



*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 JAMES' PARISH, GARDENVALE, ST JOAN OF ARC  
PARISH, BRIGHTON AND ST FINBAR'S PARISH, BRIGHTON EAST  
AND, AT THE SAME TIME, ESTABLISHING**

**EMMAUS PARISH, BRIGHTON, BRIGHTON EAST and GARDENVALE**

## **THE FACTS**

1. St James Parish, Gardenvale was established in 1892. St Joan of Arc Parish Brighton, was established in 1921. St Finbar's Parish, Brighton East was established in 1940. From 2021 – 2023 the parishes of St James', Gardenvale and St Joan of Arc, Brighton were administered with the parishes of St Mary's, Hampton, Sacred Heart, Sandringham 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 original five 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. St James', Gardenvale, St Joan of Arc, Brighton and St Finbar's, Brighton East were partnered under the leadership of a single Parish Priest on 1 January 2024 when the Bayside Catholic Mission was dissolved. 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 erect, 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 James' Parish, Gardenvale, St Joan of Arc Parish, Brighton and St Finbar's Parish, Brighton East are to be merged and from the merger a new parish, to be named **Emmaus Parish, Brighton, Brighton East and Gardenvale** 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; that these parishes had been partnered as part of Bayside Catholic Mission for three years; and, that on 11 June 2024 the Parish Priest of these three parishes formally requested for the merger of the parishes.
7. It is to be stated that St James' Parish has not had a structurally functioning church building since a catastrophic fire of 2015. This community has become strongly associated with St Joan of Arc Parish Brighton, ever since. The faith connection to St Finbar's Parish is a natural one, built on a close geographic proximity and a shared social connection, which will allow for the good functioning of all three communities under a shared pastoral governance.

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 15th 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 James' Parish, Gardenvale, St Joan of Arc Parish, Brighton and St Finbar's Parish, Brighton East be hereto merged together. I decree that from this extinctive-union (merger) of St James Parish, Gardenvale, St Joan of Arc Parish, Brighton and St Finbar's Parish, Brighton East, **Emmaus Parish, Brighton, Brighton East and Gardenvale** is established with all the rights, obligations and privileges accorded it by law.
14. **Emmaus Parish, Brighton, Brighton East and Gardenvale** shall comprise the territories of the former parishes of St James' Parish, Gardenvale, St Joan of Arc Parish, Brighton and St Finbar's Parish, Brighton East, namely:
15. **A. Commencing on the Port Phillip Bay shoreline across from the western end of Grosvenor Street, follow Grosvenor Street eastwards to and across New Street and continue along Cramer Walk to Outer Crescent; thence follow Outer Crescent south-easterly to St. Andrews Street, St. Andrews Street north-easterly to Wilson Street, Wilson Street south-easterly to Carpenter Street and then Carpenter Street north-easterly to William Street; thence follow William Street south-easterly to York Street, York Street north-easterly to Durrant Street, Durrant Street south-easterly to Male Street, Male Street northerly to Byron Street and then Byron Street easterly to Hampton Street; thence follow Hampton Street northerly to Nepean Highway and then proceed norther-easterly across the Highway along Milroy Street to the junction of Lansdown Street; thence proceed eastwards along Lansdown Street to Landcox Street and then follow Landcox Street northwards to North Road; thence follow North Road westwards to Kooyong Road, Kooyong Road northwards to Rupert Street, Rupert Street westwards to Oswald Street and then Oswald Street southwards to Elster Avenue; thence follow Elster Avenue to College Street and then College Street northwards to Clarence Street; from the junction of College Street and Clarence Street follow a straight line westerly to and along Brentani Avenue to the railway line; thence follow the railway line northwards to a point between Sherbrooke Avenue and the north-eastern corner of Alexandra Avenue; from the railway line follow a straight line westerly to the Nepean Highway, (locating both sides of Alexandra Avenue in Gardenvale Parish and both sides of Sherbrooke Avenue in Elsternwick Parish); thence follow the Nepean Highway north-westerly to the Glenhuntly Road/New Street junction; thence follow New Street southwards to Bent Avenue, Bent Avenue westwards to St. Kilda Street and then St. Kilda Street southwards to Head Street; thence follow Head Street westwards to the shoreline and follow the shoreline southwards to the commencing point at the western end of Grosvenor Street. (The former Gardenvale Parish)**
- B. Commencing on the Port Phillip Bay shoreline across from the western end of Grosvenor Street follow Grosvenor Street eastwards to and across New Street and continue along Cramer Walk to Outer Crescent; thence follow Outer Crescent south-easterly to St. Andrews Street, St. Andrews Street north-**

easterly to **Wilson Street**, **Wilson Street** south-easterly to **Carpenter Street** and then **Carpenter Street** north-easterly to **William Street**; thence follow **William Street** south-easterly to **York Street**, **York Street** north-easterly to **Durrant Street**, **Durrant Street** south-easterly to **Male Street**, **Male Street** northerly to **Byron Street** and then **Byron Street** easterly to **Hampton Street**; thence follow **Hampton Street** southwards to **South Road** and then **South Road** westerly and continue along the shoreline; from the point on the shoreline across from the end of **South Road** follow the shoreline in a generally northerly direction to the commencing point across from the end of **Grosvenor Street**. (*The former Brighton Parish*)

C. Commencing at the junction of **Milroy Street** and **Nepean Highway** follow **Hampton Street** southwards to **South Road**, **South Road** eastwards to **Nepean Highway**, then **Nepean Highway** north-westwards to **Patterson Road**; thence follow **Patterson Road** eastwards to **Galtum Avenue**, **Galtum Avenue** northwards to **Tovan Akas Avenue**, **Tovan Akas Avenue** westwards to **Talbot Avenue** and then **Talbot Avenue** northwards to **Brewer Road**; thence follow **Brewer Road** a short distance eastwards to **Eddys Grove**, **Eddys Grove** northwards to **Centre Road** and then **Centre Road** eastwards to **Wheatley Road**; thence follow **Wheatley Road** northwards to the **Elster Creek Drain**, the **Elster Creek Drain** north-westerly to **Wright Street** and then **Wright Street** northerly to **McKinnon Road**; thence follow **McKinnon Road** westerly to **Thomas Street**, **Thomas Street** northerly to **North Road** and then **North Road** westerly to **Landcox Street**; thence follow **Landcox Street** southwards to **Lansdown Street** and then **Lansdown Street** westwards to **Milroy Street**; thence follow **Milroy Street** south-westerly to the **Milroy Street/Nepean Highway** junction – the commencing point. (*The former Brighton East Parish*)

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

16. The temporal goods, patrimonial rights and obligations of **St James Parish, Gardenvale**, **St Joan of Arc Parish, Brighton** and **St Finbar's Parish, Brighton East** are assumed by the new **Emmaus Parish, Brighton, Brighton East and Gardenvale**.
17. All the parish and sacramental records of the extinct Parish of **Gardenvale**, the extinct Parish of **Brighton** and the extinct Parish of **Brighton East** are to be properly preserved and safeguarded in the Parish of **Brighton, Brighton East and Gardenvale**, in accordance with the norm of law. I order that copies of this decree be carefully preserved in the parochial archives of **Emmaus Parish, Brighton, Brighton Easy and Gardenvale** as well as the archives of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.
18. 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 James' church Gardenvale**, **St Joan of Arc church Brighton** and **St Finbar's church Brighton East** 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.

19. 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