

11 July 2023

COUNTDOWN TO INSTALLATION OF SEVENTH BISHOP

Today, Tuesday 12 July, Bishop Ken Howell will officially become the Seventh Bishop of Toowoomba during a Liturgical Reception at St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba.

With an anticipated full Cathedral, some 25 archbishops and bishops, over 80 clergy will join civic and community leaders, parish delegates and inter-faith representatives in welcoming Bishop Howell to the community.

The celebration will be full of moments that link the diocese's past to the present and future of the diocese. The date has special significance with Bishop Robert McGuckin's Ordination as the Sixth Bishop of Toowoomba held on the same date 11 years prior. Bishop McGuckin, with Bishop William Morris, the Fifth Bishop of Toowoomba, will present Bishop Howell with the crozier of the First Bishop of Toowoomba, Bishop James Byrne.

The Installation will commence at 11 am with a procession of clergy. Bishop Howell, joined by the Dean of the Cathedral, Fr Michael O'Brien, and Deacon Andrew O'Brien, will be greeted on the steps of the Cathedral by a local First Nations People representative offering a smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country. After they process into the Cathedral, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane, will call for the Apostolic Decree to be read. Bishop Howell will then be led to the cathedra by Bishops McGuckin and Morris. During the service, representatives from across the diocese, its ministries, and other faiths will come forward to welcome Bishop Howell.

"I am deeply humbled to be called by Pope Francis to shepherd this local Church, and I thank him sincerely." Bishop Howell said of his new role. "I realise that I have been given a great responsibility to care for the faithful and to engage in the life of the broader community across the diocese."

While Bishop Howell comes to the diocese from the neighbouring Archdiocese of Brisbane, where he has been in ministry for 40 years, he will not be a stranger with family and friendship connections to the area.

The archdiocesan community farewelled Bishop Howell last week, where he has served as Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General. The Kangaroo Point East Brisbane Parish, where he has been Parish Priest for six years, said farewell with Mass followed by morning tea. One particularly special memento Bishop Ken received from the archdiocese was a gift of the original cross from the high altar of St Stephen's Cathedral Brisbane engraved with his episcopal motto, "Parare Vias Eius", meaning "To prepare His ways".

The Installation will be live-streamed from 11 am via the diocesan website.

<https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/installation-bishop-ken-howell/>

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