




Speech by

Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.50 am): Last Friday I had the pleasure of being an official guest at the mass to welcome the new Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane, the Most Reverend Mark Coleridge. Archbishop Coleridge replaces the well-known and highly respected Archbishop John Bathurst. I take this opportunity to thank the former Archbishop for his 20 years of service to the Queensland community. I also wish him a long and healthy retirement back in Stanthorpe. As many honourable members would know, the former Archbishop was a keen bushwalker, so it was fitting that the previous government named a lookout in his honour. The lookout is on Camp Mountain in the D'Aguilar National Park on Brisbane's north-western fringe. I hope the former Archbishop and other keen bushwalkers are able to enjoy it and the spectacular views of our city that it affords. Archbishop Coleridge has come to us from Canberra where he has been the Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn since 2006. He has vast experience in the church, having been a priest for 38 years and a bishop for 10 years. Archbishop Coleridge is also the first to be appointed from outside the state in almost 50 years. I am sure he will be a true Queenslander by the time the State of Origin arrives next Wednesday!

The Catholic Church continues to play a large role in the spiritual lives of many Queenslanders. It and its associated entities also play an important role in our state's social, community welfare and education sectors. I am well aware of that, having been educated at St Mary's at Ipswich. Indeed, it was my time there that helped teach me the social justice principles of equity, equality and fairness. I also gained an appreciation that, no matter where people come from, people do experience rough times and it is our duty as members of society to provide them with whatever assistance we can.

I also want to specifically mention the role of the parish of St Mark's in Inala, my own parish, and the dedicated members of the parish community. I understand that Archbishop Coleridge visited the school at St Mark's this afternoon. I regret that I was unable to be there, but my duties in this House prevented that. Whilst there, he would have gained an insight into the wonderful people of the parish who always put others before themselves, who always help people in times of need and who always believe in the principles of social justice, of the dignity of the human person, the common good and solidarity.

The church and its various community based services have a long track record of working closely and productively with governments of all political persuasions. I hope that that approach will continue with the new state government. I join with other Queenslanders in welcoming Archbishop Coleridge and wishing him every success during his term of leadership. No doubt he will bring his own unique style to the role of Archbishop. Equally, I am sure Archbishop Coleridge will soon become the recognisable face of the Catholic Church in Queensland in much the same way his predecessor was over the past two decades.