Melbourne. I now consider myself a newcomer to the Diocese of Parramatta. I know I’ll be enriched by the many cultures that make up Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.”

Born on 3 December 1961 in Gia-Kiem, Vietnam, Bishop Long is the fourth in a family of five boys and two girls. In 1972, he joined the diocesan minor seminary which was later disbanded by the communist Government. In 1980 he left Vietnam to begin a new life in Australia. In 1983, Bishop Long became a Conventual Franciscan friar.

Studying for the priesthood in Melbourne, Bishop Long was ordained on 30 December 1989. He was elected Superior of Conventual Franciscans in Australia in 2005 and appointed as Assistant General of the same Order and transferred to Rome in 2008.

Bishop Long was appointed an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Melbourne on 20 May 2011. A date for Bishop Long’s Liturgical reception as the Fourth Bishop of Parramatta will be advised soon.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher today also congratulated Archbishop Denis Hart on his re-election as President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The Bishops Conference is the central body directing the governance of the Church in Australia and is a permanent institution. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference plenary is taking place in North Sydney this week.