



Vox Populi - 15 August 2024

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Assumption is one of the four Marian dogmas, and the belief that when her earthly life was complete, our Blessed Mother was assumed body and soul into heaven. May the day bring you and your family many blessings.

In the coming weeks our Diocese will have the joy of celebrating two ordinations – Deacon Hien Vu will be Ordained to the Priesthood at 11am on Saturday, 24 August at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara, and Rosan Mathew will be Ordained a Transitional Deacon at 5pm on Saturday, 21 September at Our Lady of the Rosary, The Entrance.

The path to Catholic priesthood is a unique vocational journey. It is a pathway that often begins in the family and continues through reflection, discernment, formation, theological study and application. Each stage building on the other. Apart from dedication and determination it requires sound belief and a deep and firm faith.

There are three degrees in the Sacrament of Holy Orders: diaconate; priesthood; and episcopacy.

While Holy Orders provides a unique role in the community, it is not a better or more privileged place, but a place in which to serve the people of God. Many priests do so in our parishes – where the Church lives. Parishes are communities of faith, of action, and of hope. They are where the Gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to spread the Word and encourage commitment. Parishes are the home of our Christian community; they are the heart of our Church.

A priest's gift to his people is his availability, to spend time with his people and care of them.

We are encouraged to keep Deacon Hien and Rosan in our prayers however we remember the upcoming ordinations are also a great celebration of joy and hope for the Diocese.