



## THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE OF OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS IN AUSTRALIA

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### Appointment of Apostolic Administrator

11 May 2026.

The Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross joyfully welcomes the announcement at noon Rome time that His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has appointed Bishop Steven J. Lopes as Apostolic Administrator.

Bishop Lopes serves as the first Bishop and second Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter in North America since 2015. He now becomes the fourth Ordinary to oversee the Ordinariate in Australia since its erection in 2012. He succeeds Archbishop Anthony Randazzo, who has served as Apostolic Administrator since 2023 and has now been called to Rome to serve as Prefect of the Dicastery for Legislative Texts at the Holy See.

This appointment marks a new chapter in the life of the Ordinariate in Australia, which continues to grow steadily in its mission and witness within the Catholic Church. In recent years, the Ordinariate has experienced renewed stability and development through the work of Archbishop Anthony Randazzo, building upon the foundations established by the Ordinary Emeriti, Monsignor Harry Entwistle and Monsignor Carl Reid.

Among these developments has been the establishment of Vocations and Clergy Funds to support the long-term formation and sustainability of the Ordinariate's clergy and communities. This ongoing growth was recently reflected in the ordinations of Deacons Nigel and Andrew in April 2026, manifesting signs of continued vitality and hope for the future of the Ordinariate in Australia.

Reflecting on his appointment, Bishop Lopes said:

“Happily and providentially, I am no stranger to the Ordinariate in Australia having visited several times over the years to participate in various Ordinariate events and clergy gatherings.”

“My task now is to be its custodian for a while, encouraging its people to grow in the beauty of holiness as the surest means of growth and fruitfulness.”

Bishop Lopes brings firsthand experience in the life and mission of the Ordinariates. Prior to his episcopal appointment, he served for more than a decade in Rome as an official of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and was closely involved in the implementation of *Anglicanorum coetibus* and the establishment of the Personal Ordinariates, helping shape the structures that continue to preserve and foster the Anglican patrimony within the Catholic Church.



Archbishop Anthony Randazzo has also offered his prayers and blessing upon this new chapter in the life of the Ordinariate:

“As I conclude my time as Apostolic Administrator, I give thanks for the grace-filled growth of the Ordinariate and the faithful witness of its clergy and people. With confidence, I look to the future, trusting that this community will continue to flourish as a vibrant sign of unity in the Church.”

“It has been a privilege to serve the Ordinariate during this period of renewal and hope. I am encouraged by the strong foundations laid and the emerging signs of vitality, and I remain confident that its mission will bear fruit well into the future.”

Bishop Lopes has appointed Father Stephen Hill as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, who will assist in continuing the ongoing work and mission of the Ordinariate throughout Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

“I am most grateful to Archbishop Randazzo for the fatherly manner in which he has served as Apostolic Administrator for the past three years. I am overjoyed to be working with Bishop Lopes whom I know is committed to the full life of the Ordinariates as particular Churches living the Anglican Patrimony in the Catholic Church. This appointment is yet another example of Pope Leo’s commitment to the Ordinariates.”

The clergy and faithful of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross give thanks to Almighty God for the ministry of Archbishop Anthony Randazzo and assure Bishop Steven Lopes of their prayers as he begins this new responsibility in the life of the Ordinariate.

ENDS.