



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BUNBURY

MEDIA RELEASE

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BISHOP OF BUNBURY NAMES KERRIE MERRITT AS NEW CHANCELLOR OF THE DIOCESE OF BUNBURY

The Most Reverend George Kolodziej, S.D.S., D.D., Bishop of Bunbury, has announced today on the Feast Day of Saint Teresa of Ávila, the appointment of **Mrs. Kerrie Merritt** as the new Chancellor of the Catholic Diocese of Bunbury commencing in February 2026.

In announcing Mrs. Merritt's appointment, Bishop Kolodziej said that he is "confident that Kerrie's dedication and wisdom will be a great blessing to our diocesan community as we continue to serve Christ and His people together. He further states that "Kerrie brings to this role a deep faith, 20 years of outstanding leadership experience and a sincere commitment to the mission of the Church."

Mrs. Merritt has been part of Catholic Education for the past 43 years where 27 of those years have been dedicated to Catholic Education WA (CEWA) in the Diocese of Bunbury. In January 2020, she took on the role of CEWA Regional Director for the Diocese of Bunbury which gave her opportunities to work closely with 28 Catholic schools across the diocese. Serving in that role for the past 6 years also gave her opportunities to collaborate with clergy and church leaders from the 27 parishes in the diocese.

Mrs. Merritt is an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist in her own parish where she also served on the Parish Pastoral Council as Chairperson and a member for more than 10 years. At the diocesan level, she is part of the Screening Committee which assists the Bishop of Bunbury assess priests and seminarians intending to serve in the Diocese of Bunbury. Mrs. Merritt has just been appointed Chairperson of the Synodal Evangelisation Team, a new body established by Bishop Kolodziej for the implementation phase of the Synod.

In being appointed to the Chancellor role, Mrs. Merritt expresses her jubilation: "*This is an exciting time for our Diocese. I am so fortunate to be able to be a part of the journey of the People of God in Diocese of Bunbury and to be able to be given the opportunity to share in Bishop George's vision for 'connectedness' in the life of the church.*"

Mrs. Merritt believes that she is ready to step up to the role of Chancellor: "*With over 20 years of leadership experience, my personal commitment to my faith and my strong relationship with*

the Bunbury Diocese, my hope is that this role will be a natural progression, where I will be able to share my skillset and be a part of the synodal journey of our Diocese.”

When asked about the challenges that the Chancellor role pose, Mrs. Merritt replies: *“I do know that I have a lot to learn moving from an education space to this new role; but this in its own way excites me as well. I am truly blessed and grateful to have been given this opportunity”*.

Mrs. Merritt’s primary role is to fulfill the canonical duties and responsibilities of the Chancellor and to work effectively and collaboratively alongside the Office of the Bishop of Bunbury in serving the work of evangelisation under the authority of the Bishop.

In particular, Mrs. Merritt has a specific working relationship with the Vicar General, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, and other diocesan agencies, to lead the pastoral priorities of the Diocese as articulated by the Bishop.

Kerrie will be finishing from her role as CEWA Regional Director by the end of 2025.