



Diocese of Armidale

Sede Vacante

MEDIA RELEASE

Papal Honour for Robert Locke

Robert James Locke of Armidale will be invested as a Knight of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of Saint Gregory The Great at the 6pm Mass on Wednesday 16th August 2023. This honour has been granted to Mr Locke by Pope Francis.

The award recognises his great witness and contribution Mr Locke has made to the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Armidale. He has demonstrated a deep commitment to the Catholic Church and to his Catholic faith.

Mr Locke has been an active member of Saint Joseph's Parish Uralla as reader, member of the parish finance council and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion while also involving himself in parish social and fundraising events. At a Diocesan level, Mr Locke is a current member of the Diocesan Finance Council and the Armidale Clergy Fund, providing both with invaluable professional advice. In the past Mr Locke was the accountant to the Diocese and a member of the Bishop's Commission for Catholic Schools, Armidale Diocesan Investment Group Board and the Secretary/Accountant of the Armidale Diocesan Superannuation Fund.

Mr Locke has played a key role in the success of the ADIG for the Diocese of Armidale. His expertise, steady influence, humble demeanour and generous gift of his time and talents, has been an extraordinary contribution to ADIG. The Diocese of Armidale would not have had financial stability except for the success of ADIG and this is primarily due to Mr Locke's leadership, guidance, hard work and dedication.

Monsignor Edward Wilkes states: "I am delighted that the Holy Father has accepted Bishop Michael Kennedy's nomination of Robert Locke for this Papal Honour. It is a justly deserved honour for someone who has made a large contribution to the life of the Church in the Diocese".

Mr Locke is the 6th awardee as Knight of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great in the history of the Diocese. Mr Karl Schmude was the last awardee, presented in Armidale in 2017.

3rd August 2023