

Media Fact sheet

Ordination of Bishop-elect Paul Martin

Saturday, 3 March 2018

GENERAL

What: Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-Elect Paul Martin SM

When: 11am, Saturday, 3 March

Where: Christchurch Boys' High School Auditorium
71 Straven Road
Christchurch

Who: The Catholic bishops of New Zealand, the Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand (the Pope's representative in New Zealand), visiting and retired bishops, priests and parishioners from across the diocese, Christchurch visitors, members of Te Rangimarie and representatives from Catholic schools.

Members of Bishop Paul's family will be present and participating in the ceremony. The singing will be led by the Cathedral choir. Provision is being made for up to 1400 people.

Carparking: There will be no parking available in the grounds of Christchurch Boys' High School. The best options are taxi/bus/drop off. There will be a drop off area for the elderly or disabled. Some parishes may be organising buses themselves, and the Diocese is making available a 'park and ride' options at three venues in the city. Spaces are limited. There will be buses travelling to the venue, leaving at 9.30am from:

- St Teresa's, Puriri Street, Riccarton.
- Holy Trinity, 108 Jeffreys Rd, Bryndwr.
- St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, 373 Manchester St

The buses will depart from Christchurch Boys' High at 2.30pm. If you miss the return bus you will need to make your own return arrangements.

BACKGROUND

On 6 December 2017, Pope Francis has appointed Father Paul Martin SM as the next Bishop of the Christchurch Diocese. Bishop-Elect Paul Martin will be the tenth Bishop of Christchurch and succeeds Bishop Barry Jones who died in February 2016.

Ministry of Bishops

According to Catholic tradition, Ordination as a bishop makes one a member of the worldwide body of Catholic bishops known as "The College of Bishops". This "College of Bishops" continues to carry out the responsibilities originally entrusted to Christ's first apostles. Collectively, bishops share responsibility for the governance of the Church worldwide under the leadership of the Bishop of Rome.

Diocese

Each individual bishop is normally entrusted with responsibility for a diocese, which in turn is divided into parishes.

Diocese of Christchurch

The Catholic Diocese of Christchurch was established by papal brief in 1887. Formerly part of Wellington Archdiocese, the Diocese of Christchurch is currently comprised of 27 parishes covering parts of the West Coast and Canterbury in the South Island of New Zealand as well as the Chatham Islands, the first place in the world to be touched by the sun each day. Since 1887 the Diocese has had nine bishops. The mother church of the Diocese is the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Christchurch, which in 2005 celebrated its centenary but was damaged in the February 2011 earthquakes. The Catholic population of the Diocese is 62,715. The diocese covers 51,780 square kilometres (or 20,000 square miles). The diocesan patron saint is St John the Baptist.

Paul Martin

Bishop-Elect Paul Martin SM was born in Hastings in 1967, one of five children. He entered formation for the Society of Mary in February 1985, and studied in theology and arts at Victoria University in Wellington. He was ordained a priest in 1993 and the following year attended Teachers' Training College in Auckland. The then Father Paul Martin taught at Pompallier College Whangarei, St Bede's in the roles of English and Religious Studies teacher and later as Deputy Rector, Chaplaincy at Hato Poara College, and as teacher at St Patrick's College, Wellington before becoming the Rector from 2008 – 2013. From 2014 – 2016 he was Assistant Provincial and Provincial Bursar for the Society of Mary in New Zealand, before taking up the position of Bursar General in Rome.

Rite of Ordination

The rite takes place during Mass following the Liturgy of the Word. The new bishop lies prostrate during the Litany of the Saints. This is followed by the "laying on of hands" and the consecratory prayer. Then the new bishop is invested with the symbols of a bishop's ministry – the ring, pastoral staff (shepherd's crook) and mitre (hat).

Bishop Paul's Motto and Crest

Ecclesiastical heraldry is a type of identification of individuals, dioceses or institutions. The insignia together with the chosen emblems and the motto are a symbolic form of narrative. With regards to a Bishop, they can express something of his family history, his spirituality, the region where he has been called to serve, and the Pope who has appointed him.

Bishop-Elect Paul's coat of arms or crest and his motto won't be released prior to the ordination – it will be revealed on the day.