



Chatswood Parish Priest Fr David Ranson with parishioners of Our Lady of Dolours.

Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis to be installed in Diocese

Plans – and renovations – are well underway at Our Lady of Dolours Parish, Chatswood in preparation for the installation of the first-class relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis at the Vigil Mass for his feast day on Friday, 11 October.

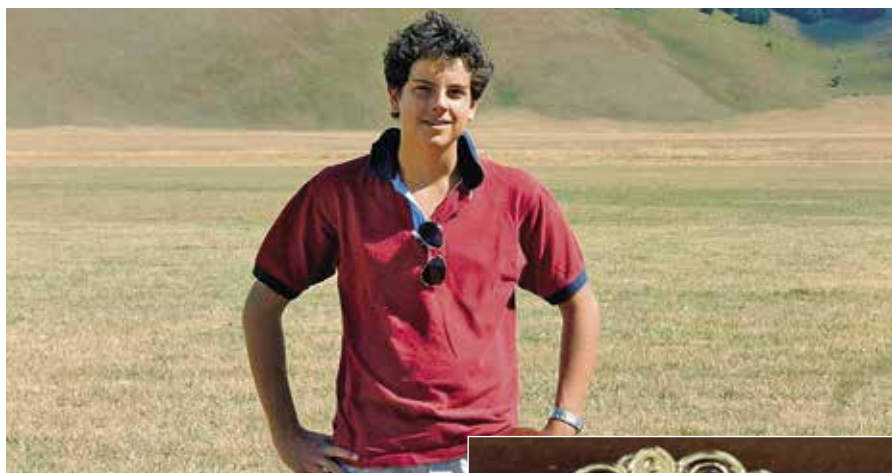
The Vigil Mass will begin at 7pm, after which veneration of the relic, two strands of hair, will be available, followed by Eucharistic Adoration through the night until 9am Mass on Saturday, 12 October.

The renovation of a chapel in Our Lady of Dolours is well underway for Eucharistic Adoration, which will also be the home of the Carlo Acutis reliquary.

Blessed Carlo Acutis will be the Church's first millennial saint when canonised next year.

People throughout the world, especially students and young people, have prayed for the canonisation of the young computer enthusiast and website designer who died of leukemia in 2006 aged 15.

His family and friends knew him as a faithful and devout teenager, gifted with extraordinary skills in computer



Blessed Carlo Acutis.

programming, film editing, and website creation but also for helping those most in need at any time – especially children and the elderly.

Carlo would often say: “The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven. Always to be united with Jesus, that is my life’s programme.”

“I have been deeply touched by the



The relic to be installed on October 12.

joy expressed by so many with the news we have a relic of Carlo Acutis," Chatswood's parish priest and Broken Bay Vicar General, Fr David Ranson said.

"Normally obtaining such a relic is a lengthy process, often taking months.

"Yet securing the relic for our Church was expedited with astonishing swiftness, underscoring how miracles manifest through the faithful in the most extraordinary ways."

Barely 24 hours from the official request for a relic by Bishop Anthony Randazzo to the Bishop of Assisi, and within one week of Fr David initiating the process, the relic was on its way to Chatswood with a friend of one of the parishioners.

Born in London, England, on 3 May 1991, Carlo was baptised in the Church of Our Lady of Dolours, Chelsea before he and his family moved to Milan, Italy.

On 1 October 2006 Carlo fell ill and soon after was diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukemia. He was given little chance of recovery.

Before lapsing into a coma, he offered his suffering for both Pope Benedict XVI and for the Catholic Church. He said to his parents; " I am happy to die because I have lived my life without wasting a minute on those things which do not please God."

When Carlo died on 12 October his parents brought his body home, where people came for four days to pay their respects, many strangers, from all over Italy.

The call for Carlo to be beatified began not long after his death. The cause for canonisation was opened in 2012, he was declared Venerable in 2018.

It was Carlo's wish to be buried in Assisi.

Following confirmation of the first miracle, his beatification took place on 10 October 2020 in the Upper Church of the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Since then thousands have visited his final resting place, and venerated his tomb in the Sanctuary of the Spoliation, Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, including World Youth Day pilgrims from the Diocese of Broken Bay last year.

On 23 May this year, Pope Francis recognised a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Acutis. The date of his canonisation has not yet been announced but it will be during the Jubilee 2025.



Broken Bay Chancellor Kelly Paget kneels before the tomb of Carlo Acutis.

The Significance of Relics by Fr David Ranson

The use of relics has had a checkered history in the Catholic tradition. There were enough relics of the head of John the Baptist to make four of him even when it was apparent in hindsight that he had no verifiable memento of himself!

The receipt of the relic of Carlo Acutis in our parish provides us with a worthwhile opportunity to reflect on why such an expression of religion continues to have an important place in our spiritual life.

Practices of piety, such as the veneration of relics, kindle the religious imagination. They take us out of a simply cerebral approach to our faith and engender it with warmth and humanity. More significantly, they 'embody' and incarnate faith within particular cultural frameworks. The way in which relics are used in some countries, for example, provides a

very powerful way by which ancient cultural expressions become blended with Christian faith.

To guard against possible distortion in this, the Catechism, however, emphasises that, at all times, it is Jesus and the Gospels, especially within the liturgical setting, to which we must be directed in the practice of popular piety. Within the Christian tradition holy persons are not remembered for their own sake but for the way in which they have mirrored the transforming grace of the Gospels in their particular circumstances.

We keep this in mind as the relic of Carlo Acutis is received into our midst. It is a powerful reminder to us of the possibility of God's work in an individual when that person gives their life over into the mystery of God's embrace.