



16 May 2024

**To: All clergy, parishioners, and staff of the Diocese, its Agencies and Schools**  
**Subj: Appointment of Director of Mission & Evangelisation**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am pleased to advise that following a comprehensive recruitment and discernment process, James Camden has been appointed as our Diocesan Director of Mission & Evangelisation.

A committed Catholic, James has extensive experience and will join us from the Diocese of Parramatta. Having been with the Diocese of Parramatta for ten years, James has held several roles, most recently Head – Mission Enhancement Team, and, prior to this, his roles included Head – Mission Engagement, and Director – Catholic Youth Parramatta.

James' extensive experience includes areas comprising Parish Mission & Leadership; Adult Faith Formation; Liturgy; Family; Youth and Young Adults; Vulnerable Communities; Natural Fertility; Marriage; Peace, Justice, Ecology; Music Formation; and Synod and Diocesan Planning.

It is particularly noteworthy that James has supported the Diocese of Parramatta following the realignment of their various ministry offices, and he and his team have been responsible for providing leadership in accompaniment and resourcing for catholic formation, training and encounter.

Prior to the Diocese of Parramatta, James spent time as Assistant Director of Lasallian Mission Council across Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea, and previous to this spent five years as the Coordinator of Lasallian Youth Ministry. James' work has provided exposure and experience reflecting the multicultural and multifaith dimensions of the locations in which he worked.

Originally a journalist, James achieved a Bachelor of Arts in Media & Communications from Southern Cross University and a Graduate Diploma in Education at Australian Catholic University (ACU) before spending several years teaching at Oakhill College in Castle Hill.

With additional postgraduate qualifications in Religious Education from ACU, James has also achieved his Foundations of Directorship from the Australian Institute of Company Directors and, in 2023, he participated in an intensive course focused on Catholic school identity at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium.

James' leadership of teams throughout his career demonstrates strong engagement and he affirms that his leadership is built on truth and a capacity to listen, consult, discern and act – all with a desire to communicate the Good News in a dynamic and contemporary way. Describing himself as a provider of stable and yet progressive leadership, James is excited about the next phase of enhancing mission in our Diocese.

We are pleased to have James joining us as we continue our own journey to focus our missionary efforts on those most in need, on those who may not yet know Jesus Christ, and on forming missionary disciples in the Church.

James will be moving to Newcastle with his wife Lindsey, and three young children, Madeleine, Noah and Jack, and will commence in his role on 24 June.

I look forward to James joining us in this important role as we work together to build and strengthen our missionary efforts and support our Diocese, our clergy, parishes and our people, as well as those beyond the margins.

With his breadth of knowledge and considerable first-hand experience in engaging with the community as well as establishing and leading faith formation, I invite you to join me as we welcome James to our Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross and the letters 'MK', followed by a stylized surname.

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy  
**Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle**

+MK/cv