



# The Episcopal Ordination or Installation Steering Committee (EOISC)

## Questions and Answers

### Introduction

On 30 June 2023, Pope Francis announced the resignation of Emeritus Bishop Gerard Holohan and the appointment of Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Bunbury. This has naturally led to people wondering what will happen next. The following information will hopefully answer some of those questions

### What is EOISC?

In preparation for the appointment of a new Bishop of Bunbury, Apostolic Administrator, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB has approved the establishment of the committee responsible for the Ordination of our new Bishop if he is a priest, or if he is a Bishop already, an Installation Ceremony. The name of the Committee is the Episcopal Ordination or Installation Steering Committee (EOISC).

The (Committee) Terms of Reference include all events related to the new Bishop taking full responsibility for the Diocese. Committee members have expertise drawn from the education, diocesan and parish sectors in planning, liturgy, event management, budgeting and risk management. All matters regarding the events surrounding the new Bishop taking responsibility for the Bunbury Diocese will be the responsibility of the Committee working with the Bishop-elect once he has been appointed.

More information about the Committee will be released when it becomes available. In the meantime, enquiries can be directed to [eoisc@bunburycatholic.org.au](mailto:eoisc@bunburycatholic.org.au)

### How can I contact EOISC?

All enquiries about EOISC and the event can be directed to [eoisc@bunburycatholic.org.au](mailto:eoisc@bunburycatholic.org.au)

### Where can I keep up to date with EOISC and it's work?

The EOISC will disseminate information to all Parishes when it becomes available.

## Diocese of Bunbury

### Who is the current Roman Catholic Bishop of Bunbury?

Currently the episcopal see of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bunbury is vacant. This means there is no current serving Roman Catholic Bishop of Bunbury (Can. 416)



The Most Reverend Timothy Costelloe SDB has been appointed as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Bunbury as of the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2023.

### **What is an Apostolic Administrator?**

An Apostolic Administrator is appointed by the Pope to oversee the day to day running of a diocese while the see is vacant. This ensures the life of the diocese continues while it waits for a new Bishop to be appointed.

The Apostolic Administrator possesses the authority and powers of a diocesan Bishop with some limitations. No major changes can be made and the role primarily oversees the continuation of the life of the diocese. Changes that may restrict or affect the episcopate of the new Bishop are also avoided.

You can read the pastoral letter from The Most Reverend Timothy Costelloe SDB, Apostolic Administrator, to the people of the Diocese of Bunbury here: <https://bunburycatholic.org.au/pastoral-letter-from-the-most-rev-timothy-costelloe-sdb-dd-apostolic-administrator/>

### **What about the former Bishop?**

The Most Reverend Gerard J Holohan, Bishop Emeritus has now retired as the Bishop of Bunbury. Bishop Holohan's resignation was accepted on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2023. He is now able to retire and enjoy freedom from the responsibilities of leading the Diocese of Bunbury.

### **What happens to the Diocese now?**

The Diocese of Bunbury now enters a time of waiting and preparation. During this transitional time the life of the diocese should continue as normally as possible. We should also prepare for a new episcopate and the renewal a new Bishop will bring.

### **What should we be doing now?**

Like the liturgical seasons of Lent and Advent, the Diocese is in a time of waiting and preparation.

Prayer is very important during this time. We ask especially for the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit and for the openness of everyone to it's promptings. We can pray for a number of things during this time;

1. For the Diocese and it's people during this time.
2. For process of selecting a new Bishop and the people involved in it.
3. For the new Bishop-elect.
4. For our Apostolic Administrator, The Most Reverend Timothy Costelloe SDB.
5. For The Most Reverend Gerard Holohan, Bishop Emeritus.
6. For those leading us during this time of waiting and transition.
7. For ourselves as we await a new Bishop.



We should also use this transitional time to begin to open ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. A new Bishop will mean some change and renewal. It is important that we are open and ready when the time comes for a new Bishop to lead our Diocese. This time also calls for support, for synodality and for love for each other and our leaders.

To help and guide our prayer during this time, the Office for Evangelisation has developed “I am with you” which has been distributed to parishes and can be accessed from the Diocesan website.

## **The New Bishop of Bunbury**

### **Who is the new Bishop of Bunbury?**

A new Bishop of Bunbury has yet to be announced by the Holy See.

### **Who selects the new Bishop of Bunbury?**

The new Bishop of Bunbury will be appointed by the Holy Father Pope Francis.

### **When will a new Bishop of Bunbury be appointed?**

Nobody knows when a new Bishop of Bunbury will be appointed. The selection process can be lengthy and is kept strictly confidential.

### **How will we know when a new Bishop of Bunbury has been selected?**

The Holy See will make an announcement when the Holy Father has selected and appointed a new Bishop of Bunbury.

### **What is the process of selecting a new Bishop?**

The process of selecting new Bishop is a process of prayer, discernment, discussion and wide consultation of Bishops, clergy, religious and the laity. It has several complex and involved stages. This process is overseen by the Apostolic Nuncio, who serves as the Pope’s representative in Australia and the ambassador of the Holy See.

### **When will we get to meet the new Bishop?**

As you can appreciate, becoming the Bishop of a Diocese comes with extraordinary responsibilities, and our new Bishop (once installed) will have a briefing period where he can familiarise himself with the diocese, its functions, reach and general operation, as well as getting to know each of the Priests therein whom he cares for and oversees. Opportunities to meet personally with the new Bishop will arise, and rest assured that he will be visiting parishes in due course to get to know you, the faithful of the diocese.



# About the Order of Bishops

## What is a Bishop?

A Bishop is a senior member of the clergy and fulfils many roles - leader, pastor, teacher, preacher and more. Bishops receive the full Sacrament of Holy Orders through priestly ordination and episcopal consecration. In particular, Bishops have particular responsibilities, authority and power when compared to Priests.

*The bishops themselves, however, having been appointed by the Holy Spirit, are successors of the Apostles as pastors of souls.(3) Together with the supreme pontiff and under his authority they are sent to continue throughout the ages the work of Christ, the eternal pastor.(4) Christ gave the Apostles and their successors the command and the power to teach all nations, to hallow men in the truth, and to feed them. Bishops, therefore, have been made true and authentic teachers of the faith, pontiffs, and pastors through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to them.(5)<sup>1</sup>*

## What does a Bishop do?

A diocesan Bishop is entrusted with the care of a particular church known as a diocese. A diocese is a portion of the people of God, usually within a geographical area. A Bishop's task is to shepherd his diocese through teaching, sanctifying and governing.

*These pastors, chosen to shepherd the Lord's flock of the elect, are servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God,(151) to whom has been assigned the bearing of witness to the Gospel of the grace of God,(152) and the ministration of the Spirit and of justice in glory.(153)<sup>2</sup>*

## Who can become a Bishop?

The Church's law, known as the Code of Canon Law, sets out the requirements for who can become a Bishop. The requirements include being at least 35 years old and having been a priest for at least five years. Other requirements include the upstanding character, education, good reputation and standing of the priest. Ultimately the Holy See decides who can become a Bishop, in accordance with Church law and teaching.

---

<sup>1</sup> Second Vatican Council, *Decree Concerning the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church, Christus Dominus*, Preface, 1965.

<sup>2</sup> Second Vatican Council, *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Lumen Gentium*, Chp III, 1964.



**You can learn more about Bishops here:**

Particular Churches and the Authority Established in Them, Chp III, (Cann. 368 - 430).

[https://www.vatican.va/archive/cod-iuris-canonici/eng/documents/cic\\_lib2-cann368-430\\_en.html#CHAPTER\\_II](https://www.vatican.va/archive/cod-iuris-canonici/eng/documents/cic_lib2-cann368-430_en.html#CHAPTER_II).

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, *What are bishops responsible for?*, 2022.

<https://www.catholic.au/s/article/What-are-bishops-responsible-for>

Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*,

Solemnly Promulgated by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on November 21, 1964

[https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19641121\\_lumen-gentium\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html)

Decree Concerning the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church, *Christus Dominus*,

Proclaimed by His Holiness, Pope Paul VI on October 28, 1965

[https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_decree\\_19651028\\_christus-dominus\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651028_christus-dominus_en.html)



# Episcopal Ordination or Installation

## What is an Episcopal Ordination or Installation and what is the difference?

An episcopal ordination refers to the liturgical celebration whereby a priest is consecrated to the order of Bishops. It is the fulfillment of the Sacrament of Holy Orders and includes both the Consecration and a Mass. Uniquely the beginning of the Mass is celebrated by a Bishop, Archbishop or Cardinal and, after the Consecration, the newly ordained Bishop becomes the principal celebrant.

An episcopal installation refers to the liturgical celebration whereby an already ordained Bishop takes possession of a diocese. This can also be referred to as a reception. This occurs when someone who is already a Bishop is appointed to a vacant see. This may or may not include a Mass. The key elements of an installation include the reading of the apostolic letter appointing the Bishop to the diocese, the reception of the Bishop by the clergy of the diocese and the seating of the Bishop on the Cathedra (the chair located in a Cathedral that signifies the authority of the Bishop of the diocese in which it is located.)

Until the Holy Father appoints a new Bishop to the Diocese of Bunbury, no one will know whether an episcopal ordination or installation will be taking place.

## Where will the Episcopal Ordination or Installation be?

The Episcopal Ordination or Installation is planned to be celebrated at Patrick's Cathedral, Bunbury.

## Who will attend?

The celebration will be attended by Bishops, Clergy, distinguished guests, representatives from different agencies, diocesan and parish leaders and representatives from parishes and schools.

## Where can I see the Episcopal Ordination or Installation?

The Episcopal Ordination or Installation will be live streamed online for anyone to watch. Some communities may also host local watch parties. Details for the livestream will be confirmed closer to the date.

## Who is responsible for the celebration?

EOISC (working with the Bishop-elect once he has been appointed) is responsible for all matters regarding the events surrounding the new Bishop taking responsibility for the Diocese of Bunbury.

## Can I get involved in the event?

At the appropriate time EOSIC will create sub committees and appoint relevant, experienced and qualified personnel and volunteers to help organise the celebration.