

# HOLY DOOR TO OPEN JUBILEE OF 2025

# BBN

PUBLICATION  
OF THE CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF  
BROKEN BAY

# #224

DECEMBER 2024



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BROKEN BAY**

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**Cover photo:** Pope Francis at the Holy Door, St Peter's Basilica.

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## BISHOP'S MESSAGE

# Synodality, Hope, and Mission: A Vision for the Church as Pilgrims of Hope

By Bishop Anthony Randazzo



As we reflect on the outcomes of the Synod in Rome, we are called to look beyond the Synod itself, to what it invites us to: a deepened commitment to the mission that Christ has entrusted to the Church. This mission is not a secondary concern, but the very heart of our existence as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Synod on Synodality has offered us an important moment to reflect on the nature of our life together as the community of the Church of Broken Bay, but it also urges us to turn outward, to proclaim the Gospel to the world, especially to those who most need its message of hope.

## 1. Synodality: Some Thoughts After the Synod in Rome

The Synod on Synodality, held over 2021 through to 2024, was an unprecedented moment in the life of the Church. It brought together the People of God in a process of listening and discernment that underscored the value of walking together as we seek to live out our faith. In the aftermath of the Synod, we must be clear: synodality is not an end in itself. It is a means by which the Church deepens its engagement with the mission entrusted to her by Christ. Synodality is about how we, as disciples of Jesus Christ, move forward in unity, guided by the Holy Spirit, toward the fulfillment of the Church's mission in the world.

Pope Francis emphasized throughout the Synod that the Church is called to

**As we reflect on this dynamic, we remember that the Synod was not simply about improving the Church's internal structures or processes; it was about giving the Church the tools to engage better in the world's greatest need – the proclamation of Christ, our Hope.**

be a "missionary disciple," engaged not only in dialogue within our own communities, but reaching out to the world around us with the saving message of Jesus Christ. The Church's mission is not simply to listen to one another in a kind of inward-looking conversation, but to be ever more attuned to the voice of the Holy Spirit, who sends us forth to proclaim Christ to all people. Synodality, as the Final Document of the Synod reminds us, is intimately linked to mission: "mission illuminates synodality and synodality spurs to mission" (Final Document n. 32). In this sense, synodality is not an optional aspect of Church life, but a dynamic force that propels us forward in the work of evangelisation.

The mission of evangelisation is at the very heart of the Church's identity. As Saint Pope Paul VI affirmed in *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, evangelisation is "the essential mission of the Church [...] it is the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her profound identity" (EN 14). Evangelisation is not a peripheral activity or a task to be

undertaken when convenient – it is the Church's *raison d'être*, our very reason for being. In this way, synodality and mission cannot be separated. They are both about the Church's ongoing commitment to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ known and to invite others into the communion of faith.

As we reflect on this dynamic, we remember that the Synod was not simply about improving the Church's internal structures or processes; it was about giving the Church the tools to engage better in the world's greatest need – the proclamation of Christ, our Hope. For as St. Paul writes in his letter to Timothy, Jesus Christ is "*our hope*" (1 Tim 1:1), and it is through Him that we are called to bring hope to a world so often caught in darkness.

## **2. The Jubilee Year 2025: Dialogue with a World in Need of Hope**

The Jubilee Year 2025, which begins with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on 24 December 2024, offers us a unique opportunity to renew our commitment to Christ's mission. This Jubilee year calls us to live as "Pilgrims of Hope," to take up the challenge of evangelising with renewed vigour and hope, offering a witness to the world of the living Gospel.

In a world increasingly marked by division, suffering, and confusion, the Church is called to be a sign of hope, dialogue, and reconciliation. The Jubilee Year 2025 invites us to rediscover the centrality of Jesus Christ in our lives and to deepen our relationship with Him, not as a distant figure, but as the Door through which we enter into the fullness of life. In the Gospel of John, Jesus declares, "*I*

*am the door*" (John 10:7). As the door to salvation, Jesus is the key to the hope that our world so urgently needs. As the community of the Church in Broken Bay, our mission, then, is to open that door to all, to invite everyone into the embrace of Jesus, to experience His saving mercy, and to know His transformative love.

As disciples, we are invited to engage in dialogue – not just with fellow believers, but with the entire human family. This dialogue is one of encounter, listening, and offering the hope that is found only in Christ Jesus, Our Lord. The Church is not to be isolated from the world, but to be deeply engaged with it, offering the hope of the Gospel to those struggling with despair, suffering, and uncertainty. The Jubilee Year is an invitation to strengthen our witness, to proclaim the "treasures of heaven", and to awaken in us a yearning for the kingdom of God. As we pray in the Jubilee Prayer: "*May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.*"

Through this grace, we are renewed in our commitment to the mission of evangelisation. We are called to carry the message of Jesus Christ to the furthest corners of the earth, but also to those in our own communities who have yet to hear the Good News. Dialogue, therefore, is not a passive activity but an active, missionary engagement with the world.

## **3. Pilgrims of Hope: 2025 Towards 2033, the Jubilee of Redemption**

Looking further ahead, we see that the Jubilee of 2025 is not an isolated

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## **"May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven."**

event, but a step in the ongoing pilgrimage toward the Jubilee of Redemption in 2033. This upcoming Jubilee, which marks the two-thousandth anniversary of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection, invites us to reflect deeply on the mystery of redemption and our own participation in it. As *Pilgrims of Hope*, we journey together toward the great event of Christ's redemptive work, with the Holy Spirit as our guide.

In the years leading up to 2033, we are called to renew our commitment to being a pilgrim Church, always moving forward in faith and mission. The road ahead may be difficult, but it is the path of hope. As we walk this journey together, let us be ever more attentive to the signs of the times, to interpret them in light of the Gospel, and to be ever more committed to the mission of evangelisation, which is the heart of the Church's life. The grace of the Jubilee Year will guide us as we seek to live as true disciples of Jesus, "our Hope", and offer that hope to a world that so greatly needs it.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, the Synod on Synodality, the Jubilee Year 2025, and the pilgrimage towards the Jubilee of Redemption in 2033 are all interconnected calls to deeper faith, mission, and hope. Let us embrace these moments with open hearts, ready to proclaim Christ as the door to salvation, and as our eternal hope, in a world that longs for the treasures of heaven.



# Jubilee of 2025

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica to mark the beginning of the Jubilee Year of 2025 – the Jubilee of Hope – that celebrates the theme Pilgrims of Hope.

The Holy Door represents Jesus, the Good Shepherd and the gate of the sheep pen: "I am the gate. Whoever enters through me, will be safe. He will go in and out, and find pasture." (Jn 10:9) It symbolises the passage to salvation, the path to a new and eternal life, which was opened to humanity by Jesus; an entryway to God's mercy, the ultimate and supreme act by which He comes to meet people.

A Jubilee Year is traditionally proclaimed by the Universal Church every 25 years. It is set aside to encourage the faithful to embark on pilgrimages, to repent of their sins and forgive the sins of others, and to renew a focus on spiritual life.

Following the opening of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis will then open the Holy Doors at the other three papal basilicas of St John Lateran on 29 December (the Cathedral of the Diocese of Rome), St Mary Major on 1 January (the only basilica in Rome to have preserved the primitive early Christian structure), and St Paul Outside the Walls on 5 January (the largest basilica after St Peter's in the Vatican).

Pope Francis will also go to Rebibbia prison on the outskirts of Rome on 26 December, the feast of St Stephen, to open a Holy Door "as a tangible sign of the message of hope and God's forgiveness" for people in prisons around the world.

The first evidence of the opening of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica was in 1500 during the papacy of Alexander VI.

However the Jubilee has Jewish origins, when every 50 years a year



Huge crowds are expected to visit Rome next year.

of rest of the earth was celebrated to make crops stronger, and liberate slaves to restore equality and reduce the gap between rich and poor. The beginning of the Jewish Jubilee was marked by the sound of a ram's horn, in Hebrew Yobel, from which the Christian name Jubilee derives.

The Catholic Church began the tradition of the Holy Year in 1300 with Pope Boniface VIII who had foreseen a Jubilee every century. Subsequently it was reduced to 33 years (Jesus' earthly life) and from 1450 it was further reduced to every 25 years to allow each generation to experience at least one Holy Year.

An extraordinary jubilee is celebrated on the occasion of events of particular importance. There have been two extraordinary jubilees this century prior to Pope Francis' pontificate: 1933 proclaimed by Pope Pius XI to mark the 1900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Redemption and 1983 proclaimed by Pope John Paul II to mark 1950 years since the Redemption carried out by Christ through his Death and Resurrection in the year 33.

Pope Francis announced an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy for

the period 8 December 2015 to 20 November 2016.

The last ordinary jubilee was celebrated in the year 2000. Pope John Paul II proclaimed this the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000.

The Holy Door, or Porta Sancta, at St Peter's features 16 rectangular bronze panels symmetrically lined in four rows of four panels each. They are divided by the coat of arms of 36 popes who have celebrated the ordinary Holy Years. The panels depict a series of scenes from the Bible: The Angel at the Gates of Paradise, the Fall, Mary at the Annunciation, the Angel of the Annunciation, Christ's Baptism in the Jordan, the Lost Sheep, the Merciful Father, the Cure of a Paralytic, the Woman Washing Jesus' Feet, the Need for Forgiveness, Peter's Denial, the Good Thief, Jesus' Appearance to Thomas, Christ's Appearance to the Disciples, the Conversion of Saul, and Opening the Holy Door.

Jubilee 2025 will run until Epiphany, 6 January 2026, when the Holy Doors will be closed by the Holy Father and once more the back of the doors bricked up and sealed until the next Holy Year.

## Pilgrims of Hope

The theme for Jubilee Year 2025 is designed to encourage the community to embrace hope as a central principle, drawing on the example set by Jesus Christ.

In announcing the theme Pope Francis said; "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision."

The Vatican and the city of Rome will welcome millions of pilgrims from around the world for the Jubilee of 2025.

A Jubilee calendar of events in Rome will celebrate various jubilees every month including the jubilee

of priests, religious, families, health care workers, the poor, the elderly, youth, vounteers, the disabled, catechists, sports and education. Pilgrims will pass through the Holy Door symbolising the passing into the presence of God, becoming more united to Our Lord and evoking the passage from sin to grace.

In our Diocese of Broken Bay we are also called to celebrate and walk together during the Jubilee of 2025 with deep faith, secure hope and active charity. Jubilee Shrines of Hope will be places of pilgrimage, worship and prayer.

They are a Shrine of Hope with the relic of St John Paul II at St Patrck's, East Gosford; Shrine of Hope for young people with a relic of Blessed



Carlo Acutis at Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood; and a Shrine of Hope for priests and vocations with a relic of St John Vianney at St Mary's, Manly Freshwater.

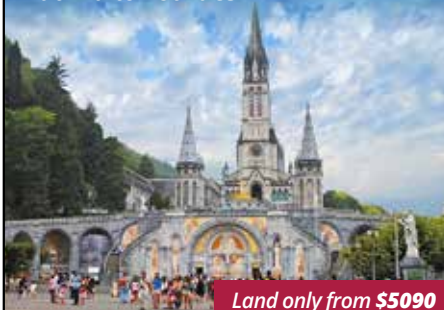
Other events for Jubilee 2025 are being planned for the Diocese with parishes also organising activities where communities can participate. These will be communicated through the Diocese and parish websites, newsletters and social media.

*A time to renew your spirit*

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# Deacon Rosan hopes joyful day will be the start of joyful service

Deacon Rosan Mathew is hopeful the joy he experienced on his ordination day will be the start of a joyful ministry, as he serves the people of Broken Bay in his role of transitional deacon.

Deacon Rosan was ordained by Bishop Anthony Randazzo at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, The Entrance, on Saturday, 21 September, in a ceremony attended by hundreds of faithful from across the Diocese and beyond.

“It was one of the most joyful days in my life,” he said.

“I was a bit nervous leading up to the hour, but I felt supported and encouraged, and I know, in fact, that is true. My heart is filled with joy and gratitude to God and to Bishop Anthony, who called me to the ordained ministry in the local church of Broken Bay, which is my home now.”

Rosan has been a popular figure since joining the Diocese three years ago, serving in the parishes of Lower North Shore, Hornsby Cathedral and The Entrance during the final years of his formation.

Since his ordination, he has been exercising his ministry as a deacon from The Entrance Parish, serving the Mass and preaching the Gospel.

“Since my ordination, I have been enjoying the ministry as a deacon,” he said.

“Serving the people of God, through words and actions have been the highlight. Service is at the heart of what I do and say, and I pray that God’s love, grace and mercy be upon the people whom I encounter everyday.”

Deacon Rosan has even performed a baptism, baptising one of his SRE student from a local public school.

In his homily at the ordination, Bishop Anthony thanked Rosan for offering himself to serve the people of Broken Bay and said he hoped he would serve as an inspiration to countless other young men in the Diocese discerning the priesthood.

“May the example that you offer this evening move the hearts and minds of all these young men who are in our Diocese, who are due to dip their toes in the water,” said Bishop Anthony.

A majority of Rosan’s formation took place at Vianney College, Wagga, and many of his former classmates had made the more than six-hour journey from across the state to be at the ordination.

Rosan’s family in India also tuned into the Mass via livestream, joining their prayers with the hundreds who had gathered in person.

“This is a day of great joy and grace for Rosan,” said Bishop Anthony.

“Your ministry will be one of humble service. You are called to proclaim the gospel, not only in faith and words, but with the authenticity and integrity of one who has remained steadfast in both good times and in challenges.”

Bishop Anthony implored Rosan to be an example to all those around him through his ministry.

“My dear son, its your personal witness to the good things God has done in your life that will make the

Gospel real, believable and do-able for those who you serve,” he said.

“Rosan, may you always remember your ministry is a gift to the church and a call to deep and humble service.”

In his thanksgiving speech at the conclusion of the Mass, Rosan thanked all the parishes that had welcomed him during his final years of formation in the Diocese of Broken Bay.

He also had special words of thanks for his family watching online.

“I thank my family for the gift of faith and of life,” Rosan said.

“You have played a vital role in bringing me to this office. Thank you for your unwavering support and love.”

He also asked for the prayers of all the people of Broken Bay to support him as an ordained minister.

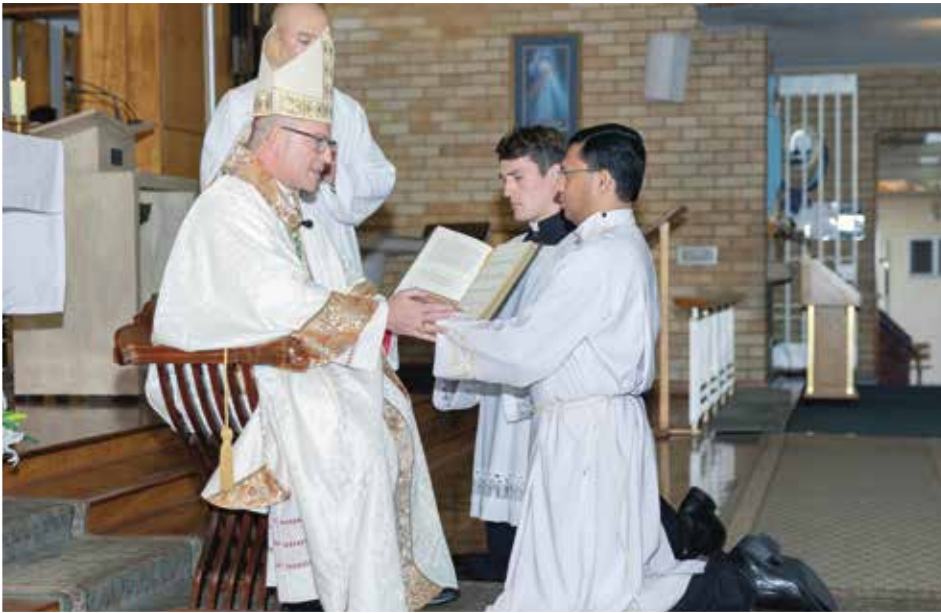
“I request your continued prayers as I begin my ministry as deacon,” he said.

The Diocese of Broken Bay has enjoyed a strong run of vocations in recent years. Fathers Sam French, Aldrin Valdehueza and Roger Delmonte were ordained priests for the Diocese in late 2021.

Last month, Fr Hien Vu was ordained a priest for the Diocese and Deacon Rosan will be eligible to be ordained as a priest after six months of Diaconal ministry.

The Diocese of Broken Bay has three men entering their final year of formation in 2025 and one who has completed his Candidacy for the Holy Orders, to be a permanent deacon.





# A future Saint comes to Chatswood

Chatswood has become the new home of a first-class relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis, the millennial computer programmer set to be canonised by Pope Francis during the Church's Jubilee of Teenagers between April 25-27 next year.

In a Mass attended by hundreds of people from all over Sydney, the relic was installed at Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood on Friday, October 11, the Vigil of the Feast of Blessed Carlo Acutis.

"The formal reception of the first class relic of Carlo Acutis was an occasion of great anticipation and celebration, not only for the Catholic community of Chatswood but for people across the diocese and across Sydney," said Fr David Ranson, Parish Priest of Chatswood.

A unique Mass setting, written by the Parish Director of Music, Titus Grenyer, accompanied the Vigil Mass and many people remained in the Church overnight for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Blessed Carlo has a particular love of the Eucharist, creating a website to record Eucharistic Miracles from across

the globe. He passed away at the age of 15 in 2006 after battling with leukemia.

The journey of the first-class relic from Assisi to Chatswood was a miracle in and of itself. Despite a six-month backlog of relic requests, Corazon Sim, a retired Jesuit Refugee Service missionary was able to secure the relic for Chatswood within just 24 hours of asking, through the prayerful intercession of Blessed Carlo.

Corazon was on pilgrimage with friends in Assisi in July and when she was told it would be a near impossibility to receive the relics, she went to Blessed Carlo at his tomb and asked for a miracle. She was given one.

Fittingly, it was Corazon who processed the relics into Our Lady of Dolours during the Vigil Mass, completing the journey from Assisi to Chatswood. The relic will now permanently remain in a Chapel of Eucharistic Adoration, in the church which bears the same name as the one in which he was baptised in London: Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chelsea.

"The Chapel has introduced into Our Lady of Dolours a new quality of silence and prayer," said Fr David.



Bishop Anthony with Blessed Carlo's relic.

"It has been deeply encouraging to witness so many present at the chapel all through the day and evening."

Fr David said he hoped the relic would become an inspiration to the many young people who are expected to visit the Church and ask for the intercession of Blessed Carlo.

"This is the power of the relic. It makes present the one whom we remember," he said.

"They are not just an idea, a thought. They are someone with a body, a tangible life we can see and can touch;



Blessed Carlo Acutis.



Fr David Ranson incenses the relic.



they become physically present in our midst. And with this presence they are now our intimate friend, our inspirer, and our intercessor.

“The need for such a model for all of us, and especially for our young, is real. May Carlo whisper his friendship with us deep in our hearts. May call us to live our lives in the fullest way possible, and may he be there always to support us, and pray for us, before the God in whom are all in communion.”

Bishop Anthony Randazzo has designated Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood as a Shrine of Hope for young people for the 2025 Jubilee Year.



Youth from all over the Diocese gathered for the installation.

## Broken Bay welcomes more relics ahead of Jubilee Year

The Diocese of Broken Bay will become a hot spot for pilgrimages during the 2025 Jubilee Year, with many parishes installing first-class relics of some of the world’s most renowned saints in the past few weeks.

In addition to the installation of the first-class relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis at Chatswood, Manly-Freshwater, Wyong and Epping-Carlingford Parishes will also be home to first-class relics of saints for the 2025 Jubilee Year.

A first-class relic of Saint Cecilia was installed at St Cecilia’s Church, Wyong on Saturday, 23rd November in a ceremony attended by more than 300 people. Fr David Ranson, Vicar General of the Diocese of Broken Bay celebrated the Mass, as the relic was installed.

Wyong’s parishioners had dedicated themselves to a daily Novena to

Saint Cecilia for the week before, asking for her intercession ahead of the installation.

A first-class relic of Saint Gerard Majella was installed at St Gerard Majella’s Church, Carlingford on Saturday, October 16. The relic had been found by parishioners cleaning out a family home after their 99-year-old mother moved into aged care.

Fr David Ranson also celebrated the Mass for the installation of this relic, which attracted families from as far away as Penrith. Saint Gerard is the patron saint of mothers, expectant mothers, and unborn children.

Another relic is set to be installed in time for the 2025 Jubilee Year too. Manly-Freshwater Parish will welcome a first-class relic of Saint John Vianney, the 19<sup>th</sup> century French priest who was known for the radical spiritual transformation he promoted in the Parish of Ars, France. In

particular, he devoted hours of every day to administering the Sacrament of Confession.

The Parish of Manly-Freshwater, with the Relic of Saint John Vianney, will be a Shrine of Hope for our Priests and Vocations for the 2025 Jubilee Year.



The relic of St Gerard Majella.

# The process is the content: A Synod Mother's Synodal Journey

By Kelly Paget

To summarise my experience as a Non-Bishop Member at the XVI General Synod of Bishops as extraordinary, would most definitely be a significant understatement. The Synod for a Synodal Church has been ground-breaking in numerous ways. In its listening, encountering, dialoging, and discerning, I believe it will take some time for our church to fully comprehend the depth of the Holy Spirit's work in this journey. Likewise, for me personally, understanding the full richness of this experience will certainly take time for me to fully absorb.

Back in October 2021, when Pope Francis announced this Synod, I'm not sure if even he knew the breadth of the prophetic actions that would occur as part of the process. In calling local churches into a process of listening and dialogue, through the methodology of *Conversation in the Spirit*, we have seen the world's largest ever consultation of humanity. Drawn



Kelly and her husband Chris meet Pope Francis.

together around the Word of God, discerning the question; *How does this journeying together allow the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to Her; and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?* The listening process was framed by the overarching themes of Communion, Participation and Mission. *"Enlarge the space of your tent"*, the working document from the Continental Stage of the process outlined that this phase brought about great experiences of joy. As brothers and sisters in Christ, people met and shared their experience of the living church, listening to the Word of God and reflecting on the future of the church.

The structure of the synodal process, more than just the two Assemblies that took place in Rome, allowed for various moments of 'restitution', where the submissions from the People of God were collated and then presented back for further consultation and deepening. This occurred firstly at a Continental level in early 2023, and then again in early 2024, after the first session of the Assembly, with local churches. This allowed for greater clarification and discernment.

Possibly the greatest gift of this Synod, has been the process, and witness of its effectiveness. God created us to be relational – with Him as our creator, and with each other. This intentional relationality has been the premise of each encounter of the Synodal process, making time and space to listen deeply to the Holy Spirit, as heard in the Word of God, and through each other. These encounters fostered listening and understanding in dialogues between the local and universal Church,



Bishop Anthony and Kelly at the Synod.

discerning how best to proclaim the Gospel across the world.

But what about the Assemblies that took place in Rome? What about the emergence of the final document as approved by Pope Francis and issued for immediate release? How do I feel, after participating in these specific moments in the life of our church, as a member with full speaking and voting rights?

The Assemblies were intense. Each month-long Assembly followed a rigorous schedule, from 8.45 am to 7.30pm every day. Sundays, our only 'vacanza' or day off, provided much-needed respite and time for reflection. Navigating the diverse content of the conversations, which took place in the context of a multilingual, multicultural environment, all added to the intensity of the experience. The encounter, however, was an incredible blessing, with innumerable moments of grace. Each meeting, every



conversation, new understandings brought greater depth, and enabled me to see our beloved Church in all her varied beauty.

There were times where I was overwhelmed with emotion – hearing the incredible struggles of our sisters and brothers in war torn countries, through to grasping the momentous significance of being able to give voice to the struggles faced by those in our own church of Broken Bay. This ability to express my emotions joyfully and at times with profound sadness, was a gift from the Holy Spirit, a charism. I am beyond grateful that I have had this opportunity, on behalf of so many People of God. My participation as a Non-Bishop Member, has allowed me to give witness to my unflinching love for Jesus Christ and His church, and share my hopes for our local communities of faith, all within the framework of my unique experiences as a woman, wife, and mother within the church. I am proud that I was able to share the particular experience of being a mother to a child who lives with additional needs, and my hope that he may be seen more than just a recipient of the Church merciful acts, but also



The members of the Synod on Synodality.

someone who is called and gifted to be a missionary disciple, capable of serving the People of God himself.

As we continue to live out with faith and hope in what it means to be a Synodal Church on Mission, we, as members of Christ's body in the Diocese of Broken Bay, will continue to walk this journey together. The Synodal dynamic that draws all People of God together

**... hearing the incredible struggles of our sisters and brothers in war torn countries, through to grasping the momentous significance of being able to give voice to the struggles faced by those in our own church of Broken Bay.**

'symphonically', has always been, and will endure to be, the basis of our community of communities. Through God's grace, may we accept the call of the Holy Spirit so that all baptised, men and women, might work together in cohesive unison and never in opposition.

*Kelly Paget is the Chancellor & Director of Mission at Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay. She was one of the 54 lay women chosen to attend the Synod in Rome.*



Kelly with Synod members from across the globe.



# Advent – A Journey of Hope

The days between now and Christmas can be a hectic time. However we cannot lose sight of this most important part of the Christian calendar, as we are encouraged to spend time in prayer and reflection.

The first Sunday of Advent, 1 December, marked the beginning of a new liturgical year.

In 2024 this is of particular significance with the commencement of the Jubilee 2025 and the theme Pilgrims of Hope.

In proclaiming the Jubilee of 2025, the Holy Father, Pope Francis reminds us that we are all pilgrims on this earth, united in our Mission to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

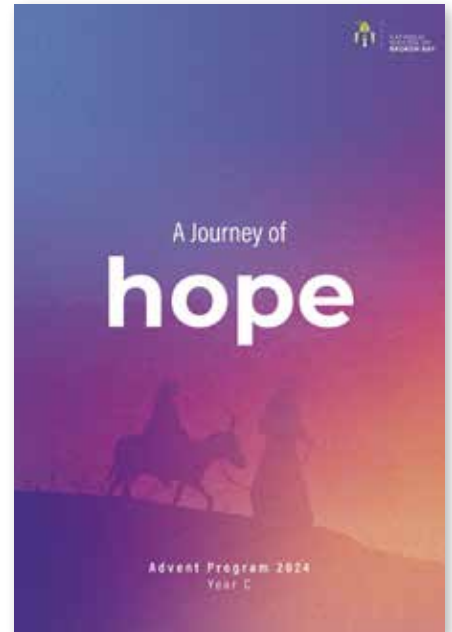
As pilgrims we journey together during this Season of Advent which is a time of preparation, anticipation, and hope at the coming birth of the child Jesus.

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**This Season of Advent, a time of preparation and anticipation, encourages us to approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush.**

To assist in our prayer, acts of service, our spiritual reinvigoration and desire to be Pilgrims of Hope in the world, Mission Broken Bay has produced and distributed a new Advent resource, now available in all parishes.

*A Journey of Hope* invites us to reflect prayerfully on the Sunday Gospel readings during the Season of Advent. The booklet can be used individually, with your family or perhaps with parish groups.



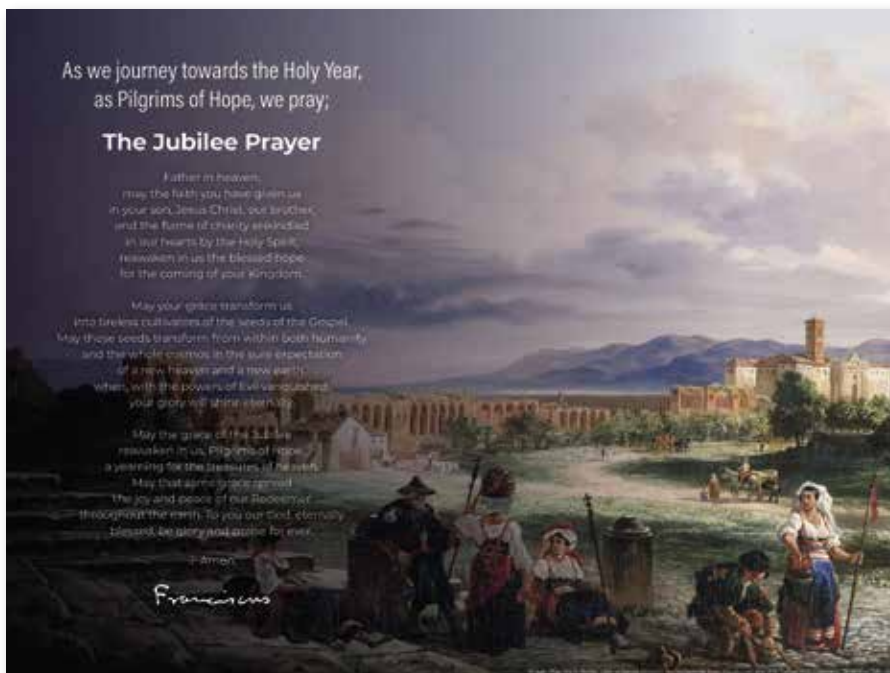
A new resource for the Season of Advent.

“In this Season of Advent the Church offers us a space to pray, to listen to and dialogue with God, who loved us so much that He sent His only Son into the world so that we may come to know Him and the depth of His love for us,” Bishop Anthony said.

“I recommend this Advent Program to you as a resource for renewal and revitalisation in your own preparations as you accompany our Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem and your journey brings you abundant grace and peace in the Lord.”

For each of the four weeks of Advent, the resource includes a reading of the Gospel text, a reflection on the text, a personal testimony and reflection questions to guide discussion and an opening and closing prayer.

*A Journey to Hope* is also available on the Diocese website at <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/mission/advent-2024>



Our Advent journey will lead to the Jubilee of 2025 with the theme Pilgrims of Hope.

# Christmas Message

## from Bishop Anthony

**O**n that holy night in Bethlehem, I imagine Mary, the mother of Jesus, gazing lovingly into the eyes of her newborn son. In that tender look, she did not simply see a child, but the very hope of the world.

In those eyes, she saw the fulfillment of God's promise: a Saviour who would bring light to all peoples, healing to the broken-hearted, peace to the weary, and hope to those who struggle.

In the eyes of her newborn child, Mary saw not only the future, but also a hope that would never fade, a hope that would withstand every trial and difficulty.

As mothers today look upon their children, perhaps they too see a new beginning, a sign that, despite the darkness of the world, God's light will never be extinguished.

It can often be difficult to hold onto hope amidst the overwhelming violence and suffering that seem to plague our world. Yet, hope is a healing power—one that sustains us through even the darkest moments.

Jesus Christ came into the world to

remind us that hope is not the absence of difficulty, but the strength to endure and the grace to heal.

This Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, let us open our hearts to the hope He brings.

In the face of violence, we are called to be peacemakers; in moments of grief, sources of comfort; in the midst of chaos, we are invited to shine the light of Christ's love, reaching out to those who suffer, standing in solidarity with the oppressed.

As we prepare to embark on the Jubilee Year of 2025, as Pilgrims of Hope, let us look into the eyes of those we love and see in them the same hope that Mary saw in her Son.

No matter what the future may bring, we are never alone, for Jesus Christ is with us—today, tomorrow, and always.

May you have a blessed Christmas, filled with the peace of Christ. And may the Jubilee Year be a time of joy, renewal, and hope for you and your families.

## The Twelve Days of Christmas

Please check your Parish for Christmas Mass times



# Broken Bay prayers for persecuted Christians on RED Wednesday

The Diocese of Broken Bay has joined the global Church in praying for persecuted Christians, as it commemorated RED Wednesday on 20 November.

Bishop Anthony celebrated Mass at Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood, as the church was flooded with red light both inside and out.

RED Wednesday is an initiative of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) to pray for, and draw attention to, Christians who suffer and are persecuted for their faith. Across the globe, churches and buildings are illuminated in red, symbolising the martyrdom and blood shed experienced by many Christians across the world.

At the end of the Mass, also attended by other religious faith leaders, Bishop Anthony reflected on the persecution faced by millions of Catholics around the globe every single year.

“The number of people in the world who cannot freely exercise their faith, who are oppressed, persecuted, suffer violence, and even death, is truly horrifying,” he said.

“As Pope Francis has said, one in every seven Christians around the world suffer some form of persecution. We must remember that human beings are much more than statistics alone. With each number reported in the news, or in the research, there is a human person, a child of God.

“We know religious freedom is a basic human right, which we can sometimes take for granted in Australia. However, many of our brothers and sisters face incredible physical, mental, and spiritual battles as they strive to practice their faith.

“While these numbers are sadly growing each year, we must never lose hope. Our Christian faith will never be extinguished.”

Sandra Doueihi, Diocesan Outreach Assistant for Aid to the Church in Need also spoke on the night to speak more about the charity’s mission.

“Just last week, armed gunmen stormed into a seminary in Nigeria, firing gunshots into the air. They were abducting two seminarians when Father Thomas, the seminary rector, stepped in to save them. Fr Thomas bargained his capture for theirs. The gunmen let the seminarians go and took Fr Thomas captive, back to an unknown location. We have only just heard he has been released,” she said.

“I could tell you more, harrowing accounts. Forced marriages and conversions of women and girls. Abducted priests and bishops. Economic oppression and being treated as second-class citizens. Losing homes and livelihoods fleeing from violence. In their worsening conditions, in their desperation, they look to Christ on the Cross. Their faith, for which they suffer, is the faith that ACN supports in these times.

“ACN’s mission is to ‘keep the faith alive’ in places, communities that are under attack from violence, persecution, or poverty. We support the Church in places where she is unable to support herself – where the faith is at risk of being extinguished. Our focus is not on material aid but rather to strengthen the Church in its spiritual and pastoral care for its people.”

Aid to the Church in Need is the only international charity dedicated to the suffering of Christians wherever they are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need.

Almost 340 million Christians around the world – or 1 in every 7



Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood was illuminated in red.



people – cannot freely exercise their faith or live in a country where they suffer some form of persecution and oppression for their love of Jesus Christ.

Religious freedom is disregarded as a basic human right with many facing arbitrary arrest, violence and other human rights violations, injury and even death.

While ACN provides emergency relief, assisting parishes and homes, halls and shelters, to open to desperate families, it is always struggling to keep up with the growing needs.

However, unlike other charities which exist primarily to provide humanitarian and social relief, Aid to the Church in Need is a spiritual and pastoral charity which strives to keep the flame of

faith alive in places where it is at risk of extinction.

Their work receives no funding from the Church or Government; it is only made possible through the generous offering of individual Catholics.

In 2011, Pope Benedict XVI raised the charity to the level of Pontifical Foundation.





Hundreds gathered for a night of praise and worship.

## PraiseFest sets young hearts on fire

More than 200 teenagers and young adults flocked to Chatswood Parish on Friday, 15 November, for PraiseFest, setting their hearts on fire for God.

The event, which was supported by Mission Broken Bay and Vocations Broken Bay, drew in young people from across the Diocese to a night of worship and encounter with Christ.

The afternoon began with talks from Fr David Ranson, Parish Priest of Chatswood, and Deacon Adrian Gomez, aimed particularly at senior high schoolers. This was followed by a barbecue dinner before everyone moved into the Church to begin the praise and worship night.

Fr Sam French, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Broken Bay, addressed the students and young adults gathered, and welcomed them to the PraiseFest.

The young people also heard a talk from Sr Rita Baysari, a Schoenstatt Sister of Mary, who grew up in Sydney and after spending 10 years

in formation in Germany, returned to Sydney last year and is now based in Mulgoa.

This was followed by praise and worship music, and Eucharistic Adoration. Several priests also made themselves available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The night concluded with Compline (night prayer) supported by Broken Bay's seminarians.

The evening presented a wonderful time for young people from across the Diocese to come together for fellowship but also an encounter with Christ, which will hopefully ignite a passion to spread the Gospel to their friends and classmates.

The Chatswood Parish had only a few weeks earlier become home to a first-class relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis, who is set to be canonised next year. Blessed Carlo is adored by many young people, for modelling a holy life while also living as a teenager in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



Dinner is served!







## A Word from the Director of Schools



As we reflect on 2024, it is inspiring to see how Catholic Schools Broken Bay has embraced incredible growth, innovation and strengthened as a community. This year has been defined by remarkable achievements and highlights the talent and dedication of our students and staff.

The Religious Creative Arts Prize Showcase Concert celebrated our students incredible talents while also supporting the Eileen O'Connor Catholic School, with event proceeds supporting students with disabilities within our diocese.

The *Pathways & Partnerships* initiative has transformed learning into real-world application, connecting students with business leaders, scientists, artists and industry experts. Whether pitching solutions to community challenges or collaborating on creative projects, our students are stepping confidently into their futures.

This year's Public Speaking Grand Final showcased the leadership of our Year 6 students, while the amalgamation of our Swimming and Cross-Country Carnivals united Primary and Secondary students in vibrant, shared experiences. Our sporting calendar was further enriched

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**The *Pathways & Partnerships* initiative has transformed learning into real-world application, connecting students with business leaders, scientists, artists and industry experts.**

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**Samuel's journey is a testament to the exceptional Creative and Performing Arts opportunities that inspire students within our schools.**

by incredible achievements at NSW PSSA Athletics, with several students advancing to nationals.

We also proudly celebrate alumni success, with Samuel Harmon, a graduate of St Leo's Catholic College, taking the stage in the Sydney production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* showing at the Capitol Theatre. Samuel's journey is a testament to the exceptional Creative and Performing Arts opportunities that inspire students within our schools.

As we look to 2025, I am deeply grateful to our staff, families, and students for their dedication and passion. Together, we continue to inspire hearts and minds to know Christ, love learning, and be the very best we can be. Wishing you all a joyful Advent season and meaningful time with your loved ones.

Danny Casey  
Director of Schools

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### CONNECT WITH US

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#### CSBB WEBSITE

[csodbb.catholic.edu.au/](https://csodbb.catholic.edu.au/)

#### LOOKING FOR A CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN YOUR AREA

[csbb.catholic.edu.au/schools/find-a-school/](https://csbb.catholic.edu.au/schools/find-a-school/)

#### INTERESTED IN WORKING FOR US

[csbb.catholic.edu.au/careers/join-us](https://csbb.catholic.edu.au/careers/join-us)

#### STAY CONNECTED

If you have any news you would like to share with the CSBB Community, please email [comms@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:comms@dbb.catholic.edu.au)

We would love to hear from you.

## Broken Bay's Best Young Speakers

The Annual Catholic Schools Broken Bay Public Speaking Competition Grand Final was held at Sacred Heart Catholic School, Pymble, in Term 3, and what a spectacular showcase of talent was exhibited by each of our Finalists.

All 36 Primary schools in the Diocese and over 1000 Year 6 students competed in a school level public speaking competition where 12 outstanding Finalists emerged to compete at the diocesan level.

On the grand final evening, each Finalist delivered a 3-minute prepared speech, followed by a 3-minute impromptu speech. The adjudicators, which included Danny Casey, Director of Schools, Elizabeth Calabria, Strategy Lead for Student Achievement and Nathan Tilbury, Councillor at Hornsby Shire Council, were faced with an extraordinary level of talent and the difficult job of determining the winners.

Congratulations to Ilaria from Prouille Catholic Primary School, Wahroonga who came first, Abigail from Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Primary School, Forestville who

**It was a night to remember, filled with pride and inspiration. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible – from the students who gave their all and to the teachers and families who supported each child.**

came second, and Alyce from Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School, Shelly Beach who came third.

It was a night to remember, filled with pride and inspiration. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible – from the students who gave their all and to the teachers and families who supported each child. We are proud of the talented young people who each showed a remarkable ability to command the room.

Truly, it was an unforgettable experience for all.



2024 Diocesan Public Speaking Competition Grand Finalists.

## 2024 Religious Creative Arts Showcase

The 2024 Religious Creative Arts Competition brought together hundreds of students from across Catholic Schools Broken Bay, showcasing their remarkable talents across five categories: Dance, Drama, Music, Short Film, and Visual Arts. This year's theme, Joy, was inspired by Romans 15:13—"May the God of hope fill you with joy."—and was beautifully interpreted by students from Kindergarten to Year 10.

The competition culminated in a spectacular Showcase Concert held at Hornsby RSL on the 13th of November where the top finalists delivered performances that left the audience moved and inspired. Bishop Anthony Randazzo addressed the audience, highlighting the powerful role of the arts in sharing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and bearing witness to our faith. He encouraged the students to continue using their creative talents as a joyful expression of their faith and a way to inspire others.

One of the most anticipated moments of the night was the announcement of the Bishop's Choice Award, given to an outstanding artist chosen from all entries. This year the award went to Gabriel Oltiveros, Year 9 student from St Leo's Catholic College Wahroonga for his compelling short film, which captured the essence of joy through its powerful storytelling and emotive imagery.

The Showcase Concert also provided a meaningful platform to support a cause close to the diocese's heart. Proceeds from the event were directed to the Eileen O'Connor Catholic School that supports students with disability within our diocese. The connection between the joyful theme of the evening and the school's mission was brought to life by the heartfelt performance of Isaac Xu, a student from Eileen O'Connor School. His moving musical piece left the audience holding back tears, beautifully embodying the spirit of joy and making the evening's fundraiser all the more significant.

The success of the competition was bolstered by an esteemed panel of judges, each an expert in their field:

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**...this is a wonderful platform  
to elevate the artistic talents of  
our students in Broken Bay  
– Bishop Anthony.**



Bishop Anthony Randazzo, Danny Casey and Tony Gleeson with Short Film Winner, Gabriel Oltiveros.

- Kristina McNamara (Dance): A renowned choreographer and dance educator known for her work with youth dance programs across Australia.
- Danielle Irwin (Drama): A seasoned actor and drama coach with extensive experience in theatre and television.
- Scott Irwin (Short Film): A respected filmmaker and director, recognised for his innovative storytelling in both independent films and educational media.
- Genevieve Bryant (Music): An acclaimed singer-songwriter celebrated for her contributions to contemporary Catholic music and youth ministry.
- Mulga (Visual Art): A well-known Australian street artist famous for his bold, vibrant artworks and unique creative style.
- Mark Hopson (Visual Art): A visual artist and Eckersleys representative dedicated to community arts projects and nurturing young talent in visual arts.

The 2024 Religious Creative Arts Competition was a testament to the dedication of our teaching staff who encourage their students' creativity everyday and who played a crucial role in the event's success. We are deeply grateful for the visionary leadership of Bishop Anthony Randazzo and Director of Schools Danny Casey, creating this wonderful platform to elevate the artistic talents of our students in Broken Bay.





All winners



All winners Early Stage 1-Stage 2



Aidan Douglas  
St Leos Stage 4



Simon Hyland and  
Michael Paton



Eileen O'Connor School



Emily Chen  
St Martins Stage 2



Julian Williams  
St Marys Stage 1



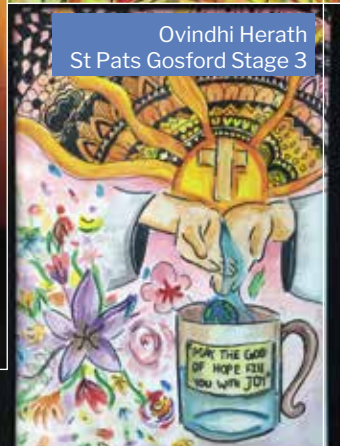
Indianna Malivanek  
Mater Maria Stage 5



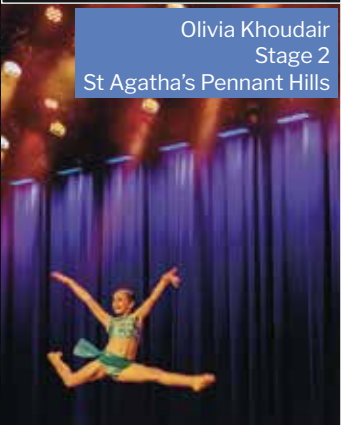
Leah Williams  
Stage 1 Music winner  
St Martin's Davidson with PEC



Mater Maria Students



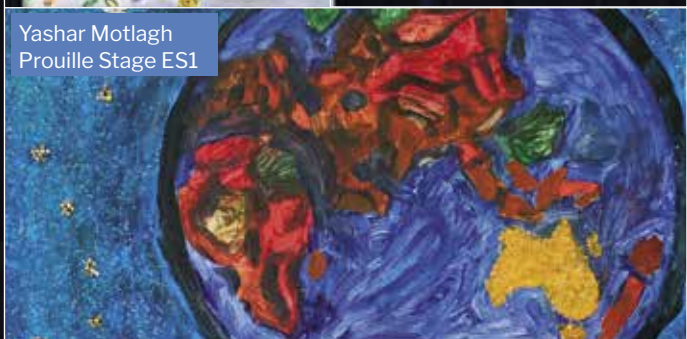
Ovindh Herath  
St Pats Gosford Stage 3



Olivia Khoudair  
Stage 2  
St Agatha's Pennant Hills



Students admiring the People's  
Choice Art Winner - Hudson  
Lim - St Rose Collaroy Stage 1



Yashar Motlagh  
Prouille Stage ES1



# Learning with Lasting Impact

## Pathways & Partnerships – Transforming Education into Real-World Application

Imagine a Year 10 student standing in front of a panel of business professionals, their voice steady and confident as they present an innovative solution to a real-world challenge. Nearby, a group of Year 9 students works collaboratively with local business partners, brainstorming creative strategies to tackle pressing community issues. In another corner of our schools, students are gathered around a leading scientist, discussing sustainable waste solutions, or listening intently to Indigenous leaders sharing wisdom about environmental stewardship. These are moments when learning in the classroom becomes an ignited spark of curiosity, inspiration and excitement for the future.

Across our schools, *Pathways & Partnerships* is transforming the way students engage with their education. Through carefully curated initiatives, students are stepping into spaces where their knowledge meets application. They're testing their ideas, exploring career possibilities, and connecting with professionals who challenge them to think critically and creatively. These experiences not only open doors to future opportunities but also instil confidence and resilience. For many, it's the first glimpse of how their passions and skills can shape their futures and make a tangible impact in the world.

For one of our students, it could be the thrill of taking the controls of a flight simulator, the satisfaction of solving a complex problem for a local business, or the pride of unveiling a collaborative art project, *Pathways & Partnerships* is about making learning meaningful. By bridging the gap between school, industry and community, students are gaining practical skills, building relationships and envisioning a future full of possibility.



St Brigid's Students with Water Install Station.



Here are some of the great initiatives occurring in our schools across last term

### Business & Commerce

- Year 10 business pitches partnering with North Challenge.
- Years 9 and 10 students partnered with local businesses to tackle solving business challenges with 'Enterprise in the Community' event.

### Science & Sustainability

- Science Week for Years 7-10 included activities, featuring Dr. Karl, ARC, Indigenous leaders and Performance Theatre.
- Year 9 students collaborated with CSIRO on a local STEM challenge focused on waste.

### Arts & Music

- Australian Army Band music workshop and live performance.
- Collaborative Art Mural Project with a local artist – exploring careers in visual arts and community projects.
- Year 6 Art Gallery of NSW where students connected art studies to career possibilities and showcased work in a family exhibition.

### Design

- Year 11 & 12 students explored design, production and fashion during tours at JMC Academy and Whitehouse Institute.
- Year 7 students collaborated with an urban planner, applying their knowledge to install a water refill station at school.



### Aviation

- Sydney Flight Centre at Bankstown Airport where students visited and toured aircraft, experienced flight simulators and explored aviation careers.



Mater Maria Students with aircraft.

### Food Technology

- Year 12 students visited KPMG and East Coast Beverages for hands-on industry insights on sustainable business practice.



Mater Maria Student in Simulator.

## Designing Solutions in a Natural Disasters through Virtual Reality Technology

Year 5 and 6 students at Our Lady of the Perpetual Succour Primary School (OLPS) are piloting in an exciting STEM pilot project in partnership with **edgedVR**. The students are learning Science-Technology curriculum outcomes related to Natural Disasters through the lens of Virtual Reality Technology. The VR provides an immersive interactive interface where the students can explore and develop their knowledge and understanding of the content. Our students were challenged to design solutions to reduce the impact

of natural disasters on human populations. This design thinking exercise generated great excitement and a deeply creative range of solution prototypes using VR.

This pilot study aims to measure the impact of VR Technology on learner engagement as well as on curriculum knowledge and understanding. This pilot is part of the **Catholic Schools Broken Bay Pathways and Partnerships Program**.



### Want to be involved?

Through *Pathways & Partnerships*, our students are discovering their strengths, connecting with their communities and finding inspiration to dream big and achieve what they set their minds to. Would you or your business want to be involved in mentoring our students to be the best they can be? Express your interest [here](#)



# Samuel Harmon Takes the Stage in *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Congratulations to past CSBB student, Samuel Harmon, playing in the ensemble of the upcoming production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Capitol Theatre, Sydney. Samuel is also the Understudy for both Jesus, Pilate and Peter characters.

Samuel previously attended St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga, Class of 2018, and graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (Dip in Musical Theatre).

St Leo's Catholic College has had a very strong tradition and background in producing professional and a very high standard of musicals as part of their Creative and Performing Arts program. Whilst a student at St Leo's, Samuel had lead roles in the College's productions of *High School Musical*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

Since graduating NIDA, Sam has also appeared in *Rent* as a cover, an understudy in *The Marvellous Elephant Man*, in the *Metropolis* ensemble, Harry in *Kinky Boots*, and Justin Bieber in *The Bieber Fever Tribute Show*.

To see Samuel in the production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Capitol Theatre, Sydney, get your tickets now at [jesuschristsuperstarmusical.com.au](http://jesuschristsuperstarmusical.com.au) and to read more



Samuel Harmon.

about our Secondary Schools, and their Creative and Performing Arts programs please visit our **website**.



Australian Cast of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.



## Sporting highlights in 2024

With a vision to streamline our programs for all students in Primary and Secondary in 2024, we ambitiously undertook the amalgamation of our representative carnivals for Swimming and Cross Country. This initiative allowed our Primary CSBB students to compete in pathway events with their Secondary counterparts showing them how it's done, as well as providing a fantastic opportunity for families with students in both Primary and Secondary schools to be present at the one event. We had the privilege of hosting these multi-age events at exceptional venues, including the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre for swimming and Gosford Racecourse for cross country. Our Director of Schools, Danny Casey, joined us to make race announcements and



experience these inaugural events in person. Embracing the combined approach, we also introduced new awards across both, along with new uniforms that were both well-received and visually strong!



### Broken Bay Golf Championships

A standout event in our sporting calendar is the annual Golf Championships. This year, we extended the invitation to include Year 5 and 6 students, providing even more opportunities across our system. We were also privileged to welcome Seminarian Rosan Mathew, who joined us to support our students and participate on the course!

### Broken Bay Success at NSW PSSA Athletics

At the recent NSW PSSA Athletics Championships, Catholic Schools Broken Bay was represented by 60 primary students as members of the NSW Catholic Primary Schools Polding team. Following two days of tough competition, Broken Bay achieved some exceptional results including the following students who placed in the top 5 in NSW in their events:

- Leanne Barayuga: Sacred Heart, Mona Vale – 11yrs girls 200m final (5th); 11yrs girls 100m final (3rd)
- Archie Bowring: St Joseph's, Narrabeen – 8yrs boys 100m (2nd)
- Alexia Gavid: St Brendan's, Lake Munmorah – Junior girls discus (5th); Junior girls shot put (2nd)
- Tommy Kay: Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, West Pymble – Jnr boys shot put (1st); Jnr boys discus (3rd)
- Lachlan Reid: Our Lady of the Rosary, Waitara – Jnr boys MC Shot put (3rd); 2 new records in Jnr Boys TF57 class
- Rain Ross: St Brendan's, Lake Munmorah – 11yrs long jump (2nd)
- Benjamin Sullivan: Holy Cross, Kincumber – Jnr boys shot put (3rd)

- Isla Talaese: St Joseph's, Narrabeen – 9yrs girls 100m (2nd)
- Evelyn Vale: St John the Apostle, Narraweena – Junior girls 800m (5th); Junior girls 1500m (5th)
- Abbie Weir: Sacred Heart, Mona Vale – 9 yrs girls 100m (1st)

Tommy, Benjamin, Leanne, Lachlan, Alexia and Rain will further represent as members of the NSW team at Nationals later this year.

Some wonderful achievements by Broken Bay students!



# Broken Bay joins the world in praying for peace

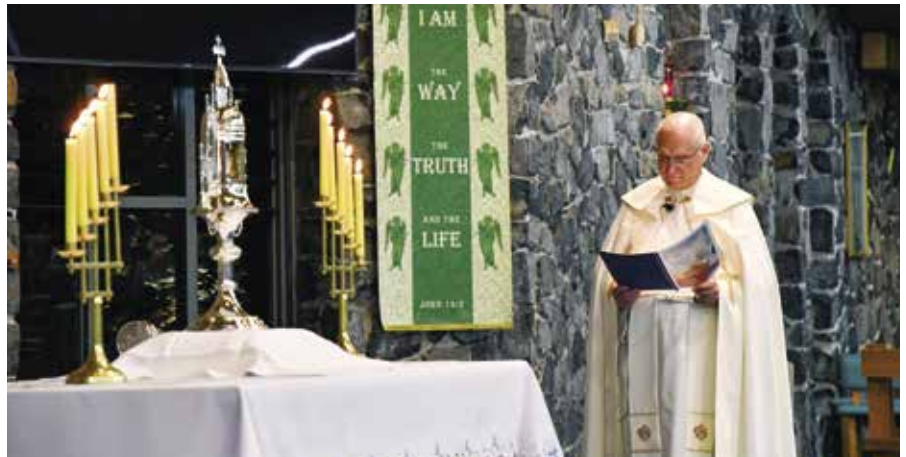
The faithful from across the Diocese of Broken Bay joined in a chorus of prayers from across the globe, asking for peace in the Middle East, as the war in the region continues more than a year on from the tragic October 7 attacks on Israel.

More than 100 people from across the Diocese came together at the Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara, on October 7, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, to pray the rosary, asking for the intercession of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, and Our Lady, Queen of Peace.

The prayers were led by Father David Ranson, Vicar General of the Diocese of Broken Bay, in the absence of Bishop Anthony Randazzo, who was in Rome for the Synod on Synodality.

Fr David began the Vigil of Prayer by reading out a message from Bishop Anthony, thanking those who joined for the liturgy.

The Blessed Sacrament was exposed for the duration of the liturgy, as the gathered faithful lifted up their prayers to God, asking for an end to violence and peace to reign over the Holy Lands.



Fr David Ranson led the prayer vigil.

The five Decades of the Rosary were interspersed with reflections about peace, the Gospel reading and Prayers of the Faithful.

The Vigil of Prayer concluded with Benediction, then the Salve Regina hymn once the Blessed Sacrament had been reposed.

The people of Broken Bay joined their prayers with those around the world, as Catholics in every corner of the globe heeded the Pope's call to pray for peace in the Middle East.

Early in October Pope Francis had called for a day of prayer and

fasting on October 7, the one-year anniversary of the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.

"In this dramatic hour of our history," the Pope said, 'while the winds of war and the fires of violence continue to devastate entire peoples and nations,' the Christian community is reminded of its call to 'put itself at the service of humanity.'

"Let us walk together. Let us listen to the Lord. And let us be led by the breeze of the Spirit."

Over in Rome, Bishop Anthony and Kelly Paget also participated in praying for peace. The Synod on Synodality marked the Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace with a special moment dedicated to the first anniversary of Hamas' brutal attack on Israel.

Before the morning session on October 7, the participants engaged in a time of prayer and "a moment of heartfelt participation in the suffering of people in the Middle East". The participants were also asked to donate and collectively they raised €62,000 (\$100,000) for the Catholic parish of the Holy Family in Gaza.



Broken Bay united its prayers with the rest of the world.



# A culture of safeguarding commitment

Safeguarding Broken Bay has received the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) Audit Certificate – and congratulations for its culture of commitment.

The Board of Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL) and its Audit Review Committee confirmed the Diocese’s first external Audit Report had been fulfilled.

The Diocese of Broken Bay is the first Diocese in Australia to have a NCSS Audit completed by an external auditor listed on ACSL’s NCSS Auditor Register.

The audit assessed the extent to which the Diocese had developed and embedded indicators that reflect a safe and secure safeguarding culture.

Bishop Anthony reported that 100% of the relevant NCSS indicators were developed and 96% of those already embedded in the Diocese.

The report noted that “the Diocese’s



approach to safeguarding is characterized by strong leadership, robust governance and mature systems and practices. This approach exceeds compliance and consists of proactively embedding the NCSS standards in everyday practice.”

Bishop Anthony paid tribute to all those who had been engaged in the Audit process with generosity and

diligence, including Chancery, clergy, and parish personnel.


The Diocese has committed to implementing the recommendations by the end of 2025.

*The audit report is available on both the **Diocese of Broken Bay Safeguarding Website** and the **ACSL website***


**“Connecting to the Mission of Jesus Christ!”**  
**THANK YOU!**

“Your kindness and generosity in supporting our Pastoral Works Broken Bay Appeal is greatly appreciated and will make a difference to many families. I am deeply grateful for your ongoing support.”

**Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL Bishop of Broken Bay**





**Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD)**



**Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care**

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## A word from the Executive Director of CatholicCare



Tim Curran.

The 2023/24 financial year began with a flurry of positive activity. We made good progress with our plans to build two new early learning centres and a domestic violence refuge with funding from the NSW Government. We established new programs and service locations across our Permanency Support Program, Disability & NDIS Supports, Children's Services and Seniors Services, and we finalised important ICT, workforce development, marketing and quality improvement projects.

**We established new programs and service locations across our Permanency Support Program, Disability & NDIS Supports, Children's Services and Seniors Services, and we finalised important ICT, workforce development, marketing and quality improvement projects.**

The Federal Government also announced helpful policy and funding reforms such as the Housing Australia Future Fund, a 15% payrise for aged care workers, additional funding for women and children fleeing domestic violence, and the recommendations arising from the NDIS Review pointed to a more hopeful future for NDIS participants and "legitimate" providers.

There were of course challenges too, such as the dire housing crisis and worsening cost-of-living pressures which increased demand for many of our support services, but there was a strong sense of progress and optimism within our organisation and across the social and community services sector more broadly.

As the year progressed, we encountered more-and-more obstacles though. Planning barriers slowed or completely derailed our capital development projects. Delays in the roll-out of new funding promised by Governments hindered our ability to meet the drastically increasing demand for homelessness, domestic violence and mental health services. Funding indexation from our Government funding bodies fell well short of the increased costs of delivering services. And surviving as a legitimate provider under the NDIS became even more difficult due to the volatile and inadequate prices paid to providers, and the mayhem caused by unscrupulous service providers.

Taken together, these factors combined to cause alarm and uncertainty at leadership levels within CatholicCare. Managers and staff were required to devote significant amounts of time and energy to wading through bureaucratic red tape, implementing cost containment

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measures, and continually reprioritising projects and initiatives, deferring many, and abandoning some.

Fortunately, despite these unhelpful distractions, our incredible teams of staff and volunteers were able to continue doing the most important things – supporting, educating, encouraging, equipping and advocating for our clients and participants. The many testimonies and case studies in our latest annual report serve to highlight how incredibly well they did this work.

I thank them for their wonderful efforts throughout the year.

**DOWNLOAD ANNUAL REPORT**





We are the social care agency of the  
Catholic Church in the Diocese of Broken Bay

*CatholicCare*  
Diocese of Broken Bay

CatholicCare works alongside our parishes and Catholic Schools Broken Bay, as another organisation within the Diocese, also reporting to Bishop Anthony.

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# Reconnecting isolated seniors with the outside world

When 99-year-old Oi Mei first met Winnie, she finally had someone with whom she could share stories in her native tongue. As a fellow Cantonese speaker who was born in Hong Kong, Winnie was able to appreciate and resonate with Oi Mei's experiences in a special way. They have formed a bond that has enriched each of their lives.

Winnie volunteers with CatholicCare's Aged Care Volunteers Visitors Scheme (ACVVS), where volunteers spend time developing friendships, having a chat and sharing a cuppa. The one-on-one visiting scheme matches volunteers from the local community with seniors who are socially isolated and in need of companionship.

Research shows older Australians are more likely to experience social isolation and loneliness than any other demographic. Add language and cultural barriers to the mix, and that

feeling of segregation from society can become all consuming.

Winnie visits Oi Mei once a fortnight and they chat about everything – from food to religion to her fellow residents at the nursing home! "It doesn't have to always be something serious," Winnie said. "It's all about having the company of another person and having someone to share stories with."

Winnie recalls the moment that Oi Mei learnt she could speak Cantonese with her. "She'd never had a visitor who could speak to her in her native tongue. She was so happy."

For Winnie, the close connection she has formed with Oi Mei has given her greater empathy.

"It is easy to focus on the stress and be overwhelmed in our own lives, that we forget the experiences of others," Winnie says. "I am inspired to

keep giving back to the community. One day we will all be in aged care or something similar and we would want someone to invest their time into us."

Another of our volunteers Barbara, agrees that volunteering has increased her empathy. "I've noticed how easy it is to become selfish, especially when you are newly retired and can do whatever you want with your time. It's good to do something like this to remind me that there are people who don't enjoy the same freedom I do."

Barbara has been visiting Dawn in her nursing home since 2018 and recalls the impact of the COVID-19 lockdowns on Dawn's physical and emotional wellbeing. "During the lockdowns, Dawn was restricted to her room, and she lost her ability to walk. After COVID she needed a wheelchair to get her out and about, but she is slowly regaining her ability to walk."

Barbara says that Dawn always seems genuinely pleased to see her and they like to chat about films. "She is very bright and will often research the movies I have seen."

Slowly but surely, the Aged Care Volunteers Visitors Scheme is reconnecting seniors with the outside world, and it is an enriching experience for all involved.

*Can you spare one hour a fortnight to visit a senior via the ACVVS affectionately referred to as CatholicCare's friendship program? Grow a new connection and bring companionship and happiness. Visiting times are flexible, and training and support are provided. If you have any questions, please call Sandra on (02) 9481 2600 or email [info@catholiccareddb.au](mailto:info@catholiccareddb.au).*





# How to talk to someone going through a difficult time

“It’s all about compassion, empathy and active listening when talking to someone who is going through a hard time,” says Peter Brown who works as a Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Manager at CatholicCare.

For Peter, he looks to Jesus and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop as models of compassion. Both walked in the shoes of those who were suffering, which is the first and fundamental step in helping someone during their darkest hours.

Inspired by the work of Brené Brown, Peter emphasises the importance of empathy when you are talking to someone going through a difficult time. Empathy fuels connection. Peter explains that to connect with others, “I have to connect with something in myself that knows that feeling.” When a person is sharing their thoughts and troubles with you, Peter says that it is important to avoid ‘silver-linings’ and trying to ‘make things better.’ What makes things better, Peter says, is connection.

Peter offers some practical tips for



talking to someone who is going through a difficult time:

- Pay attention to your body language – use eye contact and open postures rather than folding your arms or crossing your legs.
- Presence – ensure that you are fully present to the person by removing distractions such as phones.
- Openness – set aside your own judgements and be open to what the person has to say.

- Focus – hear what the person is saying, rather than focusing on how you will respond.
- Understand your own vulnerability and limitations.
- Refer on if needed.

*CatholicCare offers a range of services to support people during challenging times in their lives. To find out more please visit [www.catholiccareddb.org.au](http://www.catholiccareddb.org.au) or call us on 1800 324 924.*

## OUR RECENT DIOCESAN FUNDRAISER RAISED

**\$94K**

Thank you to our parishioners and school families for these much needed funds. This important fundraiser shines a spotlight on the reality of homelessness across our Diocese and allows CatholicCare to continue providing housing and homelessness supports to those in need.



# Oceania rocks the boat

Members of Oceania took their collective voice to the Vatican's Synod on Synodality highlighting much-needed support for the region's unique challenges.

This included the announcement of the Migrant and Refugee Oceania Network to serve as a unifying voice in the vast Pacific region.

The network will provide pastoral, practical and better employment and health care support for thousands of migrant workers, refugees and their families in the region.

Bishop Anthony, who is also President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conference in Oceania (FCBCO), announced details of the Network in Rome with leaders from the four episcopal conferences of Oceania, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC), the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference (NZCBC), Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (PNGSI), and the Episcopal Conference of the Pacific (CEPAC). Also present were the non-bishop delegates making up the Oceania representation at the Synod, and the first Nigerian priest to complete his formation in the Queensland seminary and now the Undersecretary of the Vatican's



Members of the FCBCO and non-bishop delegates at the announcement of the Migrant and Refugee Oceania Network in Rome.

Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Monsignor Anthony Ekpo.

Oceania covers a vast area of the Pacific with approximately 41 million people with international migrants making up almost 22 percent of the population, over a million of those originating in Oceania staying within the region.

"This is what a Synodal Church looks like where words are supported by actions that foster and generate real human relationships, a region not on the periphery but a region in which we live and work together in solidarity, making sure no-one is forgotten," Bishop Anthony said.

"The key focus of synodality is one of listening, dialogue, and discernment, and that is very much the essential part of our shared journey in Oceania where every voice matters.

"The hopes of Oceania are as vast and diverse as the region itself. From the smallest, most remote islands to bustling cities, the voices of the people of God are united in their longing for a Church that listens, heals, and walks alongside them in their journey of faith.

"This is how we can lead by example, calling others back to the Christian faith, not because we are dominant or powerful, but because we are walking with our brothers and sisters in Christ."

In 2025 the Migrant and Refugee Oceania Network will meet to identify the most urgent problems and structure programs to respond to and protect the needs of the region, and through advocacy pathways raise the voice of the region at international levels.

"This will lead to renewal, unity, and a future filled with hope," Bishop Anthony said.



Oceania delegates with Pope Francis at the closing of the Synod on Synodality.



# A Journey of discernment and renewal

Three years ago, marking the Diocese's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Bishop Anthony invited everyone to discern new pathways for growth and renewal.

Central to this vision has been the *Regional Pastoral Discernment* initiative, a strategic and prayerful process aimed at understanding and responding to the unique pastoral circumstances, opportunities, and challenges of each Deanery within the Diocese.

Over the past three years, this significant initiative has engaged the communities of the Central Coast, Northern Beaches, and North Shore Deaneries, seeking to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for the Church in Broken Bay.

## A Deanery-specific approach

The Central Coast was the first to embark on this journey in mid-2021, concluding in 2022 with the release of a *Pastoral Letter* from Bishop Anthony. Following this, the Northern Beaches commenced its discernment project in early 2024, with a Final Report now being prepared for Bishop Anthony's prayerful discernment and consideration.

Most recently, the North Shore Deanery began its project in August 2024, with the community engagement phase underway since September. This engagement phase has seen North Shore parishes, schools and CatholicCare agencies host *Consultation Forums*, bringing together community members to share their perspectives and hopes for the future of our Church. These gatherings have recently culminated in a *Conversation Forum*, where participants reflected on key themes emerging from the process, united in prayerful listening and dialogue.

The North Shore project also provided staff, students and parents the opportunity to think deeply about the changing needs of people and the opportunities that might be present for the Church of Broken Bay to respond.

"The Conversations of the Spirit methodology was initially challenging; we have forgotten in the business of our lives how to stop, listen, and be comfortable with pauses and silence," Brenda Timp, Principal of Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood said.

"Staff and student participants

particularly enjoyed having allocated time to slow down in order to listen deeply. The process also supported participants to feel empowered to say what was in their heart in a supportive and inclusive 'circle'.

"At Mercy, we were so blessed to have a number of parishioners join us as table facilitators for our staff discernment, and this created a new sense of communion between staff and parishioners."

## Guided by the Spirit

Reflecting on his experiences, Bishop Anthony shared insights from the global Synod, noting: "I was deeply moved by the profound sense of communion that permeated the synodal process, and the clarity with which the Holy Spirit is calling us to walk together as a Church that listens and discerns together."

This sentiment was echoed by Patti Beattie, Head of Pastoral Discernment & Accompaniment who emphasised the transformative potential of this initiative. "It has been a privileged opportunity to walk with the People of God in each of our three Deanery regions, listening to the voices of those who have participated and learning about the unique contexts that give each of our regions their particular character. The rich and diverse voices gathered through listening and dialogue will bear fruit for generations to come."

## A Future Filled with Hope

The Pastoral Discernment projects exemplify the Diocese's commitment to ensuring a thriving and sustainable Church community, built on faith and firmly rooted in communion, participation, and mission.



The Pastoral Discernment projects covered all three Deaneries with parishioners invited to contribute.

# St Paul's celebrates the past and plans for the future

St Paul's Catholic College Manly celebrated 95 years of excellence in November, a significant milestone in continuing educational excellence, community, and tradition on the Northern Beaches.

However, the College, one of the 45 Schools operated by Catholic Schools Broken Bay, also has its eyes on the future as it prepares to welcome girls to the school next year and transitions to a co-educational model.

The College has also broken new ground with the appointment of its first female principal to lead the change.

Since its founding in 1929, St Paul's, previously Christian Brothers College has proudly nurtured generations of young men to grow in knowledge, faith, and character.

The decision to transition to a co-educational model in 2025 reflects the college's commitment to adapting to the evolving needs of families in the area and supports the College's vision of providing an inclusive and enriched environment where all students, are encouraged to reach their full potential.



Students and staff celebrated the College's 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"St Paul's Catholic College has a long and proud legacy, and this transition marks an important new chapter. The values of faith, compassion, and courage that define St Paul's will be shared by all students, creating a truly welcoming environment for all. I look forward to seeing how these changes will enrich not only the school community but also the broader Northern Beaches," Bishop Anthony told the gathering of staff, students and alumni following Mass at the College.

Director of Catholic Schools Broken Bay, Danny Casey added, "We are thrilled to see our community's

support for this historic step. "Moving to co-education is about enhancing our community, providing greater options for Northern Beaches families, and fostering an environment where all students can thrive together."

The new senior co-education cohort was to begin next year with Year 7 and 11, however due to community interest the College will now welcome girls in years 7, 10 and 11.

The new chapter in the College's history also begins with the appointment of Ms Gabie Stojanovski. Originally an HSIE Coordinator and RE teacher at the College, Ms Stojanovski now returns as Principal – something she likened to "coming home". With high enrolments confirmed for the four co-educational years in 2025, Ms Stojanovski will lead the school into its next phase of growth and development, reinforcing St Paul's commitment to diversity, innovation, and strengthening its role in the Northern Beaches educational landscape. She will also oversee planning for the College's centenary celebrations in 2029 while looking forward to the first co-educational graduating class.



Bishop Anthony welcomed the new Principal from 2025, Ms Gabie Stojanovski who will lead the transition to a co-educational St Paul's College.





# CCD Celebrates Special Religious Education

By Alison Newell

On Saturday, 16 November, SRE catechists from across Broken Bay gathered with the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) to celebrate their ministry for 2024.

SRE catechists teach religious education to Catholic students in the public schools of the Diocese and bring them a message of Good News and hope.

The day began with a memorial for deceased catechists where family members and friends joined with CCD to honour their deceased relatives and the huge contribution they had made to teaching and witnessing to Catholic children and young people about the love of God.

This was followed by a celebration of the Eucharist where the Vicar General of the Diocese of Broken Bay, Fr David Ranson, invited catechists to a renewal of commitment to their



Catechists from across the Diocese gathered.

ministry. The Mass was concelebrated by a number of Parish Priests from across the diocese who gathered to show support for the catechists.

The liturgy was enhanced with beautiful hymns and music and the proclamation of the Word which focused on the spread of the Gospels. In his homily, Fr David spoke of planting seeds and trusting that, although catechists may not see the fruit of their work, God will continue to be active in the lives of the students.

Following the Mass, awards were presented to catechists in two categories – Accreditation and Years of Service. The Diocese of Broken Bay Special Religious Education Diploma was awarded to four catechists who completed all three levels of the CCD Training and Formation course which contains 38 modules of training.

This year 36 awards were presented for 15 years of service and above. The most prominent award of the day went to Robyn Nevin from Gosford Parish for 60 years of service as an SRE catechist. Other significant awards

went to Maria Sproats from Terrigal Parish, for 45 years of service and Carol Real from The Lakes Parish for 40 years of service. Congratulations go to all award recipients for their commitment to the students.

The Ministry of SRE is a significant outreach to Catholic students and their families. It provides students with a safe space to explore their faith in the school classroom during school hours. SRE is a major contribution to students' spiritual well-being and offers unity in diversity in our public school system within the multi-faith and multi-cultural society of New South Wales.

CCD Broken Bay has set the benchmark when it comes to SRE in the state. CCD Broken Bay's primary school SRE curriculum *Walking with Jesus* received an award for curriculum excellence from the Minister for Education, Prue Car, at a recent celebration of SRE held at Parliament House.

*Alison Newell is the Head of CCD Broken Bay*



# Bishop Anthony celebrates 5 years as shepherd of Broken Bay

Bishop Anthony Randazzo said he was overjoyed to be back with the people of Broken Bay as he celebrated five years of being their shepherd, after returning from a month in Rome for the Synod on Synodality.

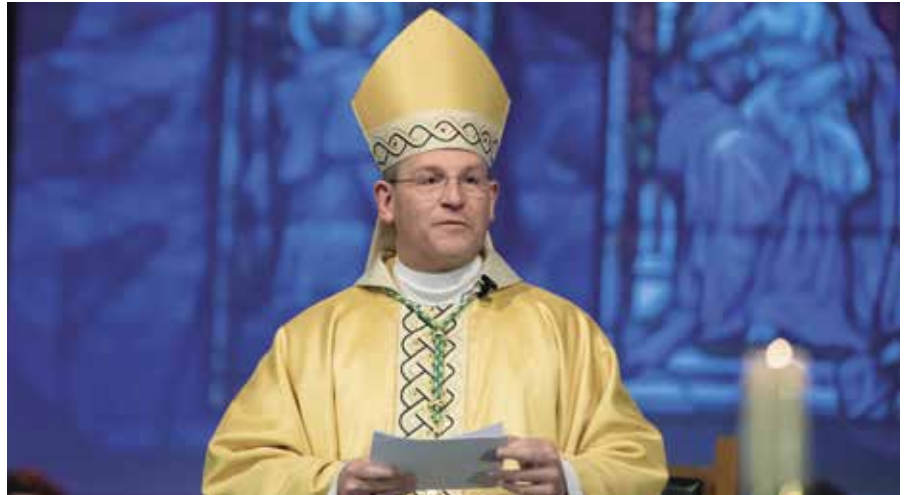
Celebrating the morning Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara on Sunday, 3rd November, the eve of the five-year anniversary of his installation as Bishop of Broken Bay, Bishop Anthony said he had missed being among his people.

“It’s so good to be back with the people that God has entrusted to my pastoral care,” he said during the Mass.

“While I prayed for you a lot while I was away, I missed you terribly. You don’t know how much I missed you.”

Bishop Anthony was installed as Bishop of Broken Bay on 4 November 2019, the Feast of Saint Charles Borromeo, the patron saint of bishops. The ceremony was attended by thousands from across the Diocese who welcomed a new shepherd after more than a year without a Bishop.

The first two years of his episcopacy within the Diocese were marked by COVID-19 lockdowns, a tough time for



Bishop Anthony at his Installation in 2019.

the Church, where people were not able to gather, receive the Sacraments or celebrate Mass in person.

Since then, he has shown a strong desire for the Diocese of Broken Bay to be one filled with a love of Christ, welcoming and listening to all, particularly to those who are vulnerable or sometimes overlooked.

He has also been entrusted with many other responsibilities during his time as Bishop of Broken Bay.

In February 2023, he was elected President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania and in July 2023, he was

appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross.

In his homily on the eve of the five-year anniversary, Bishop Anthony said he wanted the Diocese of Broken Bay to recommit to its mission, to spread the Good News and bring the Gospel to others.

“We must commit ourselves to Christ and to journey, listening to one another, sharing our experiences, our joys, our struggles, our hopes, our fears, and encouraging one another to grow in faith and love,” he said.

“As you’ve heard me say on many occasions over these past five years, we are called to be a beacon of hope and a testament to the love of Christ. Let us reflect on how we, as individuals and as a community, can embrace this call to rebirth in Christ.”

He closed the Mass by thanking those who had gathered for joining him to mark the occasion.

Following the Mass, Bishop Anthony mingled with the people and enjoyed an anniversary cake.



Bishop Anthony celebrating five years as Bishop of Broken Bay.



# A time of spiritual renewal in Africa

**By Fr Stephen Wayoyi Omwanda AJ**

A few months ago, I had an opportunity of travelling through the heart of East and South Africa. It was a beautiful time of relaxation, spiritual renewal and awesome discovery. An invitation to moments of gratitude, wonder and reflection.

The journey commenced in Kenya a country that considers itself the pride of Africa. As I travelled by road to the village, it was an eight-hour adventure of breathtaking view of changing landscape from plains to the great East African Rift Valley with its various ranges and lakes. Its vastness and depth stretched before me like a divine masterpiece. Inspiring me to think of Psalm 24:1, "To God belong the earth and all it contains, the world and all who live there."

After a few days with my family, I travelled to Uganda, a country that considers itself the pearl of Africa. There in Jinja I had an opportunity of seeing two massive bodies of water, River Nile considered the longest river in Africa and Lake Victoria the largest lake in Africa. The calm yet powerful flow of these waters seemed a living symbol of God's providence nourishing all that it touches. I couldn't resist thinking of Psalm 42: "Like a

deer that yearns for running streams so my soul yearns for you". From there I travelled a few kilometers ahead to the Uganda Martyrs Shrine, a pilgrim site that reminds us of the cost of discipleship. We were lucky it wasn't in the month of June when many pilgrims from all over the world gather to commemorate the martyrs who gave their lives for their faith.

From Uganda I headed to Tanzania a country that considers itself the brain (Bongo) of Africa. There I headed to Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest caldera. Its vastness and beauty left me speechless. It was a place where humans and animals coexisted in harmony. It was amazing how the Maasai community could graze alongside the elephants and buffalos. This reality made Pope Francis' integral ecology of *Laudato Si* very much alive and tangible. From Ngorongoro (a Maasai name that means cowbell) we headed to Serengeti National Park most famous for one of the 7 Wonders of the World, the migration of the wildebeest. Although I wasn't lucky to witness this migration, there were other rewards like tempting the wildcats in their natural habitats such as lions, leopards and cheetahs. It was both thrilling and humbling. A gentle reminder of God's power and



Fr Stephen says his trip was a time of renewal.

creativity inviting us to praise Him as in the cosmic Psalm 148. After busy interaction with the wild we decided to come back to the tame environment of Zanzibar where under the shade of a coconut tree you could watch the mesmerizing perfect sunset and once again be drawn to praising God from the rising of the sun to its setting. Psalm 113:3

Of course, apart from engaging with nature, I also had an opportunity to spend some time with my family. Together we travelled to Limpopo in South Africa where we joined my brother in celebrating 25 years of his priestly ministry. It was a wonderful occasion that lasted for nearly a week. I couldn't keep up with their dance moves so I have realized probably I should take some dance lessons in preparation for his 50<sup>th</sup> – God willing.

In a nutshell my holiday was more than just a vacation. It was a cocktail of peace and beauty coupled with sacred moments of prayer and reflection, a rich transformative experience that I would recommend others to undertake.

*Fr Stephen Wayoyi Omwanda AJ is the Assistant Priest at St Agatha's Church, Pennant Hills and the Assistant Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Broken Bay.*



Fr Stephen with family and friends.

# Pope Francis publishes encyclical on the Sacred Heart

Pope Francis has published a new encyclical entitled *Dilexit nos* (“He loved us”) focusing on the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The 141-page encyclical is the fourth of his 11-year pontificate, following 2013’s *Lumen fidei* (co-written with Benedict XVI), 2015’s *Laudato si’*, and 2020’s *Fratelli tutti*.

Papal encyclicals are documents sent by the Pope as a kind of pastoral letter concerning Catholic doctrine, usually addressed to patriarchs, primates, archbishops and bishops of the Church.

The encyclical *Dilexit nos* is divided into five chapters. The first chapter focuses on the importance of the heart, with Pope Francis saying in this time of great social and technological upheaval, we once again needed to start speaking about the heart. “In this age of artificial intelligence, we cannot forget that poetry and love are necessary to save our humanity,” he wrote.

The short second chapter focuses on the concrete actions and words of Christ which reveal His love for humanity.

In the third chapter, the Holy Father says the devotion to Jesus’ Sacred Heart is not merely a devotion to a bodily organ, but instead, the contemplation of the whole Jesus Christ. “The expressive and symbolic image of Christ’s heart is not the only means granted us by the Holy Spirit for encountering the love of Christ, yet it is ... an especially privileged one,” he writes. He also invited people to use the devotion to the Sacred Heart to combat the rise in secularisation.

The fourth chapter works through the history of the devotion to Christ’s heart, leading up to the revelations received by French nun Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 17<sup>th</sup> century which popularised the devotion. He said the enduring strength of the devotion shows it is not “an admirable relic from the past” but rather “a fine spirituality suited to other times.”

In the final chapter, Pope Francis

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**“The expressive and symbolic image of Christ’s heart is not the only means granted us by the Holy Spirit for encountering the love of Christ, yet it is ... an especially privileged one”**

considers how people can respond to this encounter with Christ’s loving heart. “Christ’s love can give a heart to our world and revive love wherever we think that the ability to love has been definitively lost,” he said. He added the Church also needed this love, “lest the love of Christ be replaced with outdated structures and concerns, excessive attachment to our own ideas and opinions, and fanaticism in any number of forms.”

Pope Francis’ encyclical is just the latest in a line of encyclical dedicated to the Sacred Heart.

Pope Pius XII’s 1956 encyclical *Haurietis aquas* focuses on the devotion to the Sacred Heart and how people could be transformed by an encounter with it. Pope Pius XI’s 1928 *Miserentissimus Redemptor* raised the importance of the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a day of reparation. And Pope Leo XIII’s 1899 *Annum sacrum* consecrated the whole human race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The full encyclical has been published in Arabic, German, English, Spanish, French, Italian, Polish and Portuguese and is available on the Holy See’s website.



The image of Christ’s heart is an “especially privileged” way of encountering Christ’s love.



# Faith into the Future: A collaboration between Vocations and Catholic Schools Broken Bay

By Fr Sam French

On 19 November 2024, the Diocese of Broken Bay celebrated the resounding success of its inaugural *Faith into the Future* Vocations Fair. This collaborative initiative between Vocations Broken Bay and the Evangelisation Team in Catholic Schools Broken Bay offered over 100 students from across the Diocese a transformative opportunity to explore their faith and vocation beyond the classroom.

The day began prayerfully, as the different religious orders, university chaplaincies, and mission organisations gathered early in the Cathedral Parish for Mass at 8:30 am.

At 9:00 am, the students arrived at the Light of Christ Centre and were greeted by a hall bustling with activity. A prayerful musical introduction set the joyful tone for the day, and the stalls showcased an incredible array of Catholic organisations, from religious orders like the Jesuits, Franciscans, Augustinians, and Missionaries of Charity, to gap-year missionary



A number of religious were also in attendance.



Fr Sam joins various religious at the Vocations Fair.

programs such as the Youth Mission Team and the Cardoner Network. University chaplaincies from ACU, Notre Dame, and others stood alongside Campion College, offering pathways for students to nurture their faith as they transition to life after school.

Bishop Anthony officially opened the fair with a welcoming address, reminding students of their unique calling within the Body of Christ. Following this, Fr Sam French delivered the keynote address, encouraging the students to consider their deeper calling beyond career aspirations, challenging them to ask, "Where is God calling me to serve?" The talk focused on drawing out the clear distinction that "a career is something we choose, but a vocation is given to us by God. It's our pathway to heaven—a life of meaning, purpose, and joy that endures."

Next came a Q&A panel featuring Friar Harry Chan (Franciscan), Sr Gigi (Augustinian), Fr Robin Konig (Jesuit), and Sr Ignacia (Missionary of Charity). Each panellist shared the twists and turns, joys, and challenges of their personal vocational journeys, providing students with relatable and insights. The questions asked by the students were of extremely high

quality, demonstrating how deeply many had entered into the spirit of the event.

The *Faith into the Future* Vocations Fair would not have been possible without the support of Bishop Anthony and Danny Casey, Director of Catholic Schools Broken Bay. Their dedication to fostering vocations and evangelisation within the Diocese paved the way for the event's success.

Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive. Many left with new insights and tangible pathways to carry their faith into the next chapter of their lives. The day provided a glimpse of a Church alive with opportunities, ready to journey with them into their future.

Gratitude is extended to the many organisations, religious orders, teams, chaplaincies, and volunteers whose contributions made the day such a success. And a special shout out to Michael Paton, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes alongside Michelle Chahine to bring the day together successfully. May the seeds planted during this event bear abundant fruit as these young people discern their unique vocations and embrace their journey of faith into the future.



“She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.”

**Matthew 1:21**