



Diocese of Armidale

Ph: (02) 6772 4971
Fax: (02) 5701 5140
Email: chancery@armidale.catholic.org.au

Catholic Chancery Office
3/131 Barney Street
PO Box 93
Armidale NSW 2350

DECREE: PD20201130

SUPPRESSION OF SAINT MARY OF THE ANGELS PARISH, BUNDARRA

This Decree revokes Decree PD20201009 dated 9th October, 2020.

In accordance with Canon 515 §2 I, Most Reverend Michael Robert Kennedy, Bishop of Armidale do hereby decree that Saint Mary of the Angels Parish, Bundarra (hereinafter referred to as *Saint Mary of the Angels Parish*) canonically established in 1881, be canonically suppressed effective 30th November, 2020. I further decree that the territorial boundaries of Saint Mary of the Angels Parish, Bundarra be absorbed and amalgamated into those of Sacred Heart Parish, Inverell (hereinafter referred to as *Sacred Heart Parish*) and Saint Joseph's Parish, Uralla (hereinafter referred to as *Saint Joseph's Parish*).

The southern boundary of Sacred Heart Parish will now be where the road from Thunderbolts Way to Kingstown crosses the Gwydir River at Torryburn, then west to the Nandewar Range.

I have come to this decision after consulting with the Council of Priests; the Diocesan Finance Council; the Parish Priest of Saint Joseph's Parish, the Parish Administrator of Saint Mary of the Angels Parish who is also the Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Parish; and the parishioners of Saint Mary of the Angels Parish.

The reasons for this action are:

- i. Saint Mary of the Angels Parish was established in 1881 during the episcopacy of the Most Reverend Elzear Torreggiani the 2nd Bishop of the Diocese of Armidale to serve the people in the area surrounding the village of Bundarra. In recent years it has experienced a notable and evident decline.
- ii. There has not been a resident priest since 1972 and the pastoral care of the Parish has been from a neighbouring Parish since that time.
- iii. Attendance at Sunday Masses has consistently decreased with an average attendance as low as four (4) parishioners. At Christmas and Easter the attendance may increase to twenty (20) parishioners and visitors.
- iv. There have been very few baptisms, marriages and funerals celebrated in the Parish over the past five (5) years.
- v. There has been a decline in population of the Bundarra area and the Catholic population as recorded in the Australian Census 2016 was seventy-seven (77) persons.
- vi. The decline in Parish population has inevitably led to the decline in its operating revenue, with the effect that the financial resources are not available to maintain the expected range of

ministry and pastoral outreach; nor to maintain adequately the present buildings and meet basic operating expenditures.

- vii. The pastoral needs of the Catholic population in this area are already being provided for by the priests of the Sacred Heart Parish.

In conformity to the norms set out in Canon 121, I also decree that the patrimonial goods and rights of Saint Mary of the Angels Parish, along with its liabilities, will from the date of its suppression obtain and belong to Sacred Heart Parish, with every care to be taken that in what concerns the arrangements for the goods and the discharge of obligations, the wishes of founders and benefactors and any acquired rights are fully safeguarded.

Furthermore, in order to provide easier access to the faithful, I decree that the Sacramental records of Saint Mary of the Angels Parish be transferred to and maintained by Sacred Heart Parish.

I direct this decree be published in Saint Mary of the Angels Parish, Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Joseph's Parish and by a suitable means throughout the Diocese of Armidale, with the understanding that any who wish to make recourse against it, in accordance with Canon 1734 §1 and Canon 1734 §2, must do so in writing within ten canonical days from the time this decree was lawfully notified.

Given at Armidale in the Diocese of Armidale this 25th day of November, 2020 in the year two thousand and twenty.



Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Armidale



Jennifer M Harman
Chancellor

