

DECREE OF THE NAMING OF THE DIOCESE OF WILCANNIA-FORBES, 28 July, 1917

It is decreed that the diocese of Wilcannia, by the addition of six parishes separated from the diocese of Bathurst, will in future be named Wilcannia-Forbes, and further, that its bishop will reside by turns in Broken-Hill and Forbes for six months of the year.

Benedict XV. Pope.

For a permanent record of the matter. — Since responsibility for all Churches has been entrusted to Us by the Apostolic office which We exercise, We are engaged with solicitous and paternal devotion in procuring whatsoever provides for the better administration of religion and what seems suitable and more advantageous to its successful state. Since, furthermore, the Australian diocese of Wilcannia, canonically erected in 1887 and entrusted to the apostolic care of John Dunne, of happy memory, is presently bereaved of its dearly missed shepherd, who passed way on the 25th of December of last year; since, moreover, experience has shown, as Bishop Dunne himself testified while still living, that the territory of the aforementioned diocese is organized in such a way as to make it very difficult for Missionaries to care for souls, many Australian prelates have deemed it most expedient, with the sanction and support of Our Venerable Brother Bonaventura Cerretti, Apostolic Delegate in Australia, to advise and to propose to this Holy See a new delimitation of boundaries for the aforementioned Diocese. Having, moreover, examined and weighed all the implications of the change at hand in plenty of time together with Our Most Venerable brothers, the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church in charge of the affairs of the *Propaganda Fide*, We have decided on Our own accord to approve this proposal of the Australian Bishops. Wherefore on Our own initiative, having ascertained exactly the matter of the case and after due deliberation, by the fullness of Our Apostolic authority and the force of the present decree We remove and detach six parishes from the territory of the diocese of Bathurst with the assent of the Bishop. These six parishes, which are named Forbes, Condobolin, Parkes, Peak Hill, Narromine, and Warren, being thus separated from the diocese of Bathurst, We attach to the territory of the diocese of Wilcannia. In addition, We desire that the same diocese, with the incorporation of the previously mentioned parishes, take the name of Wilcannia-Forbes; furthermore, We enjoin the Bishop keep a dual-residence, one in the location of the previous residence, namely in the town of Broken-Hill, the other in the town of Forbes. For the common spiritual good of the Diocese, the bishop is required to reside for six months of the year in Broken-Hill, and the other six months in Forbes. Having decided on these measures, We determine that the present decree, being binding, valid and efficacious, will be in force and last in perpetuity, acquiring and retaining its full and integral effects, benefitting in every manner and circumstance the people coming within its scope now and in the future; further, that the ordinances described above must be adjudicated and determined in the manner just specified, and that it be null and void should anything be attempted to the contrary by anyone of whatsoever authority whether knowingly or through ignorance. Notwithstanding Our and the Apostolic Chancery's rule concerning third parties and other apostolic Constitutions, sanctions and everything else whatsoever to the contrary.

Given in Rome at Saint Peter's under the Fisherman's ring, on the twenty-eighth day of July, in the year nineteen hundred seventeen, the third of Our Pontificate.

P. Cardinal Gasparri, secretary of State.



*Acta Apostolicae Sedis
Commentarium Officiale*
LITTERAE APOSTOLICAE
Acta Benedicti PP.
XV p. 427, sec, IV