



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Archbishop Nona appointed new Eparch of Chaldean Diocese in Sydney

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Most Rev. Amel Shamon Nona, Bishop of the Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle of Sydney of the Chaldeans.

Pope Francis made the new appointment after accepting the resignation of Archbishop Jibrail Kassab, Bishop of the Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle of Sydney of the Chaldeans.

President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Denis Hart said, 'For the Bishops, priests and people of Australia, I welcome the Holy Father's appointment of Archbishop Nona to the Eparchy of St Thomas of Sydney to succeed Archbishop Jibrail Kassab. I am sure Archbishop Nona will work generously for the Chaldean people here who have been affected by the plight of Christians in Iraq.'

Archbishop Kassab retires as Eparch to the Chaldean Catholic Diocese of Australia and New Zealand. The 76 year old took up the role in 2006 after arriving in Australia from Iraq.

Born on 1 November 1967, Archbishop Nona was ordained a priest of Alquoch (Chaldean), Iraq on 11 January 1991. He was ordained a bishop on 8 January 2010 and installed Archbishop of Mosul (Chaldean), Iraq on 22 January 2010.

The 47 year old Archbishop wrote a letter from Iraq to Christians in the West in October 2013, during a time of violence and suffering in Mosul. Archbishop Nona said, 'Saint Paul says that "where sin increased, grace abounded all the more" (Rom 5:20). With him, we may also say that wherever there is persecution there too will be the grace of a strong faith—and therein lies our salvation.'

Archbishop Nona's motto is that '*during a time of crisis and persecution, we must remain full of hope*'.

The Chaldean Catholic Diocese of Australia and New Zealand is based at Bossley Park, Sydney, NSW.

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