



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

media release

30 January 2025

Historic Consecration of New Bishops for Melbourne

St Patrick's Cathedral will host the Episcopal Consecration of two new bishops for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne on **Saturday, 1 February 2025**, marking one of the largest gathering of Catholics in the Archdiocese in more than seven years.

Over 3,000 people are expected at the celebration of this historic event, with countless thousands joining online from across Australia and overseas.

Bishop-elect Thinh Nguyen DD and Bishop-elect Rene Ramirez RCJ DD have been appointed by Pope Francis to serve Melbourne's 1million-strong, multicultural Catholic community, further strengthening the leadership of the largest Archdiocese in Australia and Oceania.

The **Episcopal Consecration will commence at 10am**, celebrated by the Most Reverend Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, and concelebrated by Australia's new cardinal, His Eminence Mykola Cardinal Bychok as well as archbishops and bishops from Australia and the Philippines, the Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, His Excellency Archbishop Charles Balvo, the Vicar General of Melbourne Very Rev Anthony Kerin, and Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral Right Rev Monsignor Stuart Hall. It will be one of the Cardinal's first engagements at the Cathedral since his elevation to the College of Cardinals in December 2024. Co-consecrators include the Most Reverend Gregory Bennet DD and Most Reverend Shane Mackinlay DD.

Archbishop Comensoli describes the consecration as a "significant moment for our entire Archdiocesan community," emphasising that the new bishops are "called to be true witnesses of Christ's love, peace, and justice in our world today."

The liturgy will be enriched by the Vietnamese Holy Martyrs Combined Choir, the Filipino Chaplaincy Singers of Melbourne, and the St Patrick's Cathedral Choir. Given their cultural roots, the consecration is expected to draw a strong presence from Melbourne's Vietnamese and Filipino Catholic communities.

Media Access: *The new bishops are available for interviews by appointment and photographs are available on request. Due to the anticipated large attendance, media representatives are asked to register in advance to ensure access. Media pooling is encouraged..*

-Ends-

Media Enquiries to:

Annie Carrett, Chancellor | Chief of Staff to the Archbishop: 0439 600 233 |

annie.carrett@cam.org.au