



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 MODIFYING THE BOUNDARIES OF
ST CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH, CAROLINE SPRINGS, ST DOMINIC'S
PARISH, MELTON AND ST ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH, MELTON
SOUTH**

1. A parish is a certain community of Christ's faithful stably established within a diocese, whose pastoral care, under the authority of the diocesan bishop, is entrusted to a Parish Priest as its proper pastor.¹ Each diocese must be divided into parishes, which are distinct parts of the whole diocese. It is the responsibility and authority of the diocesan bishop, and he alone, to erect, suppress or alter parishes, after considering the advice of his presbyteral council.² The Fourth Plenary Council of Australia and New Zealand of 1937 also decreed that consultation must be had with the College of Consultors.³
2. In 1972, St Dominic's Parish, Melton was erected from the territory of St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh.
3. In 1983, St Anthony of Padua, Melton South became a parish in its own right.
4. In 2006, St Catherine of Siena Parish, Caroline Springs was erected from the territory of St Peter Chanel Parish, Deer Park, Resurrection Parish, Kings Park and Sacred Heart and Emmaus Parish, St Alban's and Sydenham.
5. In 2024, St Dominic's Parish, Melton and St Anthony of Padua Parish, Melton South were partnered under one Parish Priest.
6. On 13 November 2025, the Parish Priest of St Catherine of Siena, Caroline Springs and the Parish Priest of St Dominic's Parish, Melton and St Anthony of Padua Parish, Melton South, with support of the parish communities, petitioned to change the boundaries of these three parishes taking into account the social demographics, ecclesial structures

¹ Cf. *Code of Canon Law*, c. 515§1

² Cf. *ibid*, c. 515§2

³ Cf. *Concilium plenum IV Australiae et Novae Zelandiae habitum apud Sydney anno Domini 1937, decr. 148(d)*.



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and ministerial workloads to better provide for the pastoral care and sustainability of the communities concerned.

7. After carefully considering the motivations and observations presented to me, and after the formal canonical consultation of the Archbishop's Council of Priests given on 26 November 2025, and with the College of Consultors given on 12 December 2025, I hereby decree the following:
8. **That the territory of St Dominic's Parish south of Melton Highway and east of Leakes Road in a straight line to Greigs Road be incorporated into St Catherine of Siena Parish, Caroline Springs.**
9. **That the territory of St Anthony of Padua Parish east of Downing Street and north of Boundary Road be incorporated into St Catherine of Siena Parish, Caroline Springs.**
10. **Unless otherwise stated, all boundaries run along the centreline of rivers, creeks, roads, streets etc.**
11. Consequently, all of the faithful with a domicile or quasi-domicile within the territory of St Dominic's Parish that is east of Leakes Road and south of Melton Highway, and all of the faithful with a domicile or quasi-domicile within the territory of St Anthony of Padua Parish that is east of Downing Street and north of Boundary Road shall henceforth belong by law⁴ to St Catherine of Siena Parish.
12. That any non-autonomous pious foundations that have been received by St Dominic's Parish or by St Anthony of Padua Parish by virtue of the domicile or quasi-domicile of the grantor in either territory ceded, shall be transferred to the new parish of domicile or quasi-domicile at the discretion of the Ordinary, after consulting the grantor or the descendants.⁵
13. This decree will take effect from 12 January 2026. I order that this decree be published by copies of it being displayed on the noticeboards of St Catherine of Siena, St Dominic's and St Anthony of Padua Parish churches 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 10 January 2026 and Sunday 11 January 2026.**

⁴ Cf. Code of Canon Law, cc. 102-107, 518

⁵ Cf. Code of Canon Law, cc. 1303§1,2, 1302§2, 1309

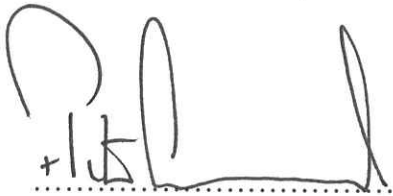


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14. Any person who believes that he or she has been injured by this decree must seek its revocation or amendments in writing within ten canonical days from the time the decree was lawfully notified.⁶
15. I order that copies of this decree be carefully preserved in the parochial archives of St Catherine of Siena Parish, Caroline Springs, St Dominic's Parish, Melton and St Anthony of Padua Parish, Melton South as well as in the archives of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.
16. The Second Vatican Council proclaimed that "the parish offers an outstanding example of community apostolate, for it gathers into a unity all of the human diversities that are found there and inserts them into the universality of the Church".⁷ I pray that these arrangements that I have decreed will be a rich opportunity for the parishioners of St Catherine of Siena Parish, St Dominic's Parish and St Anthony of Padua Parish to renew their commitment to the Lord, and to the building up of his Church. I invoke the blessings of Almighty God on the priests and parishioners of these parishes.

Given at St Patrick's Centre, East Melbourne, Victoria on this Seventeenth Day of the month of December, in the year of Our Lord 2025.



Most Reverend Peter A Comensoli

Archbishop of Melbourne



Notary *Chancelor*



⁶ Cf. Code of Canon Law, cc.1734§1, 1734§2

⁷ Cf. Vatican II *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, 18 November 1965, n.10 (*Vatican Council II*, Austin Flannery O.P. (ed) p. 777)