



## **Vox Populi** 6 February 2025

The beginning of the Jubilee Year has brought hope to the Catholic Church across the globe, with millions taking the opportunity to become Pilgrims of Hope during this time of reconciliation and renewal.

For the Diocese of Broken Bay, the theme of hope is being particularly felt, with a number of men set to receive Holy Orders this year.

Next weekend, on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, Bishop Anthony will admit to Candidacy for Holy Orders Huy Tran, Tân Nguyen and Shayne D’Cunha.

The Rite of Admission to Candidacy is an opportunity for a seminarian to express publicly his intention to receive the sacrament of Holy Orders as a deacon and later as a priest. It is hoped the trio will be ordained as deacons later this year or early next year.

Just a few weeks later, on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March, Bishop Anthony will ordain Kevin McGregor to the Order of Deacons, becoming the second permanent deacon to be ordained for the Diocese in the past two years.

Two weeks later, Bishop Anthony will ordain Rosan Mathew to the Order of Presbyter on the Solemnity of St Joseph, Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March.

With two ordinations occurring at the start of the year, and the potential for three more this year or next, this is a time of great hope within our Diocese. The newly ordained men will bring great zeal and passion to the ministries of Deacon and Priest.

The Diocese has two other men in formation for the priesthood. Seminarian Matthew French will be on pastoral placement at the Parish of Epping-Carlingford in 2025.

Alfred Soliman has also joined the Diocese as a seminarian and will be on pastoral placement at the Parish of Manly-Freshwater this year. Alfred has already completed his seminary studies.

Fr Joey Frez has been appointed the new Diocesan Director for Vocations, taking over from Fr Sam French, who has been appointed Assistant Priest at Manly-Freshwater Parish.

Fr Joey will continue the strong work of Fr Sam, and it is hoped this year can be one of discernment for more young men across the Diocese, as they consider whether God is calling them to a vocation to the priesthood.

Let us pray for all those in our Diocese discerning a vocation and give them the strength to say “yes” to God’s call.

