



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1.23

16 July 2026

Dear Bishops, Fathers, and Deacons,

My prayerful greetings to you in the Lord.

With this letter, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Fr Luciano Toldo CS as Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Region, effective **1 August 2026**. Fr Luciano will undertake this ministry in conjunction with his continuing appointment as Parish Priest of St Luke's Parish, Lalor, and will provide important pastoral support to me, and to the clergy and people of the Northern Region.

I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Monsignor Charles Portelli as Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral effective **1 September 2026**. Mgr Charles will continue in his role overseeing our Permanent Diaconate.

I am deeply grateful to Monsignor Charles and Fr Luciano for their willingness to take up these important ministries and for the generosity with which they have responded to my request.

There have been a number of announcements of significant change across the Archdiocese in recent times. In the coming weeks, we will farewell Bishop René Ramirez RCJ as he prepares to take up his new ministry in the Diocese of Sandhurst, and Monsignor Stuart Hall as he leaves us to be ordained as Bishop for the Military Ordinariate of Australia.

These moments of change bring with them both gratitude for ministries generously exercised and hope for the new responsibilities being embraced.

May the Lord richly bless all in the ministries entrusted to their care, and may we continue to support one another in our shared service of the people of God in Melbourne.

With every grace and blessing,

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne