



ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

**Under Embargo until Thursday, 12 September 2013,
at 20.00 hrs AEST (12 Noon in Rome)**

The Apostolic Nunciature in Australia has the honour to announce:

His Holiness **Pope Francis** has appointed as Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn the **Most Reverend Christopher Charles Prowse**, who has been until now the Bishop of Sale.

The Archdiocese has been vacant since the transfer of Archbishop Mark Benedict Coleridge to the Metropolitan See of Brisbane on 2 April 2012.

Canberra, 10 September 2013



Amr A. Coleridge
Apostolic Nuncio

CURRICULUM VITAE

BISHOP CHRISTOHER CHARLES PROWSE

Bishop Christopher Charles Prowse was born in East Melbourne on 14 November 1953. He is the third of the six children of Frank Prowse and Marian Atkinson (both deceased).

His early education was at St Francis Xavier Primary School, Box Hill and St Leo's College, Box Hill.

He was an Altar Server at St Francis Xavier Parish, Box Hill. While at St Leo's College he enjoyed drama and public speaking, and he was the School Captain in 1971.

He studied for the priesthood at Corpus Christi College, Werribee (1972) and Clayton (1973-1980). He was ordained priest for the Archdiocese of Melbourne by Archbishop Sir Frank Little in St Patrick's Cathedral on 16 August 1980.

Christopher Prowse has a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Monash 1978), a Bachelor of Theology (MCD 1979), a Licentiate in Moral Theology (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, 1987), and a Doctorate in Moral Theology (Pontifical Lateran University – Alfonsianum Academy, Rome, 1995).

After serving as a Deacon at St John's, Mitcham in 1979, he was appointed Assistant Priest of St Mary of the Angels, Geelong (1981-83), and of St Monica's, Moonee Ponds (1984-85). He was also Vocations' Director throughout 1984-85.

From 1988 and 2001 he was Lecturer in Moral Theology at Catholic Theological College, and from 1988 he was Priest-in-Residence at St Mary's, Thornbury. In 1996, he was appointed Parish Priest of Holy Spirit Parish, East Thornbury.

Other appointments during this period included Director of the Catholic Pastoral Formation Centre (1997-2001), and from 1999 he was the Media Spokesman.

In August 2001 he was named Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, after a short appointment as Assistant of the Diocesan Administrator. At this time he became a Member of the College of Consultors of the Archdiocese, and of other major committees. On 6 October 2001 he was appointed a Chaplain of His Holiness with the title of Monsignor.

On 4 April 2003, Blessed Pope John Paul II named him Titular Bishop of Bahanna and Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne; he was consecrated in St Patrick's Cathedral on 19 May 2003.

From 2007 until 2009 he had pastoral responsibility for the Western Region of Melbourne and Geelong. In 2007 he became the Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services, and in 2008 for Health. He was appointed to key committees organizing *Days in the Diocese* Melbourne and *World Youth Day* Sydney.

He has been Co-Chair of the Australian Anglican and Roman Catholic (AUSTARC) Dialogue, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania.

In 2007 Pope Benedict XVI appointed him a Member of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, and on 18 June 2009 the same Pontiff named him Bishop of Sale.

Within the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Bishop Prowse is a Member of the Permanent Committee and Chairman of the Commission for Ecumenism and Inter-religious Relations; he is also a Member of the Commission for Relations with Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

On 12 September 2013, Pope Francis appointed him Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn.