

Bishop Eugene Hurley

Red House Colour



Bishop Daniel Eugene Hurley was born in 1940 and raised in the Flinders Ranges, the heartland of regional South Australia. He completed his Secondary school studies at Sacred Heart College, Adelaide.

After completing seven years of Seminary studies he was ordained a priest in 1964 and subsequently ministered in the Port Pirie diocese for 43 years (initially as priest and later as bishop).

He has the following academic qualifications: Doctor of Divinity, Master of Education, Graduate Diploma in Religious Education, Graduate Diploma in Educational Counselling and has commenced work on a Doctorate of Philosophy.

While still a priest, he served as an Army and Industrial Chaplain, working part-time at the University of South Australia (at Whyalla) during the 1990s, lecturing in Australian Sociology, Philosophy and a post graduate program in Counselling. While working as a priest at Whyalla, Father Hurley established South Australia's first regional 'Centacare' service.

For some time he served as a Member of the South Australian State Government's Regional Development Council and was a member of the Regional Communities Consultative Council.

He was appointed Bishop of the diocese of Port Pirie by Pope John Paul II in 1999, having worked there as a priest since 1964.

In 2000 he was a participant in the 2000 National Regional Summit and subsequently was invited to become a member of the Federal Implementation Committee.

Following on his years as Bishop of the Port Pirie diocese, he was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI in 2007 as Bishop of the Diocese of Darwin.

He was a member of the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference for the entire period during which he was in charge of a diocese (Port Pirie or Darwin).

Additionally, he has been a member of the Minister's Council on Asylum Seekers and Detention. Bishop Eugene used to be a regular visitor to Detention Centre in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

While still Bishop of Darwin, he was Deputy Chair of Caritas Australia and Chair of the Bishops' Commission for Relations with Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

Around 2016 he sent his resignation letter as Bishop of Darwin to the Vatican in accordance with Canon Law which requires bishops to resign on reaching the age of 75. It was accepted on June 27, 2018. That was

the day when an announcement was made by the Vatican that Father Charles Gauci, at that time Administrator of the Cathedral Church in Adelaide, was appointed as the new Bishop of Darwin.

Bishop Eugene Hurley has been a tireless advocate and spiritual counsellor for the marginalized and forgotten people both of South Australia and the Northern Territory for more than 50 years as both priest and Bishop. He has been extensively involved in the work of the church with the disadvantaged and those in need of help.

He has promoted the welfare and status of aboriginal people throughout Australia, being an inspirational advocate and energetic worker to make real change in the process of reconciling our aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples.

His involvement in the spiritual and social wellbeing of people in both South Australia and the Northern Territory and indeed beyond those borders over more than half a century has been outstanding and goes above and beyond the performance in the above areas of most others in comparable situations.

In 2019 Bishop Eugene Hurley was recognised on the Australia Day Honours List and was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the Catholic Church in Australia, and to the community of the Northern Territory.