



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1.23

**HIS GRACE
MOST REVEREND PETER ANDREW COMENSOLI
By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE**

**DECREE MERGING ST MARY'S PARISH, HAMPTON, IMMACULATE HEART OF
MARY PARISH, HAMPTON EAST AND SACRED HEART PARISH,
SANDRINGHAM
AND, AT THE SAME TIME, ESTABLISHING
THE PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ST FRANCIS, SANDRINGHAM,
HAMPTON, AND HAMPTON EAST**

THE FACTS

1. Sacred Heart Parish, Sandringham was established in 1914. St Mary's Parish, Hampton was established in 1926. Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Hampton East was established in 1958. From 2021 – 2023 the Sacred Heart, Sandringham and St Mary's, Hampton East were administered together with the parishes of St James Gardenvale, St Joan of Arc Brighton, and Nazareth Ricketts Point, as part of a loose confederation known as 'Bayside Catholic Mission', under two *Pastors in Solidum*. In 2022, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hampton East, was added to Bayside Catholic Mission. On 21 October 2022, the Moderator petitioned the Archbishop to merge the five original Bayside Catholic Mission parishes. The petition was not supported.
2. After meeting with the Parish Priests of Bayside Catholic Mission and neighbouring parishes, in a letter to Christ's faithful on 20 May 2023, the Archbishop indicated the beginning of a review of the effectiveness of the pastoral area known as the Bayside Catholic Mission and the adjoining parishes; the 'Bayside Taskforce' was established on 20 June 2023, chaired by the Vicar-General and involving key diocesan officials, to lead this review; following consultation with each of the parishes, on 18 September 2023 the Bayside Taskforce presented recommendations to the Archbishop on the possible future parish groupings; the Archbishop wrote to the parishioners on 19 October 2023 announcing a re-configuration of the pastoral arrangement of parishes in the greater Bayside area.
3. When Bayside Catholic Mission was dissolved on 1 January 2024, the three parishes of St Mary's, Hampton, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hampton East and Sacred Heart, Sandringham

were partnered under the leadership of a single Administrator until a single Parish Priest was appointed on 31 January 2024. From 10 March to 18 May 2024, the lay faithful participated in a further consultation process to identify an appropriate name for the new parish.

4. Having considered the law and the facts, the undersigned Diocesan Bishop hereby issues this Decree.

THE LAW

Can. 515 §2 states:

The diocesan bishop alone can establish, suppress or alter parishes. He is not to establish, suppress or notably alter them unless he has consulted the council of priests.

The Fourth Plenary Council of Australia and New Zealand, 1937, decreed that the College of Consultors must also be consulted.

THE ARGUMENT

5. Willingly encouraging everything in my powers to provide more suitably for the good of souls, I have decided that St Mary's Parish, Hampton, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Hampton East and Sacred Heart Parish, Sandringham are to be merged and from the merger a new parish, to be named **The Parish of the Holy Spirit and St Francis, Sandringham, Hampton and Hampton East**, is to be established for the following reasons:
6. Taking into consideration questions of social demographics, ecclesial cultures, ministerial workloads and financial viability, there is a need for four parishes in the general area in which the 'Bayside Catholic Mission' was operating; that there is a need for the lay faithful to have a Parish Priest who is not so stretched that he cannot be known or know his people; the Parish Priest of these three parishes sent a petition for the merger of the parishes on 2 July 2024 the Parish Priest of these three parishes formally requested for the merger of the parishes.
7. There is a close geographic and strong socio-economic connection between the three Parishes, which has been enhanced through collaboration over recent years. This will ensure the provision of good stewardship of resources in order to make more effective the life and of the Church's mission in this area. This is a distinctive local grouping of communities, unlike its neighbouring parishes.

Wherefore:

8. having considered the law and the facts; and
9. having heard the parishioners by means of the aforementioned consultations and communications; and
10. having ascertained from deeds and documents and consulted those concerned that there are no major donors to be heard; and

11. having heard the Council of Priests on 15 November 2023 and the College of Consultors on 28 November 2023; and
12. having determined that the good of souls requires it,
13. I, the undersigned Archbishop of Melbourne, exercising my ordinary power and in virtue of canon 515 §2, do hereby decree that St Mary's Parish, Hampton, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Hampton East and Sacred Heart Parish, Sandringham be hereto merged together. I decree that from this extinctive-union (merger) of St Mary's Parish, Hampton, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Hampton East and Sacred Heart Parish, Sandringham, **The Parish of the Holy Spirit and St Francis, Sandringham, Hampton and Hampton East** is established with all the rights, obligations and privileges accorded to it by law.
14. **The Parish of the Holy Spirit and St Francis, Sandringham, Hampton and Hampton East** shall comprise the territories of the former parishes of St Mary's Parish, Hampton, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Hampton East and Sacred Heart Parish, Sandringham, namely:
15. **A. Commencing on the Port Phillip Bay shoreline at the end of South Road follow South Road eastwards to Earlsfield Road, Earlsfield Road southwards to Fewster Road, Fewster Road a short distance westwards to Edinburgh Street and then Edinburgh Street southwards to David Street; thence follow David Street westwards to Sargood Street, Sargood Street southwards to Linacre Road, Linacre Road westwards to Beach Road, and across to the shoreline; thence follow the Port Phillip Bay shoreline north-westwards to the end of South Road - the commencing point. (The former Parish of Hampton)**
B. Commencing at the junction of South Road and Bluff Road, follow Bluff Road southwards to Highett Road, Highett Road westwards to Wales Street, Wales Street northwards to Linacre Road, Linacre Road westwards to Sargood Street, and then Sargood Street northwards to David Street; thence follow David Street eastwards to a point in line with the beginning of Edinburgh Street; thence follow a line northward to and along Edinburgh Street to Fewster Road, Fewster Road a short distance eastwards to Earlsfield Road, and then Earlsfield Road northwards to South Road; thence follow South Road eastwards to Bluff Road - the commencing point. (The former Parish of Hampton East)
C. Commencing at the shoreline at Linacre Road follow Linacre Road eastwards to Wales Street and then Wales Street southwards to Highett Road; thence follow Highett Road eastwards to Bluff Road, and then Bluff Road southwards to Bay Road; thence follow Bay Road eastwards to Reserve Road and then Reserve Road southwards to Tulip Street; thence follow Tulip Street westwards to Bluff Road and then Bluff Road southwards a short distance to Red Bluff Street; thence follow Red Bluff Street westwards and continue on to the shoreline; thence follow the shoreline in a generally north-westerly direction to the commencing point adjacent to the western end of Linacre Road. (The former Parish of Sandringham)

Unless otherwise stated boundaries run along the centreline of rivers, creeks, roads, streets, etc.

16. The temporal goods, patrimonial rights and obligations of St Mary's Parish, Hampton, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Hampton East and Sacred Heart Parish, Sandringham are assumed by the new The Parish of the Holy Spirit and St Francis, Sandringham, Hampton and Hampton East.
17. The temporal goods, patrimonial rights and obligations of St Mary's Parish, Hampton, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Hampton East and Sacred Heart Parish, Sandringham are assumed by the new **The Parish of the Holy Spirit and St Francis, Sandringham, Hampton and Hampton East.**
18. All the parish and sacramental records of the extinct St Mary's Parish, Hampton, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Hampton East and Sacred Heart Parish, Sandringham are to be properly preserved and safeguarded in **The Parish of the Holy Spirit and St Francis, Sandringham, Hampton and Hampton East**, in accordance with the norm of law. I order that copies of this decree be carefully preserved in the parochial archives of **The Parish of the Holy Spirit and St Francis, Sandringham, Hampton and Hampton East** as well as the archives of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.
19. This decree is to be effective on **10 August 2024**. I order that this decree be published by copies of it being displayed on the noticeboards of St Mary's church Hampton, Immaculate Heart of Mary church Hampton East and Sacred Heart church Sandringham for one calendar month, and by the decree being drawn to the attention of the faithful by the celebrant of Mass at all parochial Masses in those churches on Saturday evening, 3 August 2024 and Sunday 4 August 2024.
20. This decree is to be communicated to the Parish Priest and Parishioners of the three parishes effected by this extinctive-union (merger). This Decree may be challenged within the peremptory time limit of ten days from the legitimate notification of the Decree and in accordance with the norm of law (Can. 1734 §2).

Given at St Patrick's Centre, East Melbourne, Victoria, on 9 July, 2024.



Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne



Mrs Annie Carrett
Chancellor