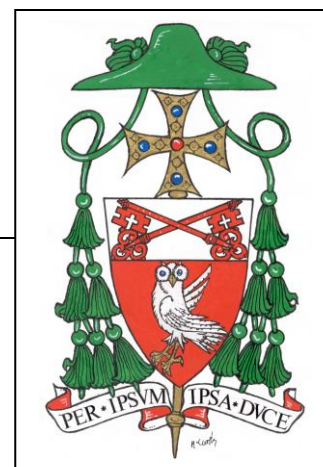


DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

Office of the Bishop

Bishop Peter Ingham
PO Box 1239
Wollongong NSW 2500
Tel 0408 245 739
Email bishop@woll.catholic.org.au



EMBARGOED UNTIL 8.00 PM, 20 APRIL 2011

Wollongong Diocese produces its first Bishop

Last night Pope Benedict appointed Wollongong Priest Fr Peter A Comensoli (47 years old) as Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney. Bishop Peter Ingham made the announcement at the annual Mass of the Holy Oils in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, to the spontaneous applause of the clergy and laity of the Diocese.

Bishop-Elect Peter Comensoli is the fourth son of Margaret and Michael Comensoli of Towradgi. After attending St John Vianney Primary School Fairy Meadow, young Peter completed his secondary education at St Paul's College Bellambi (now Holy Spirit College.) Peter then studied Commerce at the University of Wollongong (1982-1985.)

In 1986 he began studies for the priesthood at St Patrick's Seminary Manly and was ordained priest by Bishop William Murray at St John Vianney Church Fairy Meadow on 22 May 1992. Fr Peter served in the parishes of Unanderra, Wollongong, Shellharbour and Rosemeadow, before Bishop Philip Wilson in 1998 sent him to study Moral Theology at the Alfonsianum University in Rome.

On his return with a Licentiate in Moral Theology, Peter was appointed Diocesan Chancellor. During this time, Peter was first at West Wollongong Parish, before successively administering the parishes of Berkeley, Port Kembla and Corrimal.

In 2006 Bishop Peter Ingham sent him to St Andrews University in Scotland where he graduated with a Master of Letters in Moral Philosophy. He then began doctoral studies in Theological Ethics at Edinburgh University.

Since returning from Scotland last December, Peter has administered the Parish of Helensburgh. In February this year he took up a position as Lecturer in Moral Theology at the Catholic Institute of Sydney at Strathfield.

Bishop Ingham said, "We rejoice with this *thoroughly Wollongong citizen* in his new appointment and assure him of our prayerful support. Wollongong's loss is certainly Sydney's gain."

Bishop-Elect Comensoli can be contacted on 0478 112 203 or 4294 2175.