



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF SALE



20 November 2023

A statement from the Archbishop of Melbourne, Bishop of Sale and Bishop of Bunbury

**Catholic Development Fund Ballarat Merger with Catholic Development Fund
Melbourne, Sale and Bunbury.**

As respective Bishops of the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the Diocese of Sale and the Diocese of Bunbury, we are pleased to announce that the CDF has entered into a binding agreement to merge with the Ballarat Catholic Development Fund (BCDF). This comes after an extensive due diligence process, with the merger expected to be complete in early 2024.

Both Funds have a 50+ year history of working together and sharing resources to offer customers in their respective Dioceses strong and competitive financial solutions. A larger Fund will continue to meet the demands of our growing communities and those who work within them, as they minister and deliver services in pastoral care, education, healthcare, social services and aged care.

In recent years, mergers with the CDFs in the Diocese of Bunbury and the Diocese of Sale, have proven successful in delivering a range of additional benefits to local communities. Together with the Fund for the Diocese of Ballarat, the expanded CDF will continue to meet local demands whilst maintaining a prudentially sound and sustainable Fund into the future, delivering on the collective mission of the Church.

Together as Bishops of the Dioceses, we give thanks for the works of the BCDF to date and its customers that have supported an organisation that promotes and lives our shared Catholic mission. Alongside Bishop Paul Bird from the Diocese of Ballarat, we look forward to the new partnership and the potential it has to add value for all customers and communities across the Dioceses of Ballarat, Diocese of Bunbury, Archdiocese of Melbourne and Diocese of Sale.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE
CHAIR OF THE CDF BOARD

Most Rev Gregory Bennet
BISHOP OF SALE

Most Rev Timothy Costelloe
APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR
DIOCESE OF BUNBURY