Catholic Archdiocese *of*
Canberra and Goulburn

Archbishop's Message: Holy Eucharist Parish, North Canberra

I am pleased to announce the establishment of **Holy Eucharist Parish, North Canberra**, bringing together four existing parishes in Canberra's inner north under the pastoral care of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers.

The new parish will encompass the communities worshipping at St Thomas More, Campbell; St Joseph's, O'Connor; Holy Rosary, Blackfriars Parish, Watson and Central Canberra - St Brigid's, Dickson; and St Patrick's, Braddon.

This decision follows an extensive period of consultation, prayer and discernment involving parishioners, parish leadership and the Blessed Sacrament Fathers.

Since 2023, representatives from the four parishes, including members of Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, have worked with the Blessed Sacrament Fathers through a steering committee to explore greater collaboration and discern their future together.

This led to a single parish office and parish team with a single parish bulletin, a common Alpha program and parishes sharing Lenten resources, and on occasion a single mass – as when they did so for the Pilgrimage of the Migrant Jubilee Cross in 2025.

In July 2025, I asked the four parishes to enter a more formal synodal process of discernment. Following that process, the communities advised me that they saw their future together as one parish.

The name Holy Eucharist Parish also emerged from this synodal process reflecting their shared discernment and the parish they are becoming.

Having received the formal request of the parishes and following consultation with the Council of Priests and the College of Consultors, I have accepted their advice and determined to establish Holy Eucharist Parish, North Canberra, on the Feast of Christ the King, 2026.

For practical and financial reasons, the existing financial accounts and registers of the four parishes will continue until 31 December 2026, with Holy Eucharist Parish for practical reasons but the new Parish is operative from the Feast of Christ the King.

This is about much more than administration.

The four communities are geographically close and already share much in common. Many parishioners worship across the different churches sharing many pastoral concerns and opportunities to progress their evangelising mission.

Forming this new community will strengthen parish life and focus our people and resources more effectively on encounter, discipleship and mission.

The new parish has already formed a single Parish Pastoral Council and one Parish Finance Council, providing a stronger and more sustainable structure for pastoral planning, governance and mission. The individual worshipping communities will continue to bring their own histories, traditions and gifts to the life of Holy Eucharist Parish.

A common Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program will serve the new parish, while school based sacramental programs will continue as is the case now; the parish renewal group that commenced at Blackfriars Parish but has had parallels with St Joseph's will now embrace the whole parish.

I am particularly grateful to the Blessed Sacrament Fathers for accepting the pastoral care of Holy Eucharist Parish and to the many parishioners who have contributed generously to this process of consultation and discernment.

Following dialogue with the Blessed Sacrament Provincial, Fr Rudsend SSS, has nominated and I have determined to appoint Fr Renoir Oliver SSS as the first Parish Priest of Holy Eucharist Parish. Fr Renoir is already well known to the communities since he is the Moderator of the current parish team. He is also one of my Consultors and a member of the Council of Priests.

The Eucharist is at the heart of this new parish. Our parishes are not defined simply by geography. They are communities gathered around Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and sent out in mission.

My hope is that Holy Eucharist Parish will become a vibrant Eucharistic community, drawing together the gifts and traditions of its different communities while strengthening the life and mission of the Church in North Canberra and contributing generously to the wider mission of the Archdiocese.

I ask you to pray for the parishioners, clergy and Blessed Sacrament Fathers as they begin this new chapter together.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn
November 2026