



## Catholic Diocese of Bathurst

### Media Release

Last week, the coffins containing the late Bishops Byrne, O'Farrell, Dunne, Norton and Thomas were interred in the Bathurst cemetery to the West of the Mortuary Chapel. Bishop McKenna celebrated Mass for all his deceased predecessors on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July in the Cathedral.

The delicate and complex task of moving the caskets took two days. On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Bishop McKenna blessed the new graves.

These coffins had lain for 30 years on shelves in the Chapel adjoining the Narthex of the Cathedral waiting for interment in a crypt to be built below the Cathedral. As the main problem causing most of the current damage to the exterior and interior fabric of the Cathedral is the water and dampness lying under the Cathedral, it is highly unlikely that a crypt would ever be built there.

Consequently, it was decided to reinter the bishops near their fellow priests and many religious sisters and brothers beside the Mortuary Chapel in the Catholic portion of the old cemetery.

In the near future plaques will be erected over the bishops' final resting place.

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