



DIOCESE *of* PARRAMATTA

17 June 2016

MEDIA RELEASE

BISHOP VINCENT LONG INSTALLED AS FOURTH BISHOP OF PARRAMATTA

Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains warmly welcomed Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv as the fourth Bishop of Parramatta on the evening of Thursday 16 June 2016 in St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

In a traditional Catholic ceremony, attended by thousands of faithful and visitors, Bishop Vincent said he wanted to be a bridge builder to all communities and reached out to abuse victims, divorcees and the LGBTIQ community in particular.

"There can be no future for the living church without there being space for those who have been hurt, damaged or alienated, be they abuse victims, survivors, divorcees, gays, lesbians or disaffected members" Bishop Vincent said.

The Catholic Mass was concelebrated by His Grace Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney, the Pope's representative to Australia, His Excellency Most Rev Adolfo Tito Yllana, Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, Archbishops and Bishops of Australia, clergy of the Diocese of Parramatta and visiting clergy.

During his homily, Bishop Vincent said he was humbled by his appointment. "I am very honoured and humbled by this appointment and grateful for the opportunity to serve the Church in Parramatta during this time" Bishop Vincent said.

"As your Bishop, I am committed to be a bridge builder. The Scriptures we have heard tonight speak of a radical vision of love, inclusion and human flourishing. We should ask ourselves what it means to apply this expansive vision of God to our social matrix and what it means to be a house for all peoples."

Echoing Pope Francis, Bishop Vincent continued, "we are urged to be a church where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live according to the Gospel ... I am committed to make the church in Parramatta the house for all peoples, a church where there is less an experience of exclusion but more an encounter of radical love, inclusiveness and solidarity."

- Bishop Long's full homily can be read here: <http://wp.me/p6Plgf-17i>
- For video of the event click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FudPC-0jowE> (please credit Diocese of Parramatta)
- For pictures of the event click here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/parracatholic/albums/> (please credit Diocese of Parramatta)

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About Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv

The new Bishop of Parramatta was born in 1961 in Gia-Kiem, Vietnam. He and his family came to Australia as a refugee in 1980.

After his ordination to the priesthood on 30 December 1989, Bishop Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD went to Rome for further studies and was awarded a licentiate in Christology and Spirituality from the Pontifical Faculty of St Bonaventure.

He was elected superior of the Order of Friars Minor Conventuals in Australia in 2005.

Bishop Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD succeeds Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP who was installed as Archbishop of Sydney in 2014.

About the Diocese of Parramatta

The Diocese of Parramatta is the Catholic Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

It spans one of the fastest-growing areas of Australia, incorporating the greater Western Sydney area from Parramatta to Blackheath and from Richmond to Warragamba. It is home to 330,000 Catholics in an area of 1,050,000 people.

The Diocese hosts 47 parishes and churches, educates more than 45,000 students across its 83 schools, employs more than 5,000 staff and cares for thousands of people in need through its social services arm, CatholicCare Social Services.

The Diocese of Parramatta is the fifth-largest Catholic Diocese in Australia.