

DECREE OF THE BISHOP OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Decree – Provision – Rescript Changing the Name of Wallsend-Shortland Parish

51/2026

HAVING received the petition from the then-parish priest of Wallsend-Shortland Parish, Reverend Christian Onukwugha SDV, dated 26 March 2025 and its accompanying documentation; and

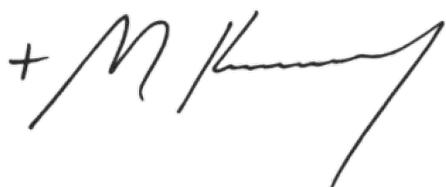
GIVEN THAT with the support of the Parish Pastoral Council, the parish conducted a consultative process on 20 to 21 September 2025 during which parishioners were given the opportunity to vote on the proposed parish name, and that process resulted in a clear preference for the name “Divine Mercy Catholic Parish of Wallsend-Shortland”; and

HAVING heard from the Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council that the Council supports the proposed change of name; and

HAVING sought and heard the counsel of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle;

I HEREBY decree that the parish of Wallsend-Shortland is to be named “Divine Mercy Catholic Parish of Wallsend-Shortland”, effective from today, 6 May 2026.

Given at Hamilton, NSW, on the 6th day of May 2026.



Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle



Very Reverend Matthew Muller
**Chancellor
Notary**

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