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**CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF  
BROKEN BAY**

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## BISHOP'S MESSAGE

# What does a Synodal Church look like?

By Bishop Anthony Randazzo



As we journey together in faith within our Diocese of Broken Bay, it is important to reflect on the vision and characteristics of a Synodal Church – a Church that walks together, listens, and discerns in communion. The concept of synodality is not new; it is deeply rooted in the Tradition of the Church, reflecting the very nature of the Body of Christ as a community that lives, prays, and acts together. But what does a Synodal Church truly look like? Allow me to share some thoughts on this essential question.

### Listening and Dialogue

At the heart of a Synodal Church is the practice of listening – a profound and intentional listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit, who speaks through the experiences, struggles, hopes, and joys of Christ's baptised faithful. This listening is not passive; it requires us to engage in open and respectful dialogue with one another. Whether we are clergy, religious, or laypeople, each of us has a voice that matters, and every voice contributes to the discernment of God's will for our Church.

Listening in a synodal context means creating spaces where every member of the Church feels welcomed and valued, where their experiences and insights are not only heard but also taken seriously. In this way, dialogue becomes a path to deeper communion and understanding, helping us to walk together in faith and mission.

It also allows every member of the Body of Christ to listen freely and intentionally to the truth of the Scriptures, which moves hearts and minds to the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ. Respectful listening and dialogue also opens pathways for knowledge of the Tradition and teachings of the Church for a life of faith, communion, and mission.

### Participation

A Synodal Church is one where every member is encouraged to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church. This participation goes beyond mere involvement in activities; it is about taking on a shared responsibility for the Church's pastoral decisions, ministries, and outreach. When we engage fully in the mission of the Church, we contribute to building a vibrant and living community of faith.

This participatory nature of the Church calls us to be co-responsible for the Church's mission. It invites us to move away from a model where a few lead and the many follow, toward a model where all the baptised share in the leadership and service of the Church, each according to their gifts and vocation.

One of the fears associated with the vision of a Synodal Church is that the laity will take the place of the ordained, as a type of corporate takeover. We must be quite certain that in the Divine plan, there is no competition between baptism and ordination. In a Synodal Church, the relationship between the baptised and the ordained is one of mutual support and collaboration. In the passage from 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Saint Paul illustrates that, diverse gifts, activated by the same Spirit, work together for the common good,



with no room for competition between the roles of the laity and the clergy.

### **Discernment**

In a Synodal Church, decision-making is a process of communal discernment, seeking together to understand and follow the will of God. This discernment is not about reaching a consensus or majority decision; it is about prayerfully listening to the Spirit, who guides us in truth and love. Consensus does not lead to truth. Truth leads to consensus.

True discernment requires humility and a willingness to let go of our own preferences or agendas. It challenges us to be open to the surprising and sometimes uncomfortable ways in which God may be calling us more deeply into communion and sending us forward into mission. It is in this spirit of discernment that we find the path to unity and fidelity to Christ.

### **Inclusivity**

The Synodal Church is one that embraces inclusivity, recognising and valuing the contributions of all its members. Every person, regardless of their background, status, or role, is a vital part of the Church's journey. This inclusivity reflects the catholicity of the Church – her universality and openness to all who seek the truth of the Gospel and the salvation of their soul.

Inclusivity in the Church is not simply about making space for everyone; it is about actively seeking and honouring the diverse gifts and charisms that each member brings. It means recognising that the Spirit is at work in every human person, and that our journey together is enriched by the variety of perspectives and experiences within our community.

It means valuing human life from conception to natural death and recognising that each person is made in the image and likeness of God. Jesus always met people where they were, however, he loved them too much not to leave them there. His message of Good News always took them to a place of greater life and love. True inclusivity in the Synodal Church will do the same, for all who seek to know and follow Jesus Christ.

### **Mission-oriented**

A Synodal Church is deeply mission-oriented, committed to evangelisation and to the service and transformation of the world. A mission-orientated Church is not afraid to speak the name of Jesus and to announce that God reigns over this world in the Kingdom of Heaven. The mission of the Church is to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people, to promote justice, peace, and the common good in our society. This mission is not the responsibility of a few but of the entire Church, the whole Body of Christ.

As we engage in our mission, we are called to be witnesses of God's love and mercy, reaching out to the marginalized, the poor, the excluded, the oppressed, and those in need. Our mission is not confined to our parishes and communities of faith but extends to every aspect of our lives – our families, schools, workplaces, and local communities.

### **Transparency**

In a Synodal Church, transparency is essential. It builds trust and accountability within the Church community. Transparency means being open about how decisions are made, how resources are used, and how the Church dialogues with the

world. It requires honesty, integrity, and a commitment to the truth.

Transparency fosters a culture of trust, where the faithful can be confident that the Church is being guided by the Gospel values of justice, mercy, equity, and love. It ensures that our actions are in alignment with our words, and that we are truly living out the mission we proclaim.

### **Unity in Diversity**

Finally, a Synodal Church is one that embraces unity in diversity. Our Church is made up of people from many different cultures, backgrounds, and experiences, yet we are all one in Christ. This diversity is a gift, enriching our community and helping us to see the breadth and depth of God's work in the world.

Unity in diversity means that we are united in our faith and mission, even as we respect, honour, and celebrate the differences among us. It is a unity that is not about uniformity, but about being one in Christ while appreciating the unique contributions that each person brings to the Church. It is most powerfully stated in our Creed where we profess our belief in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

In conclusion, a Synodal Church is a community that is faithful to Scripture and Tradition and that listens, participates, discerns, includes, and serves together. It is a Church that is transparent, mission-oriented, and united in its diversity. As we continue our journey together in the Diocese of Broken Bay, the invitation is to embrace these characteristics, allowing them to shape our life and mission as the Body of Christ. May the Holy Spirit guide us in our efforts to be a truly Synodal Church, walking together in faith, hope, and charity.



## Broken Bay rejoices at ordination of Fr Hien Vu

As Father Hien Vu wiped his hands of the Chrism oil which had just anointed his palms, the moment would have taken on a particularly special meaning.

Fr Hien was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Broken Bay by Bishop Anthony Randazzo at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral on Saturday, 24 August, the Feast of Saint Bartholomew.

After the laying on of hands, Bishop Anthony anointed Fr Hien's hands with the Chrism, and he wiped them with the Manutergium, a linen hand towel symbolic of the burial shroud of Christ.

It's tradition that a priest gives the Manutergium to his mother, so that one day she may be buried with it, as a

sign she had gifted one of her sons to the service of God in the priesthood.

Fr Hien's mother was the bedrock of his faith. She had worked as a farmer her whole life to provide for her eight children, encouraging them to go to Mass daily and actively participate in Church activities.

She was a constant source of prayer and encouragement to him, on his journey to the priesthood. She had witnessed his ordination to the Diaconate via livestream but unfortunately, she passed away just a few months before Fr Hien's presbyteral ordination.

"It was my mum Maria who instilled in me a love for God and the Church," Fr Hien said in his thanksgiving speech.

"It was mum who took me to Mass and mum who taught me the love of the Eucharist. I believe you are here with me today."

Fr Hien had been able to fly home and be with her in her last days. When he returns to Vietnam in September, he will take the Manutergium home, and place it permanently at an altar dedicated to his mother, so that all may see, she will always be the mother of a priest.

While many of his family were unable to join Fr Hien for his ordination in person, they would have been among the hundreds who tuned in through the livestream, joining their prayers with the hundreds packed into the Cathedral, with many watching through screens in overflow areas.

In his homily, Bishop Anthony said the ordination was a joyful moment for the Diocese.

"This is a moment of profound grace, not only for Hien and his family but for our entire community of the Church," he said.

"My dear son, your ordination today is a profound reminder that the grace of the Holy Spirit's anointing is not merely placed upon you, but rather it dwells within you. This grace will embolden you to proclaim God's truth; to herald the anointed shepherd-king,







Jesus Christ, the eternal High Priest, crucified and risen, to the Church and to the nations.”

The ordination occurred on the Feast of Saint Bartholomew, which also happened to be the episcopal anniversary of Bishop Anthony, who was ordained a Bishop eight years earlier.

It was the first time in nearly three years a priest had been ordained for the Diocese of Broken Bay. Frs Sam French, Aldrin Valdehueza and Roger Delmonte were ordained for the Diocese in October 2021.

It is unlikely the Diocese will need to wait as long before it welcomes another priest however. Rosan Mathew will be ordained to the transitional diaconate in September, with his ordination to the priesthood likely to take place next year.

Bishop Anthony said these men, and all the priests of the Diocese of Broken Bay would be a constant support for him in his ministry.



A very special moment for some members of Fr Hien's family.

“Hien, as you embark on this sacred journey, remember that you are not alone,” said Bishop Anthony.

“You are supported by the prayers and love of your family, friends, your bishop and brother priests, and the entire community of the Church.

“Most importantly, you are upheld by the faithful presence of Christ, who promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age.”

Fr Hien concluded the ordination with a thanksgiving speech, thanking God for his calling to the priesthood, and thanking Bishop Anthony for ordaining him.

“Bishop Anthony, I'm truly grateful for your fatherly love and support,” said Fr Hien.

He thanked all those who had contributed to his formation and supported him through his journey, as well as those who assisted with the liturgy.

“Today marks a new beginning, not the end or destination, for me,” said Fr Hien.

“May I ask you for your continual support and prayers as I embark on this journey, that I might become a good, holy and faithful priest, after Christ the High Priest, to whom all glory and honour will belong for ever and ever.”



Members of the Diocese and friends celebrate following Fr Hien's ordination.





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

## Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis to be installed in Diocese

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

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

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

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

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

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



Blessed Carlo Acutis.

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

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

“I have been deeply touched by the



The relic to be installed on October 12.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## The Significance of Relics by Fr David Ranson

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

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

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

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

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

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





Worshippers gather for Holy Mass celebrated by Pope Francis at Sir John Guise Stadium in Port Moresby at start of PNG visit.

## Bishop Anthony joins Holy Father for PNG and Oceania visit

Bishop Anthony Randazzo joined Pope Francis on his visit to Papua New Guinea in early September, spending two days with the Holy Father, as he visited part of Oceania.

Attending in his capacity as President of the Federation of

Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO), Bishop Anthony was among the gathering as Pope Francis met the Bishops of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, as well as the priests, deacons, seminarians and catechists of the area, at the Shrine of Mary

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**“This Papal visit will certainly turn the eyes of the world to our region where people will see the beauty and vibrance, and the deep love the people have for Jesus Christ, and the Church in this vast region.”**

Help of Christians, Port Moresby on Saturday, 7 September.

In one of his first addresses, Pope Francis called for better treatment of workers and an end to a spate of ethnic violence.

The Pope celebrated an open-air Mass in Port Moresby for an estimated 35,000 people in the Sir John Guise Stadium.



Pope Francis travelled to Vanimo, on Papua New Guinea’s remote north-west coast. This is a small community served by missionaries from his native Argentina.



The Australian Defence Force then flew the Pope to the remote town of Vanimo for a traditional welcome by villagers.

The 87-year old Pope's four-nation, 12-day tour began in Indonesia before continuing to Papua New Guinea and followed by East Timor and Singapore.

Pope Francis has also used this tour to address the threat of climate change, citing challenges such as rising sea levels and increasingly severe heatwaves and typhoons.

These are issues very close to the heart of those within the FCBCO, the regional grouping that comprises the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands and the Episcopal Conference of the Pacific (CEPAC). CEPAC includes Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, New Caledonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

Oceania, the collective name for many of the 10,000 islands scattered throughout the Pacific Ocean, has been traditionally divided into four parts: Australasia (Australia and New Zealand), Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

"This Papal visit will certainly turn the eyes of the world to our region where people will see the beauty and vibrance, and the deep love the people have for Jesus Christ, and the Church in this vast region," Bishop Anthony said.

"It also often surprises people,

especially in other parts of the world, to learn that Oceania is largely water! Our many islands have developed distinct expressions of faith over many centuries, but find a common expression in water."

The great distances between the islands of Oceania brings its unique set of challenges.

Unlike Europe where you can get a fast train to many countries in a short time, direct flights are not the norm which means island-hopping in smaller planes and even taking boat trips to reach destinations.

When Bishop Anthony recently attended the installation of his FCBCO Vice President, Bishop Ryan Jimenez to lead the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Agaña on the island of Guam, it was a 24- hour journey.

"However, the Pacific Ocean is also a vital source of opportunity. It is the gateway many must traverse in search of food, work, or even a new life," Bishop Anthony said.

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**"However, the Pacific Ocean is also a vital source of opportunity. It is the gateway many must traverse in search of food, work, or even a new life."**

Migration is a constant feature of life in Oceania, and for the Church in Oceania, it is a particular responsibility to ensure we practically and pastorally support our migrating people to find not only that opportunity for work, or a new home, but more fundamentally to find Christ on the journey.

"This is a key focus for the FCBCO, and something I look forward to discerning further with my brother Bishops on the Executive, and the lay members representing our region at the Synod in October."



Bishop Anthony warmly greeted by Pope Francis in Port Moresby.



# Fr Carmelo and Fr John celebrate Diamond jubilee

60 years ago, the world looked very different.

Man had yet to walk on the moon, Australians were still buying and selling with the pound and the Second Vatican Council was in full swing.

On the morning of Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 1964, Fr Carmelo Sciberras, Fr John Hill and Fr Jim Tierney, in a group of almost 20 other young deacons, processed into St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney to be ordained as priests by Cardinal Norman Gilroy.

Ordained as priests for the Diocese of Sydney, Fr Carmelo and Fr John both recently celebrated their diamond jubilee as priests of the Diocese of Broken Bay, with celebrations at Warnervale and Woy Woy, respectively.

Both men enjoyed very different journeys to the priesthood. Fr Carmelo was born in Malta and remembers bombs dropping in the middle of World War II. He came to Australia with his family when he was 18 after completing minor seminary.



Cardinal Gilroy lays hands on Fr John Hill



Fr Carmelo in the year of his ordination.

Just a few weeks after arriving he was sent to finish his secondary schooling at Springwood Seminary before proceeding to Manly to complete his studies.

"I loved the seminary days at both seminaries," Fr Carmelo says. "But settling in as a migrant, I quickly recognised that although I could speak English, I couldn't speak Australian!"

He reflected on the experience of seminary being quite "monastic" with the seminarians largely cut off from the outside world.



Fr Carmelo is ordained a priest.



Fr John Hill.

"When President Kennedy was shot, we were on retreat for the Diaconate," he says. "The rector just came in, told us the president had been shot and then told us to get back to our prayers."

Fr John was born in Australia to a Catholic family and was inspired to consider the priesthood by the priests he witnessed as he grew up.

"Watching parish priests working hard in difficult circumstances, when the population was expanding, with schools and buildings being started [was very inspiring]," he said. "It was always there as an option, but I didn't make my mind up until my final year of school."

He also shared fond memories of seminary life, even if it had its challenges.

"It was a very strict regime and there were the usual problems. We never felt we had enough to eat," says Fr John. "But Springwood still has an affectionate place in my heart because it was such a beautiful part of the world."

Both men remarked on both the challenges and the excitement of



beginning their curacies in the midst of the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council.

“We had a lot of difficulties, but it was very exciting,” says Fr Carmelo. “There was a sense of excitement, and we had some great leaders in that time. There was turbulence though, and clashes between the right and the left, and battles between the curates and parish priests.”

Fr John says it was hard trying to remain in the centre in the wake of the Council.

“There was a lot of resistance to the Council and it stirred up a lot of bitterness in the Church. The Latin going hurt a lot of people,” he says.

“It was rather difficult for anyone to retain a moderate council position. There were a lot of silly mistakes made too which had long-term effects. It was a mixed bag.”

A few years after being ordained Fr John was sent to Rome to study at the Collegio S. Pietro Apostolo, achieving a Doctorate in Philosophy. When he returned to Australia, he became a lecturer at Springwood, then later at St Patrick’s College, Manly. He became a founding priest of the Diocese of Broken Bay and became parish priest of Davidson, then later served at Pymble and Woy



Fr Carmelo in recent years.



Fr Carmelo (bottom right) processes in with his fellow ordinands.

Woy. He was also Vicar General of the Diocese for some years.

Fr Carmelo trod a slightly different path. While serving in parishes across the Diocese, he was a chaplain for the military and also for the Coast Guard.

“I have always been interested in societies and organisations,” he says, jokingly adding, “I love a uniform!”

Fr Carmelo says he always placed an emphasis on people and on worship.

“I always worked on two principles: building the community and having a great liturgy,” he says. “When I was at Wahroonga I had 150 people able to serve on the altar and I was very fond of that.”

Both men also left a physical mark on the Diocese, with Fr Carmelo renovating the sanctuary at Wahroonga while Fr John oversaw the construction of the churches at Woy Woy and Davidson.

“I ended up in Woy Woy as my last parish and we put up a jolly good Church there and I helped to build a church in Davidson too,” says Fr John.

“I was an academic but I ended up building two churches as well!”

The ordination class boasted two men who would go on to be Bishops, Bishop Peter Ingham and Bishop Michael Malone. Both men were ordained as priests of Sydney but would go on to serve as bishops of Wollongong and Maitland-Newcastle, respectively.

Reflecting on 60 wonderful years, both men are fierce ambassadors for the priesthood.

“I look back on some of the people I’ve worked with and worked for, and generally it’s been a positive experience,” Fr John says.

“But you’re on your own, and loneliness is becoming a bigger factor,” he warns. There’s also a strong anti-priest sentiment in society today.”

“I recommend it,” says Fr Carmelo. “It’s a great life and what helps you with that is you’ll get very close to people. You meet fantastic people who only help lead you closer to God.”



# Bishop Anthony: “Ordinariate enriches the Church’s vitality”

Bishop Anthony Randazzo has praised the role played by the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross in the life of the Australian Church and implored its members to serve as a bridge of welcome and invitation.

Bishop Anthony, Apostolic Administrator of the Ordinariate, celebrated a Solemn Mass for the Ordinariate community at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Killara on Sunday, 1 September, for the Solemnity of Our Lady of the Southern Cross.

In his homily, Bishop Anthony highlighted the important role the Ordinariate plays in the life of the Church.

“The Ordinariate’s presence in Australia & Oceania, under the loving guidance of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, enriches the Church’s vitality and witness,” he said.

“We are reminded that this is not simply an accommodation or an exception but a powerful testimony to the beauty of unity in diversity.

“The Ordinariate is a living witness to the truth that the Church is “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic” – a communion of hearts and minds,

united in the one faith handed down from the apostles.”

The Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross was established in 2012, to serve groups of Anglicans who desire full communion with the Catholic Church in Australia and Asia. It has congregations across Australia and has a presence in New Zealand, Guam, Japan and Philippines.

In 2023, Bishop Anthony was appointed as the Apostolic Administrator of the Ordinariate, following the resignation of Monsignor Carl Reid.

Following the liturgy, the Ordinariate community gathered for lunch. During the lunch, Bishop Anthony gave a talk, urging those gathered to become missionaries for those who have fallen away from the Church.

“The Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross has a unique role in this mission of reengagement, serving as a bridge of welcome and invitation,” he said.

“Many baptised Catholics have, over time, grown distant from the life of the Church. Some may have experienced hurt or disillusionment; others may have felt disconnected



Bishop Anthony elevates the Host during the liturgy.

from the liturgical forms or community life they encountered. Still, others might simply have fallen away gradually, feeling no pressing need to remain engaged. Yet, the hunger for communion with God and the thirst for meaning and purpose remains within them.”

He said the Ordinariate was particularly well-positioned to offer a pathway of return.

“The rich liturgical tradition we maintain – a tradition that speaks deeply to the heart with its reverence, beauty, and solemnity – can be a powerful means of reawakening faith,” said Bishop Anthony.

“The Ordinariate’s distinct way of living the Catholic faith, with a particular emphasis on community, hospitality, and a robust intellectual and spiritual life, offers a unique setting in which these seekers can rediscover the depth and breadth of Catholic life.”



Bishop Anthony with Vicar General Very Rev Dr Stephen Hill and members of the Ordinariate community.



## Fr Sam excited to see people come to Jesus at Ignite

Fr Sam French is expecting hundreds of young people to experience an encounter with Jesus at Ignite Conference in late September, building on the transformative power the conference had on the Diocese a year ago.

Ignite Conference draws in hundreds of teenagers, young adults, ministry leaders and clergy from across the country, encouraging them in their faith and sending them out with a passion for mission and authentic faith in Jesus.

“As a priest, there is nothing more encouraging than witnessing a new generation surrender their hearts to Jesus in worship,” said Fr Sam French, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Broken Bay.



Fr Sam celebrates Mass at Ignite 2023.

“Ignite provides a pathway for those who have not yet encountered the transformative power of a relationship with Jesus in a fallen world.”

Fr Sam was one of the keynote speakers at last year’s conference, speaking to hundreds of people at both the Broken Bay and Brisbane conferences.

The Diocese of Broken Bay hosted the conference for the first time last year and people from across the state descended on the Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral Precinct, Waitara, engaging in workshops, Mass, Reconciliation, praise & worship, and talks.

“I can’t tell you the joy I feel when I saw hundreds of people gathering together to experience the love and mercy of God in Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Confession,” said Fr Sam.

Across the four-day conference, attendees engage in worship, adoration, Mass, workshops and keynote addresses. The conference caters to people of all ages, from primary schoolers to adults.

The conference aims build up a generation of young people to be on fire for Jesus because of an undeniable encounter with Him.

“Ignite Conference truly lives up to its name,” said Fr Sam.



Fr Sam speaks to hundreds of young people.

“I was blown away by the impact it had, particularly in igniting faith in the hearts of young people. We live in a world where openly expressing your Catholic faith isn’t popular. It can be an isolating experience, especially for those without a strong Christian community. Ignite offers an incredible opportunity to not only celebrate our shared faith but also deepen our relationship with Jesus.”

**The Diocese of Broken Bay will host Ignite Conference from Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> September.**

**You can register to attend at [igniteconference.com.au/register](https://igniteconference.com.au/register)**





John Lochowiak encourages everyone to move in the spirit of hope and goodwill.

## Social Justice is a message of hope

The Diocese hosted this year's Tri-Diocesan Social Justice Dinner with the evening focused on the 2023-24 Social Justice Statement, *Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People*.

This highlighted how we are all called to discern and participate in seeking healing and justice, so that as communities of hope, we can move forward together in solidarity and peace.

The Hon Julian Leeser, Federal MP for Berowra addressed the guests

who included representatives from the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Diocese of Parramatta.

John Lochowiak, Chair of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) was the keynote speaker.

While Julian spoke about the outcome of the Voice referendum – and the Federal Government's deafening silence to fill the void on reconciliation – he said he was not angry with the referendum defeat but extremely disappointed the

government has not put forward any plan to “fill the gap”.

John, a very warm and wonderful storyteller, spoke about his background, what it really means to welcome people to country, and his vision for the future with all Australians embracing commitment for change through collaboration and respect.

The evening highlighted how we can all discern and participate with goodwill as we seek to bring about healing and justice, and move forward as a community of hope.

## “Connecting to the Mission of Jesus Christ!” coming soon NOVEMBER 2024 APPEAL



Supporting Confraternity of Christian Doctrine,  
Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care.

“Your generosity with our Pastoral Works appeal helps us go further and wider in helping our community of Broken Bay, and more deeply connect us to our vision and the Mission of Jesus Christ. I am deeply grateful for your support.”

**MOST REV ANTHONY RANDAZZO DD JCL**  
BISHOP OF BROKEN BAY



Your Tax-deductible gift supports vital pastoral ministries in our local community. Donate online at [www.bb catholic.org.au/pastoralworks](http://www.bb catholic.org.au/pastoralworks)



## Joshua Willard hopes to bring glory to God through music

Joshua Willard hopes he can foster a culture of quality sacred music at the Hornsby Cathedral Parish, giving glory to God and encouraging people into a deeper experience with the Divine.

Joshua was appointed the new Director of Music at the Cathedral Parish in July and started in the role in late August.

“My overarching role is to foster a culture of quality sacred music in the Cathedral Parish,” said Joshua.

“Practically, this will take the form of many different roles and initiatives, including: providing support and ongoing formation to the musicians of the parish, coordinating and rehearsing choirs, working in the school communities to engage and develop student musicians, ensuring sound liturgical practice, playing the organ and cantoring at Mass. I’ll also be working to provide formation opportunities for musicians across the wider Diocesan church.”

Joshua grew up in the Northern Beaches and has been a parishioner of the Pittwater Parish. He plays piano, organ and saxophone, and completed a Bachelor of Music at the Sydney Conservatorium.

“I’m looking forward to working with the people of the Cathedral parish the many ways we will come together to follow Christ and give glory to God,” he said. “It’s especially a privilege to be able to work with other musicians to support and enrich sacred liturgy, and to use our gifts to lead the assembly in song.”

Music has played an important part in the worship tradition of the Church and the Second Vatican Council said the Church’s treasury of sacred music

is of “inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art.”

“In the liturgy, music unifies the people in worship: many voices sing together as one, just as the diverse church comes together to make the Body of Christ,” said Joshua. “Through singing, we as the Church are able to express our praise and joy all the more profoundly. And in our Catholic tradition, the text of liturgical song is wed to the scriptures and psalms, so sacred music is a powerful union of art, truth and faith.”

Joshua also serves on the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, providing his insights to further enrich liturgical worship throughout the Diocese.

He said he hopes that by encouraging a culture of beautiful liturgical music across Broken Bay, it will lead people into a deeper encounter with God.

“Beautiful music – whether sung or instrumental – has the power to transport us out of the everyday, to lift and incline our hearts and minds to God.”



Joshua Willard at the Cathedral.



# Xavier School of Preaching

## Encouraging a new generation of preachers

Mission Broken Bay welcomed 50 enthusiastic and committed participants from within the Diocese and beyond to the Xavier School of Preaching in early August.

The aim of the three-day course was to raise a new generation of preachers, men and women, within the life and mission of our Church.

Facilitators for the course were Dr Maeve Heaney VDMF and Robert Falzon from the Xavier School for Theological Formation and founder of menALIVE.

Although a number of priests attended the course, the majority were parishioners, youth leaders, pastoral workers and school leaders.

In his opening address, Bishop Anthony told the gathering that preaching is a mission for all the baptised. He said each person is called to bring their unique gifts and circumstances to preaching, whether that is in the family, with friends, in the workplace, as teachers, catechists, religious, deacons, priests or bishops.

“While we are all called to be Christ-centred, and people-oriented, emphasising unity and collaboration, we are all called to spread the Good Word,” he said.



Facilitators Robert Falzon and Dr Maeve Heaney with Bishop Anthony.

“Jesus’ Great Commission in the Gospel of Matthew is a wonderful frame to capture the dimensions of our shared faith and mission. He instructed His disciples to ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and remember I am with you always, to the close of the age.’ (Matthew 28:19-20)

“If we ignore this command, those around us will miss out on having a relationship with God.

**‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and remember I am with you always, to the close of the age.’**

“This means increasing and developing our knowledge, practical skills, and ability to identify with people wanting to learn”.

The multi-modal course included training and workshops as well as providing innovative online resources. There were presentations in the theology of preaching, science and the art of preaching, communication theory and practice, proclamation and encounter.



The Xavier School of Preaching Class of '24!

## Bishop Anthony serves eight years of Episcopacy

As he walked towards the altar at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney on Wednesday, 24 August 2016, for his episcopal ordination, it was unlikely Bishop Anthony Randazzo could have predicted the path he would take over the next few years.

In just eight years of Episcopal ministry, the resume and workload is wide and varied.

As Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney, Bishop Anthony had charge of the western region of the Archdiocese.

He was also the episcopal vicar for formation, with a particular focus on the formation of seminarians, young clergy, and the ongoing formation of priests, drawing on his experience as the Rector of Holy Spirit Seminary, Brisbane.

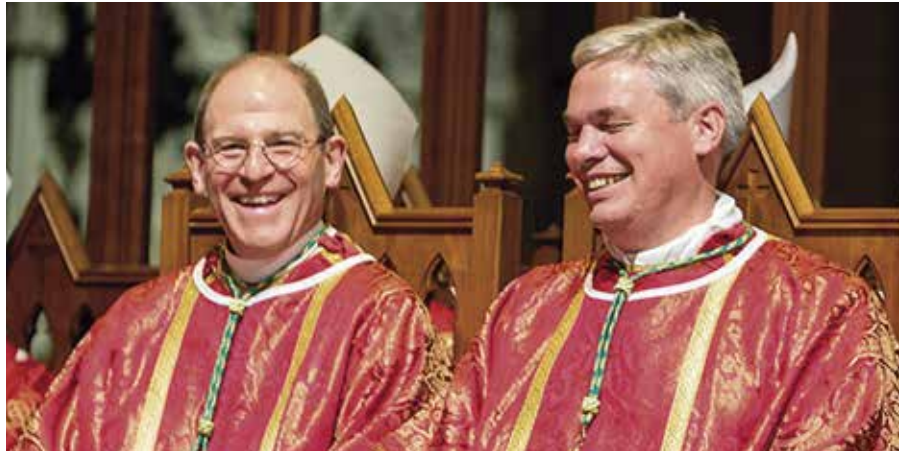
As Auxiliary Bishop, he had the pleasure of ordaining six men to the Diaconate, all of whom are now priests for the Archdiocese of Sydney.

He also chaired the Board of Sydney Catholic Schools during his time with the Archdiocese.

He was appointed as the fourth Bishop of Broken Bay in October 2019 and



Archbishop Anthony Fisher consecrates Bishop Anthony Randazzo.



Bishop Anthony Randazzo with Bishop Richard Umbers at their ordination.

installed on 4 November 2019, the Feast of St Charles Borromeo.

Since joining the Diocese of Broken Bay, he has ordained seven men.

In 2020 he ordained Fr Paul Tran SDS to the priesthood in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions.

He ordained Frs Sam French, Roger Delmonte and Aldrin Valdehueza to the diaconate and then priesthood in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Last year he ordained Deacon Richard Houwing to the permanent diaconate and later in the year Fr Hien Vu to the transitional diaconate.

In July, he ordained Deacon Tu Nguyen OSA to the transitional diaconate and on the eight-year anniversary of his episcopal ordination, he ordained Fr Hien Vu to the priesthood. In September, he will ordain Rosan Mathew to the transitional diaconate.

In early 2023, Bishop Anthony was voted President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conference of Oceania, to help promote the work of the Catholic conference in the Pacific region.

In July 2023, he was appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of

the Southern Cross, to help build up the communities and individuals of Anglican heritage.

He was also nominated as one of the 15 Australians to attend the Synod on Synodality. During the first session in October last year he provided input on the Synod for one of the media conferences, and will be taking part again next month.

He has also assisted the Holy See with various matters in Australia, drawing on his years of experience working within the Vatican.

Throughout all this, Bishop Anthony has remained an active shepherd for the people of the Diocese of Broken Bay, visiting parishes, schools, CatholicCare facilities and driving initiatives focused on building up the life of the Church in the Diocese of Broken Bay.

He has also shared a desire to serve the most vulnerable in the Diocese, actively supporting and encouraging important projects like the Eileen O'Connor School.

While there are likely decades of episcopal ministry ahead for Bishop Anthony, the community of Broken Bay is grateful for his dedicated service.



## A Word from the Director of Schools



Welcome to the newest edition of *Broken Bay News!*

As we navigate through another vibrant school year, I'm thrilled to share with you the remarkable achievements and developments that continue to shape our community.

Within these pages, you'll find stories that capture the essence of what makes our community special. From the inspiring journey of some of our alumni who qualified and even brought home medals from the Olympics to the dynamic energy of St Leo's students who competed and medalled in their most successful National Aerobics Championships! Each story reflects our unwavering commitment to excellence and growth.

We are excited to share the news of our sports program reaching new heights, with students excelling at state and national competitions. Their dedication and success are a testament to the sporting pathways on offer and the perseverance, teamwork, and pursuit of greatness both on and off the field.

Our teacher scholarship applications are nearing their closing date and we encourage all eligible university and final year secondary students who are taking the path to a career in education, to take advantage of these incredible opportunities. Additionally, we look forward to an exciting new chapter as St Paul's Catholic College transitions to a coeducational model for each year group starting in 2025, providing more opportunity across the college.

We recently had the privilege of welcoming Catholic Schools NSW Board and Executive and Conference of NSW Diocesan Directors to our schools in Broken Bay. They saw firsthand our Religious Education Curriculum,

innovative teaching and learning pedagogy and the outstanding work being done at Eileen O'Connor Catholic School for students with disabilities. These partnerships and insights enrich the Catholic educational experience. Sharing our ongoing journey, where students remain at the heart of all we do, cultivates an environment that ensures every student can be their best selves.

As we move through this school year, and as this issue reaches you, we especially acknowledge our students who have completed their HSC with determination and grace. I want to sincerely thank you for being a part of our community and encourage you to stay connected with the Diocese of Broken Bay. We're excited to hear your stories – not just from your time at school but also from the paths you choose to take. We're working on creating meaningful ways to keep this connection strong with our secondary schools organising alumni cohort groups that I would encourage you to join.

I look forward to seeing the continued success and transformation of our students, staff and alumni in the months and years ahead. Together, let's continue to inspire hearts and minds, to love learning and grow in our faith.

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#### 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.

## National Aerobics Champions

St Leo's Catholic College recently celebrated its most successful season in College history at the National Aerobics Championships in Adelaide. Competing against talented athletes from across the country, 40 students represented St Leo's, bringing home an impressive haul of four Gold and three Bronze medals.

The competition was strong, but the talent and hard work of the St Leo's students shone through. Standout performances included the Stage 3 Trio "Disco Divas," Blue Trio "Triple Threat," and Orange Small Team "Dynamite" who all earned Bronze medals, and the Orange Large Team "Voodoo Child" who took home Gold.

The success extended beyond current students, to six alumnae – Georgia Muxlow, Mia La Torraca, Jade Lorshy, Sofia Alvarez Lopez, Rebecca Baynie and Arlyne Bautista – who competed in two teams, both earning Gold medals. Their achievements reflect the strong foundation built at St Leo's over many years competing in state and national aerobics competitions.

This outstanding success is largely due to the dedication and leadership of St Leo's teachers and coaches Kelly Robinson and Lucy McNay. Their commitment to the program, including training sessions that began in Term 4 last year, have been instrumental in the students' achievements. Plans for next year's teams and routines are already underway, ensuring that the tradition of excellence continues.

Congratulations to all the students who competed and



St Leo's Catholic College students outside Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

medalled, and a special thank you to Lucy and Kelly for their unwavering support and guidance.

### Medal Winners:

- **Stage 3 Trio "Disco Divas" – Bronze:** Amelia S, Jessica D, Emma T
- **Orange Large Team "Voodoo Child" – Gold:** Holly B, Bridgette C, Emma W, Sofia T, Eliza W, Sophie A, Sarah P, Pernille B
- **Orange Small Team "Dynamite" – Bronze:** Amaya S-A, Molly S, Scarlett C, Aleah M, Amelia M
- **Blue Trio "Triple Threat" – Bronze:** Romina Z, Grace T-H, Matilda V
- **Blue Singles – Gold:** Romina Z



Orange Large Team "Voodoo Child" awarded Gold Medal.



Orange Small Team "Dynamite" awarded Bronze Medal.



## Alumni take the world stage



James Henderson (Alumni) and Emily (Year 12 student).

### Alumni James in Sailing World Championships

Alumni, James Henderson and Emily H a Year 12 student at St Brigid's Catholic College qualified for an extraordinary opportunity to compete in the F18 Catamaran Youth World Championships in Costa Brava. They faced 134 of the best young sailors from around the world. Despite challenging conditions including strong winds and a collision caused by another competitor capsizing through their mainsail, they demonstrated remarkable resilience and skill throughout the regatta.

Qualifying for the Gold Fleet was a significant achievement, but they didn't stop there—they went on to become Youth World Champions! Their versatility shone through as they also secured 3rd place in the Mixed Fleet Category. Their journey is a powerful testament to resilience, teamwork, and excellence. Congratulations, Emily and James—your success is an inspiration to us all.

### Matt Dawson

Matt Dawson, an alumnus of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School, Shelly Beach, where he was taught in Years 1 and 3 by the current Principal, Yvette Owens, began playing hockey at the age of 8. Dawson made his debut with the Kookaburras Australian Mens Hockey Team in 2014. He recently caught media attention for his bold decision to amputate the tip of his ring finger after an injury to secure his place in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

In peak form, Dawson played a key role in the Kookaburras' impressive campaign, which started with 1-0 victory against the Rio 2016 champions, Argentina, and a 2-1 win over Ireland. Although their Olympic journey ended in the quarterfinals against the Netherlands, Dawson's



Matt Dawson.

determination and skills have made a lasting impact on all our young hockey players.

### Liz Clay

Liz Clay, an alumna of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School in Waitara, began her athletic career at Hornsby Little Athletics. Originally passionate about dance, she transitioned to athletics after being inspired by her younger brother's participation. Clay's dedication propelled her to become the fourth-fastest Australian hurdler achieving an impressive 12.94 run in Melbourne. In 2020/21, she set two personal bests, clocking 12.84 and 12.72 seconds – both Olympic qualifying times – making her the second fastest in Australian history.

Despite being sidelined by injury, Liz made a triumphant comeback, securing her place in the Paris 2024 Olympics. Though she narrowly missed advancing to the finals, her heat time of 12.99 seconds is a testament to her incredible resilience. Beyond the track, Liz manages a successful graphic design and marketing business.

### Nicola Olyslagers (McDermott)

Nicola Olyslagers (McDermott), an alumna of St



Liz Clay.



Nicola Olyslagers (McDermott).

John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Woy Woy, discovered her passion for athletics at just seven years old. Despite initially feeling uncoordinated, she quickly excelled in various events after being introduced to athletics in primary school, leading her parents to enrol her in Little Athletics.

Nicola's high jump career has been marked by steady progress and remarkable achievement. In 2018, she earned a medal at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. She made history as the first Australian woman to clear the 2.00m barrier at the National Championships in Sydney and went on to win a silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics with a jump of 2.03m

At the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, Nicola Olyslagers won silver in the high jump, with fellow Australian, Eleanor Patterson taking bronze. This historic achievement marked the first time in 56 years that two Australians stood on the podium in an athletics event at the Olympics, finishing behind world record holder Yaroslava Mahuchikh.

### Ruby Trew

Ruby Trew, a former student of St Kieran's Catholic Primary School, Manly Vale, competed at the recent 2024 Paris Olympic Games at just 15 years old, as a member of the Australian skateboarding team.

Leading up to the games Ruby spent close to 40 hours a week either surfing, skating or at the gym – with her weekends consisting of a two-hour morning surf session, a



Ruby Trew.

three-hour skate, a gym session and another two hours of surfing or skating in the afternoon.

At the Paris Olympic Games, positioned 11th place in the final run of the qualification round, Trew needed a score above 82.29 to seal a top-eight position and get a shot at the medals.

She started strongly, appearing to give herself a genuine chance of getting the score she needed, only to unfortunately fall while trying to land her final trick of the run.

Skateboarding only debuted at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and has quickly become a highlight of the Games.

We congratulate Ruby on her representative achievement and are sure that her experience at the amazing La Concorde venue in Paris will continue to motivate her to continue in the sport that she loves.

### Olivia Wunsch

Olivia Wunsch, experienced the pinnacle of her swimming career at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. An alumna of Mercy Catholic College, Olivia's journey began at the age of eight when she competed in her first NSW state swimming competition. Her development was fuelled by early Representative School Pathway experiences, including her standout performance at the 2017 Pacific School Games in Adelaide, where she won multiple national titles in freestyle and butterfly events.

In June, Olivia achieved three personal bests at the Australian selection trials in Brisbane. Her remarkable time of 53.17 in the women's 100m freestyle earned her a place on the prestigious Dolphins 4x100m freestyle relay team as a heat swimmer for Paris 2024.

Swimming alongside seasoned athletes like Emma McKeon, Shayna Jack and Meg Harris, Olivia's heat swims were crucial in setting up the team for their gold medal win performance in the final. Her achievements are an inspiration to many young swimmers across the diocese.



Olivia Wunsch.



# CSBB Teacher Education Scholarship Program

## Applications Close Soon!

The CSBB *Exemplary Teacher Incentive Program (ETIP)* offers a range of scholarships, internships, and grants for high-achieving aspiring teachers at various stages in their career, from Year 12 graduates to students in their final year of an initial teacher education degree.

Applications for the 2025 *Targeted Teacher Internships (TTI)* and *Young Achievers Teacher Training Scholarships (YATTS)* are closing soon. Recipients of these internships and scholarships receive generous financial support, dedicated mentoring from expert teachers, targeted professional learning and formation, and a pathway into teaching that complements their university education. The *Young Achievers Teacher Training Scholarship* is designed for high-achieving Year 12 students in Catholic schools within the Broken Bay Diocese who plan to enter an undergraduate teacher education degree in 2025. The *Targeted Teacher Internship* is for teacher education students currently in their second year of an undergraduate teaching degree.

### Emma's Story

Emma O'Brien, a recipient of the *Young Achievers Teacher Training Scholarship* last year, began her role as a classroom assistant at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, East Gosford at the start of 2024. Reflecting on her experience, Emma shared:

In October of 2023, I was honoured to receive the *Young Achievers Teacher Training Scholarship (YATTS)* through Catholic Schools Broken Bay, as part of their annual *Exemplary Teacher Incentive Program*. I am forever grateful for this scholarship and all the amazing opportunities it has provided me.

As part of the YATTS program, I was offered a part-time position as a classroom/learning support assistant, for

one day per week, placed at St Patrick's Primary School, East Gosford. This opportunity has been invaluable as a pre-service teacher, allowing me to connect university content with real-world classroom experience and build my confidence.

Recently, I completed a *Foundations of Literacy* unit where I learnt about phonemic awareness, and the importance of decodable books for children. That same week, I worked at St Patrick's, where I sat down with Year 1 students individually, as they read their decodable books aloud to me. I was able to actively engage with the students and accurately guide them when pronouncing phonemes or breaking words down into their phonemic components. This experience is an opportunity to put theory into practice enriching me as a pre-service teacher.

I have also found ways to relate my university coursework to my teaching practice. For example, during a Year 5 classroom discussion of a Bible parable, the class teacher used a 'Stand Up, Hand Up, Pair Up' strategy. The students stood if they had a question, raised their hands, paired up with another student and discussed their questions before sharing with the class. Later that week, in a tutorial at university for my psychology unit, known as *Understanding Learning and Teaching*, we discussed constructivist learning approaches. I was able to share how this strategy related to dialogical learning, directly relating my classroom experience with university theory.

I also participated in a professional development day at St Patrick's. One activity involved assessing student work against the common grade scale. Hearing the perspective of experienced teachers was eye-opening and gave me insights into effective grading.

During another session, we reviewed how to navigate the NESA website which proved incredibly useful when working on a university assessment task focused on curriculum requirements.

I have found this opportunity incredibly beneficial to me as a pre-service teacher as it has allowed my confidence to grow, both within a classroom and professionally as I begin in education.

I will continue to be grateful for this scholarship and all the amazing opportunities it has provided.

If you or someone you know is an aspiring teacher, please visit the CSBB website to find out more about our *Exemplary Teacher Incentive Program* and to apply.



## Senior School Co-Education Expansion at St Paul's

We are excited to announce a significant development at St Paul's Catholic College; **the expansion of co-education** across our entire Senior College starting next year. Initially, we planned to open Year 11 to female enrolments, but due to strong interest from parents and the wider community, we have decided to extend co-education to include Years 10, 11, and 12 for 2025. This expansion is a key component of our new senior program, which features a dedicated senior school uniform and a wide range of subject offerings designed to support the diverse academic and personal growth of our students.

As we prepare for this exciting transition, we are actively upgrading our facilities to better support the independent learning and group study needs of our senior students. Enhancements to our learning spaces will create an environment that fosters academic excellence and collaboration.

Additionally, new Year 10 students enrolling in 2025 will have the unique opportunity to participate in our HSC acceleration program. This program is designed to challenge students and provide them with a head start on their HSC journey, setting them up for success in their final years of schooling.

Our current Year 12 students have completed their Trial HSC Examination Program. Our dedicated staff are eager to review their assessments and provide valuable feedback as they prepare for their upcoming external HSC examinations.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for our Year 7



Transition program. This program will welcome our parent community and the students who will begin their educational journey at St Paul's in 2025. This program marks the start of an exciting new chapter in our co-educational environment.

This expansion marks a new era for St Paul's College, underscoring our commitment to providing a dynamic, inclusive and forward-thinking educational experience for all our students. We are excited about the positive impact this will have on our school community and the opportunities it will bring.





# Nationals for Student Athletes

School Sport Australia Sports Championships held recently on the Gold Coast showcased Catholic Schools Broken Bay students competing with some of the best young athletes in the nation.

Passionate staff attended including Angela Wark, coach of St Brigid's Catholic College, Lake Munmorah of the NSW All Schools U15 Girls Hockey Team. Her dedication went to each student competing, even making the swimming competition during her free time, to cheer on one of her students from St Brigid's.

Congratulations to the following students on their NSW All Schools / PSSA Representation

## Basketball:

Edward Burke from St Thomas Catholic Primary School, Willoughby and Floyd Henderson from Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Primary School, Chatswood.

## Hockey:

Abbey Mangan from St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah.

## Softball:

The talented Durnell sisters, Maddi and Milla, from St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga and Cameron Baxter of MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale, competing in softball.



Milla – Softball.



Kye with medal.

## Swimming

Bodi Bone from St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah, Dominika Kralka of Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood.

Kye McDermott from St Brigid's Catholic College, Lake Munmorah, smashed his PB by over 5 seconds, being awarded a silver medal in the 400m Freestyle event.

Congratulations to all our representatives' students.



Floyd with SSA board.



Hockey Team with Angela and Abbey.



Monique and Broken Bay Representative Touch Team.

### Representative Pathway Selection Success

CSBB Students have shown talent to be selected into State Level Teams. Congratulations to the following students in 2024 – NSW PSSA Selection

#### 2024 Broken Bay students who have gained NSW PSSA selection

Zali	Ohlback	Our Lady Star of the Sea, Terrigal	Australian Football
Rose	Marchant	Our Lady Star of the Sea, Terrigal	Australian Football
Aoibhinn	Twomey	MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale	Australian Football
Edward	Burke	St Thomas', Willoughby	Basketball
Floyd	Henderson	Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood	Basketball
Nicholas	Humphries	Our Lady Star of the Sea, Terrigal	Rugby League
Cateleya	Edwin	Our Lady of the Rosary, Wyoming	Tennis
Milla	Kacilala	St Mary's, Manly	Touch

#### 2024 Broken Bay students who have gained NSW All Schools Selection

Ava	Drury	St Joseph's Catholic College, East Gosford	Cricket
Eliza	Thompson	St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah	Cricket
Abbey	Mangan	St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah	Hockey
Jonte	Wicks	St Edward's College, Gosford	Hockey
Emma	Jones	MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale	Hockey
Alana	Miller	MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale	Hockey
Cameron	Baxter	MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale	Softball
Maddi	Durnell	St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga	Softball
Milla	Durnell	St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga	Softball
Charli	Barbour	Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood	Swimming
Bodi	Bone	St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah	Swimming
Dominika	Kralka	Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood	Swimming
Kye	McDermott	St Brigid's Catholic College, Lake Munmorah	Swimming
Jodie	Mead	St Joseph's Catholic College, East Gosford	Swimming



## Synod on Synodality to resume in October

The second session of the Synod on Synodality will begin in October, with Bishop Anthony Randazzo and Kelly Paget, Chancellor for the Diocese of Broken Bay, returning to Rome to participate in the Synod.

Bishop Anthony and Kelly were among the 364 participants in the first session of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, commonly known as the Synod of Synodality, in October 2023.

Bishop Anthony played an important role in the first session last year, celebrating Holy Mass for the Memorial of the Guardian Angels just prior to the opening of the Synod. He also appeared in front of the press for the daily press briefing in the third week and leading the opening prayer of the Synod two days later.

Kelly also played a key role in the first session, often presenting the synthesised thoughts of the table discussions to the rest of the Synod, despite often being the only woman or lay person on her table. She was



Kelly meets Pope Francis.

also lucky enough to meet with Pope Francis at last year's session, sharing with him pictures of her family.

Bishop Anthony and Kelly will fly to Rome in the final week of September. They will enter a two-day spiritual retreat from Monday, 30 September to Tuesday, 1 October. The second session will take place from Wednesday, 2 October to Sunday, 27 October.



The Synod underway in 2023.

exchange and discernment in one of the modules that will mark the work of the second session.

As an extension to the Synod, the Vatican has also formed study groups to deepen the theological, pastoral, and canonical reflections on certain themes that emerged through the first session. The *Instrumentum laboris* makes several references to these study groups and the work of the second session will likely influence the work of the study groups, who are expected to meet to discuss these issues in June 2025.

A final report will likely be published at the conclusion of the Synod, reflecting the discussions that will take place.



Bishop Anthony and Kelly in Rome during the First Session.

# Eileen O'Connor's path to sainthood a step closer

A final decree and documents detailing evidence for Eileen O'Connor's cause for sainthood have been sent to Rome following four years of investigation.

The founder of Our Lady's Nurses of the Poor, also known as the Brown Nurses, Eileen O'Connor was declared a Servant of God in 2018.

Although the path to sainthood is still a long one, Eileen's canonisation would make her Australia's second saint after St Mary of the Cross MacKillop who was canonised in 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI.

Born in Melbourne in 1892, the eldest of four children, Eileen could not stand or walk much of her life due to tuberculosis and curvature of the spine, stunted growth and extreme nerve pain.

Eileen O'Connor worked with a parish priest and member of the Missionaries



First day at school for one of the CSBB Eileen O'Connor Support Classes.

of the Sacred Heart to found a congregation of nurses to care for those who were poor and ill. She said she had experienced a vision of Mary, who encouraged her to embrace her suffering for others.

On 10 January 1921, Eileen O'Connor, who was called "Little Mother" by the nurses, died and was buried in Randwick Cemetery. In 1936 her remains were transferred to the chapel at Our Lady's Home in Coogee.

The documents will now be presented to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints in Rome where it is hoped a Roman postulator will be appointed to take the investigation into the cause forward, and undertake the work of researching for a miracle.

This completed phase is also good news for the Catholic Schools Broken Bay Eileen O'Connor School.

CSBB has already established a

**Eileen O'Connor worked with a parish priest and member of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart to found a congregation of nurses to care for those who were poor and ill.**

network of Eileen O'Connor Support Classes where learning is tailored to individual differences through systematic delivery of a contemporary innovative curriculum to meet the needs of students with disability. However, plans are also well underway for a K-12 Base School at Tuggerah.

Eileen O'Connor is the role model for this transformative approach to education dedicated to inspiring hearts and minds.



Eileen O'Connor.



## A word from the Executive Director of CatholicCare



Tim Curran.

I had not run a foster care service prior to joining CatholicCare, but I had managed other types of programs for children in Out of Home Care. I knew from my experience that kids in foster care almost always thrived, whereas the kids who did not have foster carers and were reliant on a rotating roster of professional staff to look after them in an “intensive placement” typically didn’t.

I knew that it was almost ten times cheaper for the Government, and therefore taxpayers, to fund a foster care placement for a child than an intensive placement. And I also knew that in NSW, as in all other states and territories of Australia, the number of foster carers was declining at a time when the number of children needing a foster care placement was either staying the same or increasing.

I struggled to reconcile these things in my mind. If foster care yielded the best results for children and young people and was the most cost-effective placement option by far, why were the numbers of foster carers dwindling? Was it because the Government and foster care providers were not effectively promoting the need for carers well enough? Had the requirements to become a foster carer become too stringent? Or were people now just so focused on themselves and their own families that they didn’t have the bandwidth to consider supporting a child in need?

Despite knowing all this, I commenced

my new role at CatholicCare in 2020 with a sense of optimism that we could attract new foster carers and provide stable, loving homes to children in need across the Diocese. My optimism was rooted in my knowledge of other things:

- The foundational Catholic principle of the sacredness and dignity of every human life
- The immense value placed by Catholics on families
- The Catholic preference for the poor
- And the long, rich tradition of Catholic institutions providing care for orphans.

I am now four years into my tenure at CatholicCare and I am saddened to say that it appears my optimism was misplaced. During this time I have learnt that CatholicCare has invested considerable effort and money promoting our need for foster carers across the Diocese – through mainstream and social media, and also by directly engaging with Parish communities. And I have learnt that the opportunity to become a foster carer is open to most people – it doesn’t matter if you are single or a couple, young or older, have kids of your own or not, are employed or unemployed or if you rent or own your own home. Despite this, I can count on one hand the number of foster carer applications we have received over the past four years from people associated with the church in our Diocese.

We desperately need foster carers to care for children and young people across all parts of the Diocese – the Northern Beaches, North Shore and the Central Coast.

**I am going to be bold and ask ... will you consider being a foster carer?**

**Can I be even bolder and ask that for the next 30 seconds you stop reading this article, close your eyes, take three deep breaths, and think about that question.**

I am guessing your mind filled with varied reasons as to why you cannot, or should not be a foster carer. Some or all of these reasons could very well be significant.

**And if you would indulge me once more. Can you close your eyes again, breathe deeply, still your mind, and provide God with an opportunity to talk to you.**

There is no denying that being a foster carer can be difficult. Raising children usually is. But know this. God has a heart for vulnerable children. It’s clear from numerous passages in the Holy Scripture that God encourages Christians to look after children in need. Through the prophet Isaiah, God commands His people to “Defend the cause of the fatherless”. And St James instructs us to show up for orphans and widows in their distress. But even more than this, caring for vulnerable children isn’t just something God wants us to do. To care for the most vulnerable is a reflection of God’s character. It is the very nature of God.

Because this is God’s nature, and because He has instructed us to care for vulnerable children, I am confident that He will ensure you are provided with every encouragement, every resource, and the patience, wisdom and strength that you will need to care for one of His precious children should you respond and say you are willing to be a foster carer.

Please contact Sandra in our foster care team on (02) 9481 2600, email [info@catholiccarebb.org.au](mailto:info@catholiccarebb.org.au) or visit [www.catholiccarebb.org.au/catholic-foster-care](http://www.catholiccarebb.org.au/catholic-foster-care) for further information.

## Callum just needed to know we wouldn't give up on him

At 19 years old, with a passion for soccer and a promising career in the army, Callum's life is full of promise. Considered, independent and well-rounded, Callum has come a long way since entering Kayla and Josh's care aged 14. "We took in a kid who wasn't able to regulate his emotions and would make spur of the moment, irrational decisions," says CatholicCare foster carer Josh. "We now have an individual who thinks very clearly about what he wants to do with his life. We always knew he was an amazing kid. He just needed someone in his corner."

For Kayla and Josh, their foster care journey began in 2019 when Callum's previous placement broke down. Kayla is Callum's biological sister, and she is 12 years older. A support worker had seen the special bond that Kayla and Callum shared at family contact visits, and Kayla's name was put forward as a potential carer for Callum. "Josh and I agreed that we would take him, so we did the courses and Callum has been with us ever since," Kayla says.

"It was a total change of lifestyle for me, but a wonderful one," says Josh. "Welcoming Callum into our home was a very exciting period, but there were also some nerves associated with the 'what ifs.' We just took it day-by-day. When Callum first came to live with us, he had some behavioural issues that we worked on over time. Once Callum realised there was nothing he could do that would make Kayla and I get rid of him, he started settling into the family. The progress he has made since then has been extraordinary, and the journey has been remarkable."

Kayla and Josh have helped Callum to reach his full potential by getting to know him as a unique individual. Over time it became clear that his

behaviours were a product of trauma and deeply engrained beliefs about authority figures. "When he first came to us, he was having significant behaviour issues at school and they were all linked to his difficulties with authority and being spoken to in an assertive way," Josh says.

Kayla recalls some of the best conversations with Callum happening cross-legged on the floor. "I learnt not to tell him what to do. I'd talk through what was happening and explain the consequences. I'd work hard to help him understand why he felt the way he did, and we'd talk about what he could do next time to get a different outcome. This worked, and it has been a fulfilling experience to know that we've helped him get to where he is today."

For Josh, his journey as a foster carer has prompted him to reflect on the concept of sacrifice and how society perceives sacrifice as "a bad thing." Yet sacrificing his time, energy and, at times, sleep to become a foster carer has been a deeply meaningful and positive experience. "If I was speaking to someone like me who'd never done this type of thing before, I would say that it is going to be difficult, and you are going to face challenges but it's so worth it. You end up loving the kids as your own. You get to watch them grow, reach milestones and be successful. It's so rewarding knowing that despite all the disadvantages they have faced in their lives, having us as positive role models has helped them through."

Since welcoming Callum into their family, they have taken in two more foster children and they hope for more. "My dream for the future is to have a big family with lots of children, and maybe even grandchildren!" Kayla says.

"Every child needs lots of love," Kayla says, and that is the essence of what Kayla and Josh provide. "At the end of the day, we are opening our home to children in need and giving them our love."

As Callum ventures out into the world and embarks on his career in the army, Kayla and Josh could not be prouder. "I hope that one day he will look back on his life and see how far he has come," Kayla says. "I want him to be proud of himself, because I sure am. He just needed to know he was loved and that we wouldn't give up on him."

**Can you open your heart or your home to a child or young person in need? Call Sandra on (02) 9481 2600, email [info@catholiccaredbb.org.au](mailto:info@catholiccaredbb.org.au) or visit [www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/catholic-foster-care](http://www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/catholic-foster-care).**



Kayla, Callum and Josh.



# Dozens of children are living in hotels across our Diocese due to a lack of foster carers

Every day, CatholicCare's Permanency Practice Leader, Miriam, receives between 50 and 100 requests for foster care placements. "We currently have only two sets of emergency carers, so our options are very limited to help with these requests. That's how dire it is has become, and other agencies are in the same boat."

When foster care placements cannot be found, children are placed in hotel rooms with workers on rotating rosters.

**Today, on the Central Coast there are 42 children living in hotels with paid workers, and 50% of these children are aged 10 years and under. Sadly, 14 of these children have been living like this for more than a year. The situation is similar across Northern Sydney and the Northern Beaches, where there is currently a 3 year old child staying in a hotel.**

"Five years ago, it was unheard of to have children under 5 staying in hotel rooms," says Miriam. "We used to have no issues finding carers for this age group, but the situation is now so dire that we have babies coming out of hospitals and going into hotels. It's extraordinary."

Miriam recalls one sibling group whose foster carer relinquished care of them unexpectedly this year. "The carer came to us and said, 'I can't do this. I've

got health problems that have become so severe that I need to relinquish care of these four kids today.'" Due to the shortage of emergency carers, only two of the children were able to be placed with foster carers.

The youngest two children, aged 7 and 8, were sent to a hotel in Wyong with paid workers. "They were so confused," Miriam recalls. "They were crying and asking, 'Why can't we go home?'"

The two youngest children have since been split up again, and one has been sent to Victoria. "They are like deer in headlights," Miriam says. "Their faces have no expression. They are in a constant state of 'Where am I going? What am I doing? Who will be my family?' It's heartbreaking to see. The young fella, when I last saw him, could only nod. He was so shell shocked that he couldn't verbalise. All the studies show that these alternative accommodations with paid workers deliver the worst possible outcomes for children."

Since the COVID outbreak, there has been a drastic decline in people considering foster care. "During lockdowns it was difficult for people to be assessed and the current cost-of-living crisis has also deterred people," Miriam says. The situation is particularly dire on the Northern Beaches where

there are very few carers. As a result, children from the Northern Beaches who end up in foster care must move to another district, which means changing schools, losing friendships and starting over, making an already traumatic experience much worse.

Miriam says that there are many misconceptions about becoming a foster carer. "People think that you need to give up working, which simply isn't true. With the rising cost-of-living, it's impossible to stop working so we support foster carers with daycare arrangements, even for young babies."

Another myth is around birth family contact and the level of involvement from the carer. "The reality is that if there is a security risk or any sort of safety or privacy concern, these contacts are supervised by professionals," Miriam says. "Foster carers aren't expected to manage risky situations. It's just not on the agenda."

"You don't need to be gushing with love ... you simply realise that you have the power to make a difference," Miriam says. "Everything else, your income bracket, socio-economic status and whether you are married or single, doesn't matter. Our foster carers come from all walks of life," Miriam says.

Through no fault of their own, over 15,000 children across NSW cannot live with their birth families. The role of foster carers is to give these children what they need to not only survive, but to thrive. "Initially there will be a period of adjustment," Miriam explains.

**Can you open your heart or your home to a child or young person in need? Please call Sandra on (02) 9481 2600, email [info@catholiccaredbb.org.au](mailto:info@catholiccaredbb.org.au) or visit [www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/catholic-foster-care](http://www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/catholic-foster-care).**





## David's long road to adoption

David is a young person in CatholicCare's foster care program and we have been working with his family for over five years. The family have had their ups and downs, as most families do, and CatholicCare has walked alongside the family, as they have consistently and patiently cared for David.

Three years ago, with the support of CatholicCare, David's foster family made the decision to move toward adoption to ensure David would always be part of their family. Despite the commitment and enthusiasm of all involved, the string of COVID lockdowns led to excessive delays in what is already a considerably lengthy administrative and legal process.

The family never gave up on the adoption goal and our foster care team shepherded them through the gruelling process. David's disability posed an additional complexity as the Court needed assurance that David understood what adoption was and

that he was able to submit informed views to the Court. To achieve this, David's Case Manager developed a mini adoption curriculum complete with fun quizzes to ensure that David knew exactly what to expect and what adoption was.

Obtaining the consent and support of David's biological family was also challenging but David's Case Manager worked diligently to ensure that the views of his biological family were considered and to assure David's birth mother that contemporary open adoption is very different to what it was twenty years ago. The process also saw David reconnect with his extended family, which was a tremendous achievement given they had not been present in his life for many years.

Regular case management duties don't stop when a Case Manager is tasked with an adoption matter. The team had their hands full ensuring the family had all the required supports in place long into the future

so that they would be supported post-adoption.

CatholicCare then worked tirelessly to draft the required Court documents alongside the Department of Communities & Justice, support workers, assessors and David's family to manage the Court process until happily this year David's adoption was at long last approved by the Court.

In addition to his Mum and Dad, David wanted one other person to be present to celebrate the special day, his CatholicCare Case Manager.

**Can you open your heart or your home to a child or young person in need? Please call Sandra on (02) 9481 2600, email [info@catholiccaredbb.org.au](mailto:info@catholiccaredbb.org.au) or visit [www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/catholic-foster-care](http://www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/catholic-foster-care).**

*\* Story shared from our annual report. Name and photo have been changed to protect the child's privacy.*



## CAN YOU HEAR MY PRAYER?

A struggle that rarely makes news headlines is that of children and young people in our Diocese who have been through experiences few of us could begin to fathom, and are unable to live with their families.

Just as God reassures us "I will be with you" during difficult times in Isaiah 43:2 He calls us to do the same for our children.

Can you open your heart and home to a child in need?

**WE URGENTLY  
NEED FOSTER  
CARERS**



There are dozens of children  
in our Diocese needing care

P: (02) 9481 2600

E: [info@catholiccaredbb.org.au](mailto:info@catholiccaredbb.org.au)

# Extraordinary Ministers receive awards for hospital service

**By Sue May, CatholicCare Administrator for Catholic Volunteer Eucharistic Ministry at RNSH.**

Four Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have been rewarded for 20 years of service Royal North Shore Hospital, bringing the Sacrament of the Eucharist to people in their most vulnerable times.

As part of the Royal North Shore Hospital's Volunteer Appreciation



From left to right: Heather Gough, General Manager RNSH; Christiane Jobst-Baumann, Jennifer Cunningham, Ron Boys.

Day, Ron Boys, Jennifer Cunningham, Reginald Aung Thein and John Russell were all recognised for the valuable role they have played as members of the Catholic Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Team for more than two decades.

Christiane Jobst-Baumann and Mona Saouma were also recognised for five years of service.

Heather Gough, General Manager of Royal North Shore hospital, presented the awards and said RNSH would not function as it does without the help of all the volunteers, acknowledging the crucial role that the chaplaincy volunteers played in the life of the hospital.

Ron Boys, who received an award for 20 years of service, said it was a privilege to serve in this ministry.

"The opportunity to minister the Eucharist to those in hospital brings varied responses ranging from joyful welcome, great appreciation, surprised acceptance, tolerance and even bewildered rejection," he said.

"No matter how the offer to receive the sacrament is received, it feels a special privilege to be in a position to bring it to them. It inspires me to rejoice with the patient or engage in prayerful empathy with what they are experiencing".

The committed team of volunteer Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion from local Catholic Parishes continue to show the power of Christ's presence, not only in offering Holy Communion, but also in their prayers and compassionate presence among the sick.

## MACQUARIE PARK SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING For those living with disability

These brand new one bedroom apartments are built to high physical support (HPS) standards with onsite overnight assistance (OOA) where our experienced staff provide residents with 24/7 support.

Located in a neighbourhood close to everything you could possibly need, you will enjoy access to a community centre, a central village park and many cafes and shopping options.



CatholicCare  
Diocese of Broken Bay

### REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

P: (02) 9481 2600

E: [info@catholiccaredbb.org.au](mailto:info@catholiccaredbb.org.au)

W: [www.catholiccaredbb.org.au](http://www.catholiccaredbb.org.au)

**OPENING SEPTEMBER 2024**



# Pastoral Discernment North Shore up and running

The third and final Deanery Discernment project in our Diocese is underway.

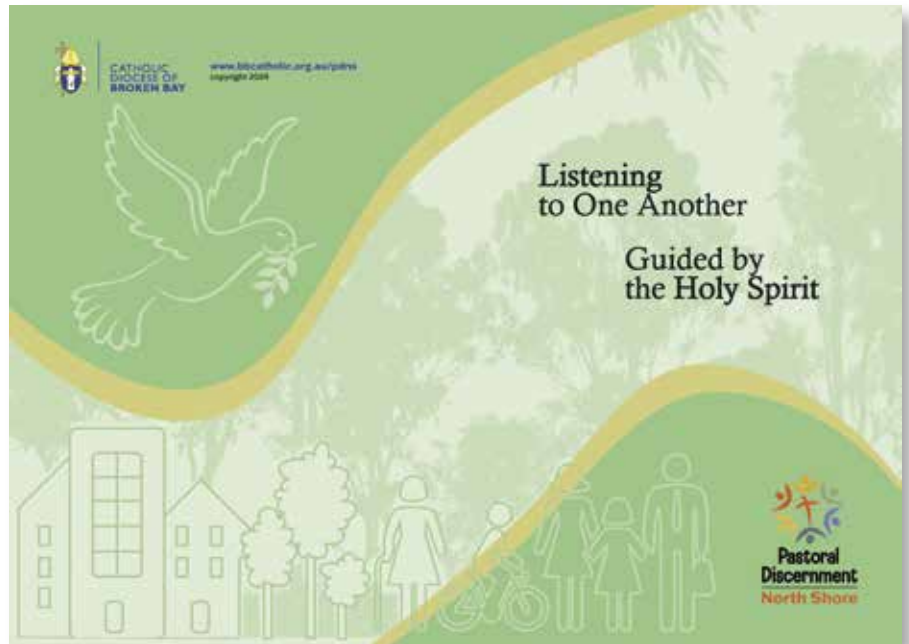
The Project's aim is to understand the unique challenges and opportunities distinct to the North Shore Deanery in order to develop a Pastoral Mission that enables all in the community the opportunity to participate more fully in contributing to the Mission of Jesus Christ.

The first Pastoral Discernment Project focused on the Central Coast and the second one on the Northern Beaches.

Briefing Circles were recently held where Patti Beattie, Head of Pastoral Discernment and Accompaniment, Broken Bay, provided an overview of the Project and highlighted key dates.

Those who gathered had the opportunity to share their hopes, discuss the opportunities they see for the North Shore and ask questions.

Community groups across the North Shore Deanery including Schools, Parishes and CatholicCare agencies, have nominated a Consultation Facilitation small team – who will lead the local listening and dialogue sessions in each community, at the service of shaping a Pastoral



Discernment Submission for Bishop Anthony's consideration.

"The project's Community Engagement phase will soon commence," Patti said. "This is a wonderful opportunity for all to participate. Each voice is important as we discern the way forward together."

Recently Clergy, Leaders and Consultation Facilitators of the North Shore Deanery had the opportunity to hear Andrew Spiteri, one of the leading facilitators at the Synod of



Andrew Spiteri's knowledge and experience in Conversation in the Spirit Methodology has contributed greatly to the formation of Consultation Facilitators.

Bishops and also a facilitator at the recent Meeting of Parish Priests for the Synod in Rome.



Briefing circles are a key part of the project.



The North Shore Deanery is the third and final Deanery in the Broken Bay Pastoral Discernment Project.

He also served as a consultant/facilitator on participatory methodologies for the Dicastery for the Clergy during a major 5-day conference for priest formation in February this year.

A member of the Focolare Community, Andrew operates internationally, assisting diverse groups, associations, church and diocesan entities, and organisations

“Andrew’s presentation to our facilitators on listening, discernment, and Conversation in the Spirit Methodology was uplifting and helped to deepen our understanding of being Synodal.” Patti said.

“This is the methodology that has

been used to guide each of our three Pastoral Discernment processes, and has proven very successful.”

Contact Patti at **PDNS@bbcatholic.org.au** for questions and further information.



*A time to renew your spirit* *the genuine pilgrim experience*

**Journey of St Paul**  
With Fr Sam French & John French  
For young adults aged 18-35

Land only from **\$6290**

**Commences 07 May 2025. 12 Days. With Fr Sam French and John French.**  
Join Fr Sam, from the Diocese of Broken Bay, as he leads this pilgrimage through Greece and Turkey, following in the footsteps of St Paul. Pilgrims will explore early Christian communities and deepen their love for Jesus Christ through St Paul’s inspiring life and teachings. Optional Jubilee Rome Extension.

**Graces of Japan**  
Kyoto to Tokyo

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A unique and captivating journey through Japan during the mesmerising cherry blossom season, where we draw inspiration and strength from the saints and martyrs whose profound witness has shaped the faith of this fascinating country.

**Wonders of South Korea**  
Seoul to Seoul Roundtrip

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**Commences 13 October 2025. 13 Days. With Priest Chaplain.**  
Explore the Christian heritage of South Korea, rich in culture, the arts and faith; made sacred by the blood of the martyrs. Journey out to beautiful villages and towns and discover the story of how ancient dynasties embraced the good news of the gospel.



# Seminarian Rosan Mathew returns to Kerala ahead of ordination

Broken Bay Seminarian Rosan Mathew has made a final trip to his home town of Kerala ahead of his ordination in September, attending the Vinnies Twinning Conferences, representing the Vinnies Broken Bay Central Council as the Spiritual Advisor.

Rosan was born and raised in Kerala before moving to Australia to pursue his priestly vocation.

The visit was part of the ongoing “twinning” efforts between the Broken Bay Central Council and the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Kerala.

“Twinning is a vital initiative that fosters international solidarity among the Vincentians,” said Rosan. “As the Spiritual Advisor, it was my intention to connect with conferences in Kerala on a deeper level of shared faith, mission, and service.”

He said it was wonderful to witness the beautiful faith of the people of Kerala, who trace their spiritual heritage back to the earliest days of the Church.



Rosan (far right) is hoping to build the relationship between Broken Bay and Kerala.

“As Spiritual Advisor, I was profoundly moved by the depth of faith displayed by both the members,” said Rosan.

“Kerala’s Christian community, with its long history dating back to St. Thomas the Apostle, is rich in spiritual heritage. This visit reminded me of the central role that prayer and faith play in Vincentian work, and how these elements transcend geographical and cultural boundaries.”

Rosan said he hoped he would be able to strengthen the ties between Broken Bay and Kerala in the future, ensuring their “twinning” efforts would continue to serve those in need on both sides of the world.

Rosan will be ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Broken Bay on Saturday, 21 September, the feast of Saint Matthew.

It will be the third ordination in as many months within the Diocese,

following the ordination of Deacon Tu Nguyen OSA in July and Fr Hien Vu in August.

“I’m really excited about the ordination,” said Rosan. “I’m looking forward to ministering God’s people in the Diocese of Broken Bay as an ordained minister.”

Rosan completed his studies at Vianney College, Wagga Wagga. He has been on placement at the Lower North Shore, Hornsby Cathedral and The Entrance Parishes since joining the Diocese a few years ago.

“I’m feeling grateful for the opportunities I had to learn, listen, reflect and grow, both personally and pastorally, during my placements.”

**Rosan Mathew will be ordained a deacon by Bishop Anthony Randazzo at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, The Entrance on Saturday, 21 September.**



Rosan visits St Mary’s Church, Neelivayal.

## Young adults learn to “Walk like Joseph”

The residents of Joseph House hosted a ‘Walk Like Joseph’ pilgrimage on the Central Coast in mid-August, bringing together young adults for a day of prayer and community.

The event was focused on personal prayer and spirituality, while also bearing a public witness to the Catholic faith.

The day began with 25 young adults attending Mass at St John the Baptist Church, Woy Woy, and progressed 13 km on a scenic and reflective walk across Brisbane Water to the Shrine of John Paul II at St Patrick’s Church, Gosford.

“Father Sam French highlighted the essence of a pilgrimage at Mass in the morning,” said Joseph House resident Don Vila.

“We were tasked to think of at least one particular intention that we would carry with us the entire journey. Every couple of minutes I would prayerfully return to my own intention, a great source of encouragement but also gave the pilgrimage a personal purpose and meaning.

“Along the way we were met with constant honking and acknowledgment, verifying that the Faith is still well and truly present. The curious gazes and bewildered faces, one can only hope sparked a conversation around Christianity and tingled any curiosities.”

The pilgrimage was just one of the many events Joseph House has run, assisted with or promoted this year. Joseph House is a house of discernment for young men within the Diocese of Broken Bay.

“The pilgrimage, and the many other



The pilgrims outside St Patrick’s Church, East Gosford.

events we’ve hosted with Joseph House, are an expression of the spiritual reality within the house. Joseph House is a place where young men can come together in an otherwise confused world, and journey together along The Way,” said Eilia Keyhanee.

“Every morning, the boys at Joseph House wake up in the early hours of the day for a holy hour before heading off to work. They cook for one another every day, work together to arrange events for the Diocese and serve the church, and accompany one another through physical ailments, spiritual challenges, and everything else that life throws at us.

“I have discovered the meaning of true Christian brotherhood and fellowship at Joseph House, and my life will certainly never be the same. I look forward to finishing the race with my comrades and rejoicing with them in heaven.”



Fr Sam led the group in prayer throughout the pilgrimage.

***Applications for Joseph House for 2025 are now open. This house of discernment offers men the chance to live in community, engage in daily prayer, and discern their vocation. If you know any young men in your parish who would benefit from such an opportunity, please encourage them to apply.***



## Emma's Life Skills a shining light

Like life generally, school is not a level playing field for everyone. Some students need individual learning plans to help unfold their special talents and skills. The Life Skills curriculum in our schools does just that.

Emma Mulyatmojo graduated from Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood last year where not only did Emma embrace her diverse needs, her fellow students and teachers embraced her.

Following Emma's graduation, the school's Diverse Learning Team, and her parents, managed a transition to Year 13 for Emma, a placement with Sunnyfield, an organisation that upskills people with disability for the workforce.

Once a week, Emma returns to Mercy with her supervisor from Sunnyfield, and assists with important administrative tasks. This experience continues to build on Emma's life skills, encouraging and nurturing her as a valuable human being with a great deal to offer.

### **This is Emma's story:**

I felt a mix of emotions as I finished high school—happy, proud, and excited, yet also sad and anxious. The thought of being separated from my close friends and stepping into an unfamiliar environment weighed heavily on me.

Amidst the anxiety about my next step, my parents discovered Sunnyfield for my Year 13 skill learning. I learnt that Sunnyfield was a great fit for my continued education and life skills development. Occasionally, I still get to see my close friends since it's located in Chatswood, a place I know well. This made the transition to Year 13 feel just right, and I feel truly blessed and happy.

The material I've been learning at Sunnyfield strikes a balance between easy and challenging, but in the end, I find it all incredibly valuable for improving my life skills. For me, Year 13 at Sunnyfield has been a fantastic experience so far. I feel like it fits me like a glove, and has provided many opportunities.

I have completed workplace skills training with Barringtons Training Services, successfully earning the BSB20120 Certificate II in Workplace Skills, improved my proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and studied budgeting for simple money management.

I have gained experience as a receptionist at Sunnyfield's Allambie Heights office, including answering incoming calls professionally, greeting visitors in a business environment, and recording caller details and messages. Also helping in the office canteen, cooking in their kitchen, event planning and assistance, socialising with peers and co-workers and so much more!

At Mercy, I have a range of jobs including supporting the library by organising and tidying books, filing documents in the front office, assisting with event setups, such as Year 9 Commerce Day and Creative Arts shows and helping staff with a range of tasks.

I enjoy doing some drawing, exercising (Zumba) and listening to music.

What are my hopes and dreams? After I graduate from Sunnyfield, I hope to work and build a career at Mercy College because everyone is so kind, generous, and accepting of me. I know the environment extremely well—it's friendly and full of life. I feel confident that I can find a place for myself in a job at my beloved former school.

I also dream of living independently in a modern, yet modest house with a good Wi-Fi connection and having three pet dogs—two French Bulldogs (one brown-black and one cream) and a black Labrador.

Oh, and travel overseas!



Emma Mulyatmojo (left) with her Year 13 supervisor at Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood.



## Augustinian Deacon Tu grateful to serve the people of North Harbour

Just a few weeks after being ordained, Deacon Tu Nguyen OSA is already finding immense fulfillment in his vocation, serving the people of the Parish of North Harbour.

Serving in the Northern Beaches parish, he said each day has brought new experiences and learning opportunities.

“The first few weeks serving as a Deacon have been both challenging and fulfilling,” he said.

“Transitioning into this new role has required me to adapt quickly to new responsibilities and pastoral duties. I have been deeply moved by the opportunity to serve the community in a more direct and impactful way, particularly through preaching, assisting at the Eucharist, and engaging in different ministries.”

Deacon Tu was ordained as a deacon by Bishop Anthony Randazzo on Friday, 5 July 2024 at St Kieran’s Church, Manly Vale. He belongs to the Order of Saint Augustine, who have pastoral care over the Parish of North Harbour.

The Augustinians have had a presence in what is now the Diocese of Broken Bay for more than 70 years, since taking responsibility for the parish of St Kieran’s, Manly Vale in 1952.

Deacon Tu is from Vietnam and has completed his studies in Australia at the Catholic Institute of Sydney and the University of Notre Dame. He made his solemn profession in the Order of Saint Augustine in September 2023.

Approaching his ordination, Deacon Tu said he was excited to be continuing on his vocational journey.

“There was a profound sense of joy and anticipation at the thought of entering into a new phase of my vocation, coupled with a sense of humility and responsibility,” he said.

“I was acutely aware of the significance of the role I was about to undertake and felt a deep gratitude for the support and guidance I had received from my community and mentors. There was also a sense of nervousness, as I considered the challenges and responsibilities that lay ahead, but

this was tempered by a strong faith and trust in God’s guidance and the support of the communities.”

He said he had already been warmly welcomed into the life of the parish and felt he was already part of the North Harbour family.

“What I enjoy most about the North Harbour parish is the strong sense of community and the active engagement of its members,” he said.

“The parishioners are incredibly welcoming and supportive, creating an environment that feels like an extended family. There is a palpable sense of faith and devotion that permeates the parish, from liturgical celebrations to the various ministries and outreach programs. Being part of such a dynamic and caring community has been a source of great joy and inspiration, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and grow with them.”

Deacon Tu will serve as a Deacon at the Parish of North Harbour. He may be ordained to the priesthood after six months of service as a Deacon.



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**THURSDAY 26TH – SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER**

**Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral Precinct, Waitara**