



THE ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

**TO THE CLERGY, RELIGIOUS AND LAY FAITHFUL  
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE**

**THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE OF OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS**

A number of people, priests among them, have said to me that they are unclear about the nature and status of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, established in recent times in this country for groups of Anglican faithful who wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. Here I offer some clarification.

On 4 November 2009, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI promulgated the Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum Coetibus* establishing a way in which Anglican faithful could enter into full communion with the Catholic Church as communities rather than individuals, while preserving elements of the spiritual and liturgical patrimony of Anglicanism. These Anglican communities had been asking for some years, during the pontificates of both John Paul II and Benedict XVI, for some arrangement of this kind. The initiative therefore came not from the Pope but from the Anglican communities themselves.

In response to the Pope's decision, the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross in Australia was established. The closest thing we have to it in Australia is the Military Ordinariate where the Military Ordinary (currently Bishop Max Davis) is based in Canberra but has responsibility for military personnel serving both in Australia and overseas. It is not a territorial jurisdiction.

At the moment, the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross has eleven parishes across Australia and thirteen priests. Monsignor Harry Entwistle, who lives in Perth, has been appointed the Ordinary. Monsignor Entwistle is not a Bishop but he exercises quasi-episcopal authority and is a member of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. He works closely with Diocesan Bishops to ensure that things run smoothly, which is not always easy in these early days of the Ordinariate.

The Ordinariate in Australia is the third to be established around the world. The first Ordinariate was created in 2011 in England and now includes Wales and Scotland. The second was established in 2012 for people in the United States and Canada.

The clergy and laity of the Ordinariate are in full communion with the Catholic Church, and I would encourage you to welcome them in every way. My hope is that the establishment of the Ordinariate will prove to be not an obstacle but a help as we take the hard road towards the unity of Christians here in Australia. In the Archdiocese of Brisbane, we have a small number of communities that are part of the Ordinariate. These communities have their own clergy who have been ordained to the Catholic priesthood by me. They can

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serve in normal parishes with the necessary faculties using the liturgical books of the Roman Rite. In their own parishes they will use liturgical books which preserve elements of the Anglican patrimony, and those who are not members of the Ordinariate are free to join them for worship, just as members of the Ordinariate are free to worship in Catholic parishes other than their own.

### **ALLEGED PRIVATE REVELATIONS**

Recently it has been brought to my notice that messages – supposedly delivered by Christ to a woman who goes by the name of Maria Divine Mercy – have been circulating in the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

I have examined some of these messages and found them to be patently fraudulent and corrosive of true Christian faith as the Catholic Church teaches it. The alleged recipient of the messages operates anonymously and refuses to identify and present herself to local Church authority for a theological examination of the content of her messages. .

The messages contain certain theological and historical errors some of which fall within the category of bogus millenarianism, and they are more likely to provoke fear rather than the peace of the Spirit. They play on elements of the Catholic faith only to undermine it at its core. Moreover, they are outrageous in their claims against Pope Francis. Therefore, the messages of Maria Divine Mercy are not to be taken seriously, discussed or distributed within the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Archbishop of Brisbane