

# Most Reverend Gregory Bennet's Ordination & Installation

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### Who is our new Bishop?

Bishop-elect Gregory Charles Bennet will become the tenth Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sale. He comes to us from the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Bishop-elect Bennet was born in 1963 and educated at St Dominic's Primary School, East Camberwell, All Hallows Primary School Balwyn and Marcellin College Bulleen, before completing his secondary education at the ecumenical Braemar College at Woodend. He then joined the Commercial Bank of Australia whilst undertaking studies in Public Administration.

In 1986 he began his seminary training and was ordained a priest for the Melbourne Archdiocese in 1992,

ministering in several parishes. He continued his studies overseas graduating as a Master of Science in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University Maryland, USA before obtaining a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

On his return from Rome, Fr Bennet was appointed Director of the Ministry to Priests and Director of Ongoing Formation for Clergy for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. In 2005 he became the inaugural Director of the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation and also commenced as Parish Priest of St Bede's Balwyn North. In 2012 Archbishop Hart appointed him Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, the

same year that Fr Bennet was awarded the distinction of being appointed as a Prelate of Honour of His Holiness by Pope Benedict XVI. In March 2020 he was appointed by Archbishop Peter Comensoli as Parish Priest of St Joseph's West Brunswick.

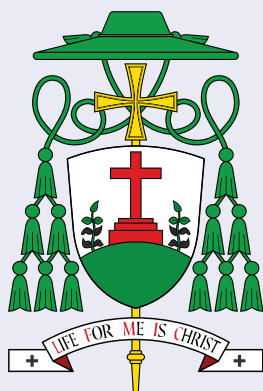
Pope Francis appointed Monsignor Bennet as tenth Bishop of Sale on 27 June 2020, the Feast Day of the Patroness of the Diocese, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, in succession to Bishop Patrick O'Regan now Archbishop of Adelaide.

### Coat of Arms & Motto

The personal arms and motto, which Bishop Bennet adopted on his appointment, are of a personal character described as:

On a silver shield a red cross of Calvary reflecting the Memorial Cross at Mount Macedon, stands on a green mound which is sprouting green shoots with blackened lower leaves, representing pasture in regrowth after a bushfire.

The episcopal cross and the arms are ensigned by the green galero (hat) with six tassels on either side which are the traditional identifying insignia of a bishop. His chosen motto is: "Life for me is Christ".



### Past Bishops of Sale

**James Francis Corbett**  
1887-1912

**Patrick Phelan**  
1913-1925

**Richard Ryan**  
1926-1957

**Patrick Francis Lyons**  
1957-1967

**Arthur Francis Fox**  
1968-1981

**Joseph Eric D'Arcy**  
1981-1988

**Jeremiah Joseph Coffey**  
1989-2008

**Christopher Charles Prowse**  
2009-2013

**Patrick Michael O'Regan**  
2015-2020

### Where is the Ordination being held?

The Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Bishop-elect Bennet as the tenth Bishop of Sale will be held at St Mary's Cathedral Sale in late 2020. The date is dependent on the lifting of current government restrictions in place due to the coronavirus. It is only possible to have a very small assembly, who will be physically distanced. The ceremony will be livestreamed via the Diocesan website and a copy of the ceremonial booklet will also be available online at [www.cdsale.org.au](http://www.cdsale.org.au).

## Some key elements of the ordination and installation of a bishop:

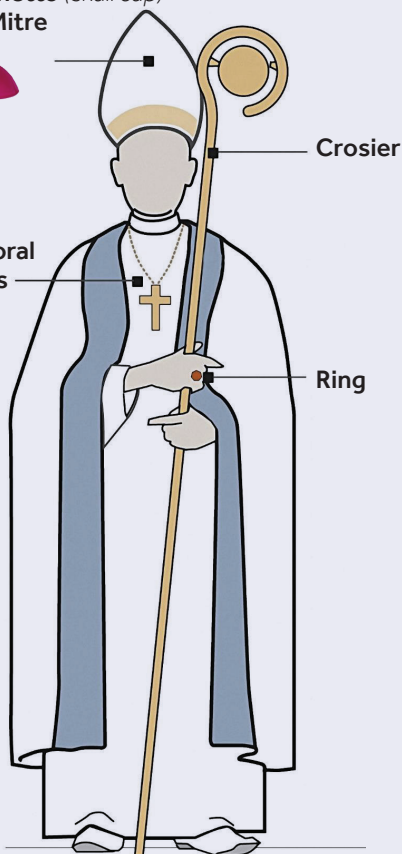
- **Presentation of the Elect:** The Bishop-elect is presented to the principal consecrating Archbishop, Peter A. Comensoli (Melbourne), by the Diocesan Administrator Fr Peter Slater.
- **The Apostolic Letter (the Papal Bull):** The official letter of appointment by Pope Francis is read aloud by the Apostolic Nuncio (if able to be present) or the Diocesan Administrator and testifies that the Bishop-elect may receive the third and final 'degree' of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, namely the Episcopate.
- **Assent:** After the document is read aloud, all present give their assent to the election of the Bishop by saying: "Thanks be to God."
- **Promises:** After the homily, the Bishop-elect is asked to give his firm promise to nine aspects of his role and duty as bishop, including the preaching of the Gospel of Christ, to guard and uphold the Catholic faith, to build up and guide the Body of Christ, to be welcoming and merciful to all in need, and to be like the Good Shepherd in his care for the People of God entrusted to him.
- **Litany of the Saints:** All the faithful call on the intercession of the saints for the Bishop-elect.
- **Laying on of Hands and Prayer of Ordination:** Following the tradition of the Apostles the three consecrating bishops lay hands upon the head of the bishop-elect as an outward sign of the invoking of the Holy Spirit. As a symbol of the bishop-elect's submission to the Gospel of Christ, the Book of the Gospels is placed above his head while the Prayer of Consecration is offered by the presiding Archbishop.
- **Anointing and Investiture:** The Principal Consecrator anoints the head of the new Bishop with the Oil of Sacred Chrism, hands him the Book of the Gospels, places the Ring on his finger, the Mitre on his head, and gives him the Crosier or pastoral staff.
- **Installation and Seating of the New Bishop:** The new Bishop is led to the cathedra (bishop's chair) by the consecrating bishops. He then becomes the Presider for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- **Kiss of Peace:** Before the Mass continues, the Rite of Ordination ends with the kiss of peace from the principal consecrator and all the other bishops who are present.

## What A Bishop Wears

**Zucchetto (skull cap) and Mitre**



**Pectoral Cross**



## What does a Bishop do?

In the Catholic Church there are three levels of ordination within the sacrament of Holy Orders: Deacon, Priest and Bishop. The Second Vatican Council spoke of the Bishop as having 'the fullness of the sacrament of Orders' and dedicated an entire Decree to the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church. As we prepare to welcome our new Bishop, Gregory Bennet as Bishop of Sale, we might be wondering what a Bishop is and what they do.

The primary role of any Bishop is to ensure that the work of Christ is carried out at the local level by caring for all the faithful entrusted to him in his particular diocese. Often the Bishop is referred to as the Chief Shepherd since his ministry is modelled on that of Christ the Good Shepherd. Immediately we can see that the role of the Bishop is not simply that of 'governing' a local Church, but of caring for it and nurturing it

and enabling it to grow and flourish. The role of the Bishop is that of guardian, teacher and preacher.

