



# Diocesan e-News

## WELCOME TO VISITING REDEMPTORISTS

On Friday, April 20, Bishop Paul hosted a lunch for priests from the Ballarat area and eleven visiting Redemptorists. All together, fourteen Redemptorists will visit our diocese in the two weeks from April 20 until May 6 to join parish communities in gatherings for prayer and discussion in preparation for the national plenary council in 2020. Bishop Paul welcomed those who attended the lunch.

“As we gather to share lunch today, I welcome you all – priests from our diocese of Ballarat and Redemptorists who will be with us for the coming weeks. We have Redemptorists who are currently based in Melbourne, Perth and Auckland, and who originally come from Australia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore and Zimbabwe. Welcome to you all.”

“Over the next two weeks, we’ll have a program that we have called ‘Praying towards 2020’. It will be the first step for our diocese in the journey towards the national plenary council that will meet in 2020 and 2021. We would like to provide the people of our diocese with an opportunity to make their contribution to the plenary council through a combination of prayer to God and dialogue with one another. In the coming two weeks, people in our local parish communities will have the chance to come together to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit on ourselves and on the whole Church throughout Australia. They’ll also have the chance to reflect on how we might grow in our faith and hope and love as a Christian community and how we might share that faith and hope and love with our Australian society as a whole.”

“I am very grateful that such a large number of my Redemptorist confreres can be with us for these gatherings in the coming weeks. I see your role as somewhat like that of Paul and Barnabas as they visited various Christian communities in the early days of the Church. Paul and Barnabas prayed with the local communities and offered them a message of encouragement to strengthen them in their Christian lives. I pray that your visits will bring encouragement to the people of our diocese. I pray that your visits will bring blessings on you as well as on the members of each parish community.”



“As we come to share lunch now, I offer a prayer of blessing for our meal. Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have all the gifts we enjoy. We ask you to bless the gatherings throughout our diocese in the coming weeks. We ask you to bless us now as we share this meal. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

*Bishop Paul Bird*