

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING****BETWEEN****THE ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE****AND****THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR OF THE MISSIONARY CONGREGATION OF  
THE BLESSED SACRAMENT****EMMAUS PROVINCE, KOTTAYAM KERALA**

The Archbishop of Brisbane wishes to enter into a partnership with the Provincial Superior of the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, in order to share priestly resources during this time of critical shortage in the Archdiocese of Brisbane and also, to provide the Clergy of the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament – Emmaus Province Kottayam Kerala, with an opportunity to work as priests in the Archdiocese of Brisbane for a period of ten years. The priests would have the specific task of assisting with the evangelisation of the people of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, promoting vocations and assisting in Parishes as associate pastors or parish priests/administrators of parishes or in various chaplaincy positions.

It is understood that after a total of ten years in the Archdiocese the priests would return to India, and if possible be replaced by other available priests from the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament – Emmaus Province Kottayam Kerala.

Because of the very small number of priests who are under forty years of age within the Archdiocese of Brisbane, the Archbishop requests from the Provincial Superior of the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament – Emmaus Province Kottayam Kerala, priests from the 30 to 50 year old age group, however this request does not exclude the possibility of priests older than 50 years coming to work in the Archdiocese, especially in areas of chaplaincy such as hospital ministry.

The Archbishop of Brisbane also offers to provide opportunities for ongoing theological education and formation for priests of the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament – Emmaus Province Kottayam Kerala ministering in the

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Archdiocese of Brisbane and nominated and approved by the Provincial Superior, for part-time post-graduate studies at the Australian Catholic University. From time to time the Provincial Superior may request support for projects within the Province especially related to the support of priests' formation and the retirement of priests.

The Archdiocese also agrees to provide support to the Provincial Superior of the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament – Emmaus Province Kottayam Kerala, to fulfil his provincial obligation to make a canonical visitation to the priests of the Province who have been appointed to parishes within the Archdiocese of Brisbane, once every three years. The travel costs associated with such a visit, ie airfare and accommodation costs etc will be met by the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

### **Process:**

The Archdiocese of Brisbane will facilitate the process of obtaining the necessary permissions and visas for the priests for travel to Australia. The Archdiocese of Brisbane will cover all visa, travel and relocation costs for those priests and seminarians sent from the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament - Emmaus Province Kottayam Kerala. The Archdiocese will also meet the cost of return air travel for priests once they have completed their ministry in the Archdiocese. The priests will be covered for medical and other appropriate insurances while they are involved in ministry in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. While living and working in the Archdiocese the priests will receive the normal stipend and benefits paid to all priests in the Archdiocese.

### **Processes of Enculturation**

Each priest would undertake a program of enculturation. The Enculturation Program would include at least the following elements under the oversight of the Moderator of the Archdiocese and the Director of Ministry & Life of Clergy.

- Introduction to Australian Culture
- Spirituality of Australian people
- Indigenous spirituality and ministry
- History of Australia and migration – a multiethnic society
- Preaching Jesus in Australia
- Ecumenism
- Spiritual Direction
- A supervised pastoral placement
- Boundaries and Integrity in Ministry seminars
- Spirituality of the Diocesan Priest
- Canon Law and Confessional practices
- Australian Missiology
- Women and the Australian Catholic Church
- Collaborative Ministry
- Celebrating Liturgy and the Sacraments

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- o Integrity in Ministry and Towards Healing
- o English, comprehension skills and accent reduction programs

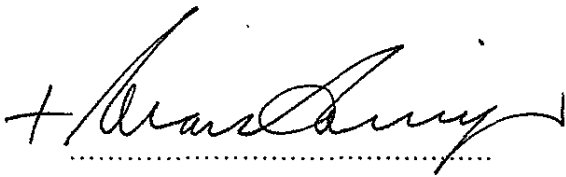
**Ongoing support during the priest's pastoral placement:**

The priest once assigned to a pastoral placement will be supported in the ministry by the Director of Ministry & Life of Clergy and the Moderator of the Archdiocese. The priests will also have the assistance and support of another Archdiocesan priest appointed by the Archbishop to act as a mentor during their time in the Archdiocese. A summative review will take place towards the end of the first five years and in consultation with the priest, the Archbishop of Brisbane and the Provincial Superior of the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament – Emmaus Province Kottayam Kerala, an extension of the initial five year period for another period of five years may be negotiated. At the end of the contracted time (5 + 5 years) the priest will return home to India, unless otherwise agreed by the Archbishop of Brisbane and the Provincial Superior of the Emmaus MCBS Province Kottayam Kerala. From time to time the Archdiocese will consider requests for financial support of special projects of the Province on the request of the Provincial Superior.

**Agreement**

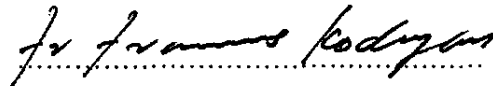
This new Memorandum of Understanding was considered and agreed upon by the Archbishop of Brisbane and the Provincial Superior of the Emmaus MCBS Province Kottayam Kerala.

This Agreement will be reviewed in five years time.



**Archbishop of Brisbane**

Date: 6/6/12



**Rev Dr Francis Kodiyan MCBS**

**Provincial Superior of the Missionary  
Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament  
Emmaus Province, Kottayam Kerala.**

Date: 22/02/2012