



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST

11th April 2026

Habemus Episcopum Novum: Most Reverend René Ramirez RCJ



To the People of God in the Sandhurst Diocese,

I wish to notify you of joyous news: Pope Leo XIV has appointed Most Reverend René Ramirez RCJ as the Ninth Bishop of Sandhurst. Currently serving as Auxiliary Bishop for the Northern Region of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Bishop René, aged 55, succeeds Archbishop Shane Mackinlay who led Sandhurst as its Eighth Bishop from 2019 until his appointment to the See of Brisbane in 2025. The news was announced today by the Holy See Press Office at 12:00 noon Central European Summer Time via the Vatican's official website. I know that you will all join me in a prayer of thanks to the Lord for sending us an excellent new shepherd.



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I will remain as Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Sandhurst for the next four months until Bishop René's Installation. This has been set for Thursday 30th July, 11am, at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo. Further details of this important liturgy and related celebratory events will be provided in the coming months.

I will of course be working closely with Bishop René over the coming months as he prepares to take up his office. All decisions during this period will be made in consultation with him. Bishop René of course is no stranger to our diocese having served as Parish Priest of St Mel's Shepparton South between 2023 and 2025. He is looking forward to returning and I am sure all the people of our diocese will give him a warm welcome home.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you, the people of God in Sandhurst, and all the clergy for the trust you placed in me over these last six months to "look after something precious and guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us" (2 Timothy 1:4). It has been an honour and a privilege and I look forward, as I am sure you all do, to welcoming our Ninth Bishop, René, to the diocese.

With prayerful good wishes,

Brian Boyle