

DECREE OF THE DIOCESAN BISHOP

29/2024

Decree – Provision

Appointment to Ecclesiastical Office of Assistant Priest in the Parishes of St Benedict's Inner Newcastle, and St Peter-in-Chains Parish Stockton, and St Columba's Parish Mayfield, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Dear Fr Paul Chackanikunnel,

I appoint you to the Parishes of St Benedict's Inner Newcastle, and St Peter-in-Chains Stockton, and St Columba's Mayfield as Assistant Priest (CIC cc. 545-552) assisting Fr John Lovell. Your appointment is from **29 February 2024** until I advise you otherwise in writing.

The Assistant Priest cooperates with and is under the direction of the Parish Priest in helping to fulfil the duties of Parish Priest. I draw your attention to Chapter VI of the Latin Code of Canon law, especially canons 528-537, which deal with the responsibilities of a Parish Priest.

This appointment also grants you permission to exercise faculties obtained at ordination, faculties obtained by holding the ecclesiastical office of Pastor, and other diocesan faculties. These faculties are able to be exercised in the territory of the respective parish(es).

Please make yourself aware of the diocesan particular law and follow the directions in such laws with particular care. A copy of the faculties and a full list of diocesan particular law instructions can be found at this link: [DoMN - Particular Law](#). This site continues to be updated so please check it regularly.

The Bishop's Office will inform the following of your appointment (if relevant to do so) and make any necessary changes:

1. Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages
2. Legal and Governance (*ACNC Charity Register*)
3. The Official Directory of the Catholic Church of Australia
4. Catholic Community Fund (*CCF*)
5. Maitland Clergy Central Fund (*MCCF*)
6. Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office/or Department of Home Affairs, if relevant

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7. Clergy in Parish/es of Appointment, if relevant
8. Principals of local Parish Primary Schools and local Catholic High Schools
9. Managers of CatholicCare local offices
10. St Nicholas Early Education, Nominated Supervisors of OOSH and Trainers of Pathways local centres
11. Parish Support Worker
12. Communications Team (*Website and Intranet*)
13. People and Culture (*MN People*)
14. Information Management Team (*Padre*).

I wish to remind you of your obligation to celebrate the Latin Rite liturgies in accord with the Latin Rite liturgical texts for your parishioners. Extraneous customs or elements from other Rites or cultures serve only to create confusion in liturgy.

As you are aware, this appointment is not intended to create an employment relationship. The appointment and your acceptance of it is part of your religious and spiritual service to the Church, in this Diocese, in collaboration with myself.

You will need to take the **Oath of Office** and the **Profession of Faith** which you may do before any priest in good standing. The documents accompany this decree.

The diocese is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. It is a requirement that you comply with all civil and ecclesiastical laws and instructions in relation to safeguarding. To demonstrate this you are required to sign the **Diocesan Safeguarding Commitment Statement**. The document accompanies this decree.

I ask that you please send my office signed copies of:

- a Letter of Acceptance
- the Oath of Office and the Profession of Faith (CIC . 1283)
- the Diocesan Safeguarding Commitment Statement (NSW Child Safe Standards Std.1).

Our diocese has developed an Ongoing Professional Development Process (the Process) which includes professional supervision, ongoing formation, and 360 reviews aligned to the Parish Pastoral Plan. Your acceptance of this office includes your commitment to participate in The Process.

You will be given access to a list of professional supervisors and are to register your sessions in *mnpeople*.

You are expected to participate in the Parish Pastoral Plan. A personal review will occur at year three and a parish review at year five. The Chancellor will contact you in the first months of your appointment to offer any assistance needed.



Rev Paul Chackanikunnel

*Assistant Priest - St Benedict's Inner Newcastle Parish, and
St Peter-in-Chains Stockton Parish, and St Columba's Mayfield Parish*

To access Professional Development resources please see the following link on the Diocesan Website:
[Professional Development Resources](#).

At the end of your term of office, your participation in The Process will be taken into account before another appointment is made.

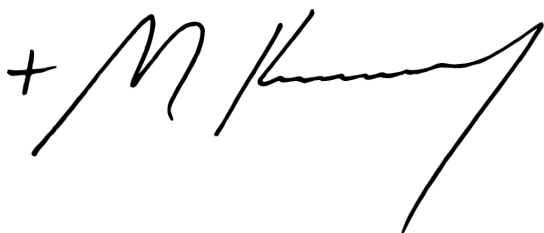
The Maitland Clergy Central Fund (MCCF) oversees and is responsible for your sustentation and so I refer you to the Funds Statutes and Regulations (CIC c. 1274). Please make yourself aware of your rights and responsibilities by obtaining and reading a copy of these statutes and regulations. Please contact the MCCF Chairperson if you have any enquiries.

Fr Paul, I seek your **written acceptance** of the appointment to this ecclesiastical office **within 14 days** of receiving this letter.

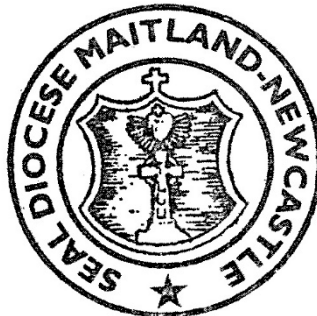
I wish you all the best in your ministry and assure you of my prayers.

Yours in Christ

Given at Hamilton, NSW on the 29th day of February 2024.



Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle



Reverend Matthew Muller
Chancellor

+MK/az

Rev Paul Chackanikunnel

**Assistant Priest - St Benedict's Inner Newcastle Parish, and
St Peter-in-Chains Stockton Parish, and St Columba's Mayfield Parish**

enc: Documents: Oath of Office; Profession of Faith; Safeguarding Commitment Statement

cc: Rev John Lovell, Parish Priest
Rev Anthony Coloma, Assistant Priest
Rev Anil Kuchipudi, Assistant Priest
Rev Deacon Kevin Gadd, Parish Deacon
Nichola McCarthy, Parish Support Worker
Eve Youman, People and Culture
Maddy Dennett, mnpeople

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