



Vox Populi

29 August 2024

A wonderful celebration in the Diocese last weekend on the occasion of the Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Joseph Martin Hien Vu.

Hundreds gathered at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara, on Saturday for the Ordination, and also for Fr Hien's Thanksgiving Mass at St Leonard's Catholic Church, Naremburn on the Sunday evening.

As Bishop Anthony said, it was a moment of profound grace, not only for Hien and his family but for our entire community of the Church.

Many clergy from across the Diocese across, the state, and interstate, joined family and close friends as Fr Hien embarked on this next step in his sacred journey.

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

Thursday, 29 August, is the Passion of St John the Baptist when the Church commemorates one of the oldest feasts within the Church, the beheading of John the Baptist. John gathered disciples from all walks of life whom he taught, called to repentance, and baptised with water.

After John reluctantly baptised Jesus, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove – "...and a voice from Heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)

With that, John's life receded into the background, "He must increase; I must decrease." (John 3:30)

John's unapologetic decision to speak out for what he believed, and for the laws of God eventually cost him his life, but his determination and unwavering integrity gives us courage to stand up and speak out against injustices in our world.