

Nation's Bishops Arrive for Golden Tribute

Catholic bishops from across the nation have begun arriving in Adelaide for tomorrow's tribute to Adelaide's Archbishop Leonard Faulkner.

Twenty four bishops and 109 priests from all corners of Australia will celebrate a golden anniversary for Archbishop Faulkner in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral at 10:30am.

The Mass will celebrate a significant milestone in the life of Adelaide's Catholic community - the 50th anniversary of Archbishop Faulkner's ordination as a priest in Rome on January 1, 1950.

The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Francesco Canalini, who is the Vatican's official representative in Australia, will concelebrate the Mass with the Australian bishops, including the Archbishop of Melbourne, Perth and Canberra/Goulburn. Bishop Eugene Hurley, Bishop of Port Pirie, and many priests from his diocese, will also attend.

In an act which represents the continuity and harmony of the leadership of the Adelaide church, the homily will be delivered by Archbishop James Gleeson, Emeritus Archbishop of Adelaide - who retired from his active leadership role when Archbishop Faulkner was appointed Archbishop of Adelaide in 1985.

A full list of bishops attending is below. As always, members of the public are welcome to attend the Mass, irrespective of religious belief. Media attendance at the Mass is welcome, but please respect the integrity of the occasion.

Media inquiries to Matthew Abraham on 08 8210 8117 or 0418 822 924

Bishops Attending: Archbishop Leonard Faulkner, Archbishop of Adelaide
His Excellency Francesco Canalini, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio
The Most Rev James Gleeson, Emeritus Archbishop of Adelaide
The Most Rev Frank Little, Emeritus Archbishop of Melbourne
The Most Rev Francis Carroll, Archbishop of Canberra/Goulburn, Vice President of ACBC
The Most Rev Barry Hickey, Archbishop of Perth
The Most Rev George Pell, Archbishop of Melbourne
The Most Rev Ron Mulkearns, Emeritus Bishop of Ballarat
The Most Rev William Murray, Emeritus Bishop of Wollongong
The Most Rev John Gerry, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Brisbane
The Most Rev Patrick Dougherty, Bishop of Bathurst
The Most Rev Noel Daly, Bishop of Sandhurst
The Most Rev William Brennan, Bishop of Wagga Wagga
The Most Rev Edmund Collins, Bishop of Darwin
The Most Rev Peter Connors, Bishop of Ballarat
The Most Rev Jeremiah Coffey, Bishop of Sale
The Most Rev Brian Heenan, Bishop of Rockhampton
The Most Rev Justin Bianchini, Bishop of Geraldton
The Most Rev Hilton Deakin, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Melbourne
The Most Rev Barry Collins, Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes
The Most Rev Philip Wilson, Bishop of Wollongong
The Most Rev David Walker, Bishop of Broken Bay
The Most Rev Denis Hart, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Melbourne
The Most Rev Eugene Hurley, Bishop of Port Pirie
The Rev. Brian V. Finnigan, General Secretary of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference

(Media Release adapted from that issued by the Catholic Communications Centre in Adelaide)