



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

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New Nuncio looking forward to mission to the Church and people of Australia

The Holy See's new Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, Archbishop Ambrose De Paoli, has arrived in Canberra, saying he is looking forward to beginning his mission to the Church and the people of Australia.

Archbishop De Paoli arrived in Canberra last week and was greeted by Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President, Archbishop Francis Carroll, the Military Ordinary Max Davis and the Auxiliary Bishop of Canberra-Goulburn, Pat Power.

He was also met by Monsignor Francisco Padilla, the Charge d'Affaires at the Apostolic Nunciature in Canberra, a number of priests and representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

"I feel greatly honoured to have been named Representative of the Pope in Australia," Archbishop De Paoli said.

"I am most grateful for the warm welcome extended to me on the occasion of my appointment.

"I look forward to beginning my mission to the Church and people of Australia."

Archbishop De Paoli was born in the United States of America and ordained a priest there in 1960.

He is a Doctor of Canon Law and after entering the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See in 1966, he worked in the Pontifical missions in Zambia, Venezuela, Canada and in the Secretariat of State.

He was ordained Archbishop in 1983 and appointed as Apostolic Pro-Nuncio in Sri Lanka. Archbishop De Paoli has also served as Apostolic Nuncio in South Africa, Swaziland and Namibia, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio in Lesotho and Apostolic Delegate in Botswana.

Prior to his appointment to Australia, Archbishop De Paoli was Apostolic Nuncio in Japan. He speaks English, Italian, Spanish and French.

Apostolic Nuncios and their staff serve as both the ambassador of the Holy See in their host nation and as the representative of the Pope to his Church in that nation.

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