



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

**Media Release
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Monsignor Jude Okolo, counsellor at Canberra's Apostolic Nunciature, appointed Nuncio to Chad and Central African Republic

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President, Archbishop Philip Wilson, today warmly congratulated Monsignor Jude Thaddeus Okolo, counsellor at Canberra's Apostolic Nunciature in Canberra, on his appointment as Apostolic Nuncio to Chad and the Central African Republic.

Pope Benedict XVI made public the appointment on Saturday.

In making the appointment, Pope Benedict also elevated Msgr Okolo to the dignity of Archbishop.

"I am delighted that Msgr Okolo, who has served both the current and the previous Apostolic Nuncio in Australia so well, will now take on that role himself," Archbishop Wilson said.

"The Australian Catholic Bishops and all Catholic people congratulate him on this appointment.

"The Catholic community in Australia bids farewell to him sadly because his presence among us has been such a joy. We wish him well as he takes up this new challenge and assure him of our prayers."

The 51-year-old Archbishop-elect was born in Kano, Nigeria and ordained a priest on 2 July 1983. He holds a Doctorate in Canon Law and entered the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See in 1990, serving in Sri Lanka, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Switzerland and Liechtenstein and the Czech Republic. He has been Counsellor at Australia's Apostolic Nunciature since 2006 and is fluent in English, Italian, Spanish, German, French, Igbo and basic Czech.

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