Anglican Catholic Church — Diocese of Australia

FROM THE BISHOP
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ANGLICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

ORIGINAL PROVINCE
The Dioceses and Missionary Districts of:
Australia
New Granada
New Zealand
The United Kingdom
In the USA:
Alaska
New England
New Orleans
The Caribbean
The Great Plains
Holy Trinity
Mid-Atlantic States
Midwest
Military Ordinariate
Pacific South-West
Resurrection
South

SECOND PROVINCE
Church of India (Anglican)
Dioceses of:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that:

1. The **Church of India (Anglican)** is the historic Anglican Church in India, dating from British civil and military chaplaincies established in the 18th Century and various dioceses, parishes, churches, congregations, schools, colleges, hospitals and other institutions established by missionaries and others in the 19th Century. In 1837 it was formed into an Ecclesiastical Province and became the Third Province of the Church of England, remaining as such until 1927. In that year it became a Province of the newly-formed Church of India, Burma and Ceylon, which in 1947 became known as the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon (CIPBC).

2. The **Church of India (Anglican)** enjoys statutory recognition and protection under the terms of, inter alia, the Indian Church Measure, 1927 [17 & 18 Geo. 5. No. 1] and the Indian Church Act, 1927 [17 & 18 Geo. 5. Ch. 40.].

3. In 1947 the **Church of India (Anglican)** lost its southern dioceses to a body known as the Church of South India, formed that year in a union scheme with a number of non-Anglican Churches. Those dioceses in North India remained as a constituent Ecclesiastical Province of the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon, until 1970, when that Church was divided into four separate national Churches.

4. Also in 1970, most dioceses of the **Church of India Anglican)** joined the Church of North India formed in that year under the terms of another union scheme with a number of non-Anglican Churches. However the Diocese of Amritsar refrained from entering that union scheme and remained Anglican, as did a number of extra-diocesan churches, congregations, schools and other institutions throughout India. Because of ignorance of its situation, this remnant of the **Church of India (Anglican)** became somewhat isolated from the fellowship of world Anglicanism until 1984, when it was received as a body into the Anglican Catholic Church, and constituted as the Second Province thereof, yet retaining its identity as the **Church of India (Anglican)**.

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5. In other words, the **Church of India (Anglican)**, originally a Province of the Church of England (1837-1927) and subsequently a Province of the former Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon (1927-1970), then autonomous (1970-84) but in some disarray following the exit of most of its clergy and members into the Church of North India, in 1984 became a Province of the Anglican Catholic Church, thus retaining and ensuring for the future the continuity and integrity of its Anglican foundation, history, identity, character, faith, order, ministry and worship.

6. In 1984 the **Church of India (Anglican)** took the necessary canonical action to restore its historic DIOCESE OF LUCKNOW, formed originally in 1893 (and to be distinguished from the Church of North India's Diocese of Lucknow, formed in 1970). The Right Reverend SAMUEL PETER PRAKASH of St Peter's House, Vikasnagar, Dehradun, U.P., was appointed to be the Bishop thereof. On or about 3rd October 1991 the aforementioned Bishop Samuel Peter Prakash left the historic **Church of India (Anglican)** to join a newly-formed rival body calling itself the "Anglican Church of India". In consequence of this action he was deemed by the **Church of India (Anglican)** to have abandoned the faith and communion of this Church and to have excommunicated himself from its membership. Since that date he has no longer held office as Bishop of Lucknow or any other office in this Church, but rather stands condemned by us as an episcopus vagans, that is, a bishop without any recognised See or legitimate episcopal jurisdiction.

7. The Reverend SURAJ MASIH of Lucknow is understood by us to be a clergyman of the Church of North India. He is not and to the best of our knowledge never has been licensed as a clergyman in the **Church of India (Anglican)**.

8. Under the terms of the Constitution, Canons and Rules of the **Church of India (Anglican)** the Office of Metropolitan of India is vested ex officio in the Bishop of Calcutta. As the See of Calcutta in this Church has been vacant since 1970 and as there is no present prospect of filling it, on 18th May 1995 I was appointed by the Metropolitan of the Original Province (with the advice and consent of the Bishops of the Province of India), to be Acting Metropolitan of India, pro tem.

IN under Our hand and Episcopal Seal in Our See City of New South Wales, Australia, on this EIGHTH day of OCTOBER Our Lord ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SEVEN, the ion the FIFTH.

and

+ James Aust

BISHOP OF AUSTRALIA, and
ACTING METROPOLITAN OF INDIA

