



31 March 2023  
22 Baramhat 1739

**Pastoral Message**  
from His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos  
to the Diocese of Sydney and its Affiliated Regions

My dear Fathers, sisters and brothers,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ during this holy period of Lent, and in preparation for the glorious Feast of the Resurrection.

Eighteen months ago, I was blessed to be asked by His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of Saint Mark, to serve the Diocese of Sydney and its Affiliated Regions as His Holiness's Papal Legate.

I thank His Holiness for his trust and for the opportunity to serve this blessed diocese, with its wonderful clergy and laity.

I thank His Grace Bishop Daniel for his fraternal sentiments.

I thank the wonderful priests of the diocese for their faithful service and their love and support throughout this time.

I thank the ever-faithful and dedicated members of the Board of Trustees and the members of the supporting Legal, Finance, Property, Election, Nomination, Communications and Safeguarding Committees who have worked together to maintain and safeguard the diocese at the organisational and administrative level.

I thank the Colleges with their Boards, heads of Colleges, teachers, administrative and support staff and incredible students for the spirit I have seen that is so fundamental for the service our children receive.

I thank each and every member of the diocese, young and old, for every call, conversation, thought, suggestion and contribution that has positively affected and impacted the diocese over this past period.

Over these past eighteen months, I have witnessed countless blessings as I served alongside many faithful servants of our Lord Jesus Christ who give so generously of their time and efforts to ensure the service and well-being of others. I have learned much from their example.

During this time various processes and mechanisms have been implemented that now serve the diocese, which has constitutionally moved from a sole-trusteeship to one that functions with a Board of Trustees, at every level. To reflect this new arrangement, I have written to the Attorney General, directly following the New South Wales parliamentary elections and his appointment, to initiate the process of amending the Property Act governing the diocese.



With this accomplished, and confident that what has been established will serve as a firm foundation for next steps along the process, and because of the requirements of my own diocese and ministry, I have asked of His Holiness that I be excused from this responsibility, which has been a blessing to me.

In the same way that I received this blessed ministry, I now return it into the hands of His Holiness the Pope for his wisdom and direction, guiding those who will continue to build on what has been implemented. Until any other provisions are made, the Clergy Council and Board of Trustees will be under the direct care of His Holiness, from whom they will receive guidance and direction for the service of the diocese.

Although this will bring to an end my service as Papal Legate to your beloved diocese, I look forward to continuing my pastoral visits for youth ministry that I have so enjoyed over the past two decades, and while I will miss working with many exceptional people, I look forward to once again visiting you all pastorally in the future.

As we journey through this holy Lenten period, I pray God's blessing upon you and all you do, and wish you an enriching Holy Week, and a blessed Feast of the Glorious Resurrection. I pray God's continuing blessing upon you all, and upon the diocese.

As I conclude and write to you for this final time as Papal Legate, the words of our teacher Saint Paul in his Epistle to Philemon (1:4-6) resonate strongly with me as he writes "I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, that the sharing of your Faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus".

Assuring you of my prayers and asking yours for me and my ministry, I leave you in the love and care of our gracious Lord.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Angelo".

**+Angaelos**

Servant of the See of London

Papal Legate to the United Kingdom

Papal Legate to the Diocese of Sydney and its Affiliated Regions