



THE DIOCESE OF PORT PIRIE

AN APPEAL

Care for Priests Aged or Sick

THE JOHN VIANNEY ROOMS



A Letter from the Bishop

An Appeal to Ensure the Care of Our Priests

Dear Sisters and Brothers

In 2013 we celebrated two Diamond and one Golden Jubilee of priesthood, and one of sixty-five years ordination. In 2014 we will celebrate another Diamond and two Golden Jubilees.

That is 395 years of ministry among the people of our diocese. At the ordination of these men, the people sang in the Litany – “Bless these chosen ones, make them holy, and consecrate them for sacred duties”.

Most of our priests – we know sadly of our failures – have lived that prayer, and we can thank God for the gift they have been to our people.

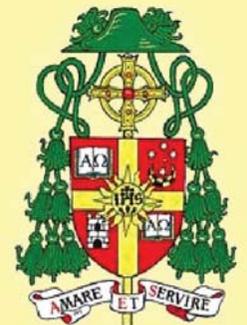
With age, strength weakens and health falters, and it becomes the turn of the Catholic community to care for those who spent their lives caring for them, in Word and Sacrament, in deeds of service and kindness and presence.

The John Vianney Rooms, named after the Patron Saint of diocesan priests, are being prepared in St Joseph’s House. There will be three bedrooms, a sitting room with kitchenette, a small office and prayer room. St Joseph’s will provide meals and laundry and nursing care when needed. Not all our priests have families still living, so the Vianney Rooms will ensure company for each other.

Because of the specialist needs for aged care facilities, construction of these rooms is very expensive, over \$100,000 in all, well beyond what the diocese could afford easily, so your help is needed. It is a need we simply must meet.

Coming to the diocese I noted immediately the great and easy bond that exists between priests and people in our diocese. The people show real care and affection for our priests. I ask that you contribute to this Appeal so that we can provide good care for those of our Fathers who need that help, now and in the years to come. Thank you. May the Lord who sees all that is done in secret bless you.

Bishop Greg O’Kelly SJ



Making a Donation

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Telephone _____

I wish to donate \$ _____ towards the John Viannery Rooms at St Joseph's house to support the residential care of the aged priests.

Please tick:

Cash

Cheque (made payable to 'St Joseph's House')

Credit Card

Credit card number _____

Expiry date ___/___/___

Signature _____

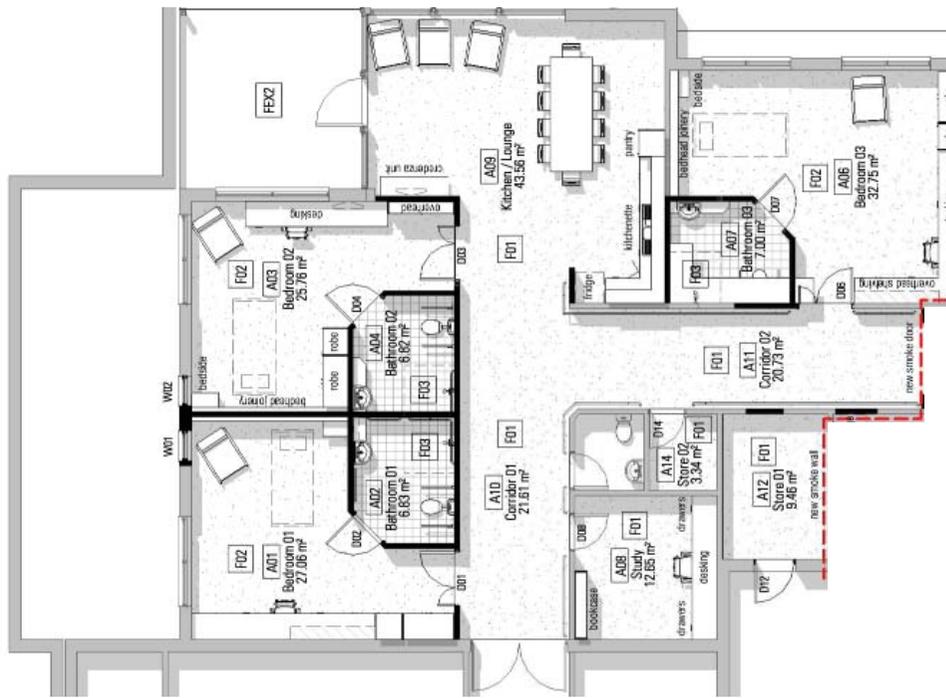
Date ___/___/___

St Joseph's House ABN 43 431 300 853

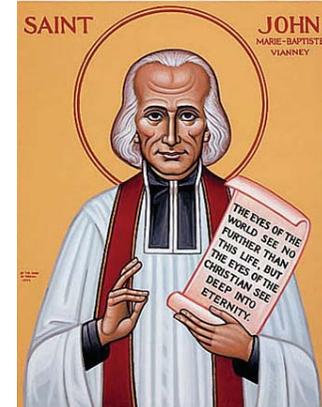
Tax deductions for cash donations of \$2 or more can be claimed and a official receipt will be issued or mailed.

Detach form and send to:

**Diocesan Secretary
Diocese of Port Pirie
PO Box 1206
Port Pirie SA 5540**



Left:
Floor plan of the John Viannery Rooms in St Joseph's House.



2013

65 years ordination - Mgr Ray Pope

60 years ordination - Fr Bill Wauchope

60 years ordination - Mgr Don Victory

50 years ordination - Fr Laurie Quinn

2014

60 years ordination - Mgr Arthur Hackett

50 years ordination - Fr Adrian Noonan

50 years ordination - Fr Kevin Matthews

St John Vianney

St Jean Baptiste Vianney struggled greatly to become a priest. He had been a soldier in Napoleon's army, and found his studies difficult and the doubts of his bishop about his suitability for priesthood a great cross. After ordination he was sent to the least significant village in the diocese, the village of Ars.

There he spent his life, and his reputation for holiness grew to the extent that thousands would travel to Ars to hear him preach and go to confession. A Saint attracts people. We regard John Vianney today as an example of how God works wonderfully through those who dedicate their lives to God. He was canonised in 1925, and declared Patron Saint of diocesan clergy throughout the world. Hence the choice of his name for the retirement rooms of our priests.

