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BBN

PUBLICATION
OF THE CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY

#232

SEPTEMBER 2026





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DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY

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10,400 copies of *Broken Bay News* are distributed quarterly to 26 parishes and 44 schools in the Diocese of Broken Bay. The *Broken Bay News* is a member of the Australasian Catholic Press Association. Acceptance of advertisements does not imply diocesan endorsement of products or services advertised.

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We acknowledge the Darug, Gurrungai and Darkinjung Nations, the traditional custodians of the land across our Diocese. We recognise the Aboriginal people as holding the memories, the traditions and the culture of the lands we live and work upon. We honour their wisdom and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

FSC

DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR

A Time for Reflection

By Very Rev Dr David Ranson



My dear friends,

It is now two months since Archbishop Randazzo departed for Rome, and since my service as Diocesan Administrator commenced. Though we have no indication of when the Holy Father might appoint us a new bishop, it does not seem immanent. And so, we have settled into a period of Administration that may extend for some months.

As I shared when I began this ministry of responsibility, a time of Administration between bishops can be a constructive time of looking back with both reflection and gratitude for our past bishop and looking forward

As I shared when I began this ministry of responsibility, a time of Administration between bishops can be a constructive time of looking back with both reflection and gratitude for our past bishop and looking forward in anticipation to the direction a new bishop might provide us.

We were blessed at the beginning of September with two very significant events: the 30th anniversary of the episcopal ordination of our bishop emeritus, Bishop David Walker and the arrival of a significant relic of St Carlo Acutis. Bishop David served as our Shepherd from 1996 to 2013, and he continues to lead a very active ministry throughout Sydney and Australia with his teaching. We honor his ongoing contribution to the life of our Church...

in anticipation to the direction a new bishop might provide us. In our waiting, it is vital that we continue to look for those ways that nurture our sense of community and collaboration as such experiences enable us to continue to enter our enduring mission with purpose and joy.

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and he continues to lead a very active ministry throughout Sydney and Australia with his teaching. We honor his ongoing contribution to the life of our Church and we gathered with him on Thursday 3 September at 7.00pm at Our Lady of Dolours Church Chatswood. This was the church where Bishop David was ordained as bishop. Earlier that evening, we received a relic of the heart of St Carlo. The relic is journeying throughout the whole of Australia in anticipation of the International Eucharistic Congress in 2028, and in our own Diocese it has moved through Chatswood, Gosford and Warnervale, onto Newcastle, whilst visiting a number of our schools too. We pray that the Eucharistic Congress will be an event of immense grace, and there will be many ways in time by which we can prepare for it, and enter its invitation.

We have a number of parish anniversaries to celebrate at this time too: on 28 June 2026 the Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula celebrated its

It has been built through countless cups of cold water. It has been built by parents who handed on the faith to their children. By teachers and catechists who spoke about Christ with conviction. By parish priests and deacons who faithfully celebrated the sacraments...

80th anniversary; on 12 September the Parish of Manly-Freshwater commemorates its 150th anniversary, and on 29 November, the Parish of Wyoming celebrates its 60th anniversary. Such anniversaries are a sure testament to the enduring faith of communities. As I shared in June at John the Baptist's Woy Woy: "our parish has not been built principally through extraordinary events. It has been built through countless cups of cold water. It has been built by parents who handed on the faith to their children. By teachers and catechists who spoke about Christ with conviction. By parish priests and deacons who faithfully celebrated the sacraments. By volunteers who quietly prepared the liturgy, visited the sick, maintained the grounds, counted the collections, welcomed strangers and cared for those who had nowhere else to turn. By parishioners who carried one another through illness, bereavement and loneliness. Many of those people will never have imagined that history would remember them. Yet Christ remembers every act of welcome, every hidden sacrifice, every quiet expression of love. Christ becomes present through ordinary disciples living ordinary faithfulness."

All of this speaks of the importance of our parish communities, their resilience and their possibility. The late American sociologist Fr Andrew Greeley once remarked on the sheer ingenuity of Catholic parishes and their uniqueness amongst all other forms of community. No other form of community brings together such diversity of persons united in a single purpose. As we celebrate the various anniversaries of a number of our parishes, let us be reminded then of the significance of them all, giving God

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thanks for their life, and recommitting to building them ever anew.

This is even more important when various external events in the life of our Church can disturb us such as the recent conviction of a former Australian bishop, and the current ICAC inquiry. At such times it is important that we never lose sight of the holiness of our Church evidenced in such countless acts of sacrificial love by those who form our communities of faith and are its true treasure.

Let us continue to keep one another in our prayer during this time. I am, most certainly, dependent on yours.

*Fr David Ranson
Diocesan Administrator*

Siena Catholic College

A new K-12 pathway to inspire students for the future

During a time when there has been such an evolution in teaching, curriculums, technology and digital tools, educators face many challenges while still encouraging students to build on their potential, encourage their curiosity, and celebrate their courage and growth.

A key focus of a new school in the Diocese for 2027 is to inspire their students through skilled and enthusiastic teaching, shared respect, building confidence, and a love for life-long learning anchored on a platform of parental and pastoral support. To encourage students to be authors of their own success.

Siena Catholic College, a Kindergarten to Year 12 co-educational college will open its doors next year, launching a

seamless learning journey from early years to graduation.

Bringing together Sacred Heart, Pymble and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, West Pymble, the new Siena Catholic College follows 18 months of consultation by Catholic Schools Broken Bay which showed parents wanted both continuity and renewal – honouring the rich histories of both schools while responding to the evolving needs of future generations.

They were keen to embrace co-education where their children had the opportunity of a K-12 pathway.

Siena Catholic College will provide for Kindergarten to Year 4 students at the West Pymble campus, while Years

5-12 will be on the Sacred Heart site on the corner of Bobbin Head Road and the Pacific Highway. The College will welcome its first Year 7 students at the start of the 2027 school year, with the full Kindergarten to Year 12 transformation scheduled for completion by 2030. While providing educational opportunity for families on the North Shore, the College's close proximity to public transport provides access to the wider Sydney region.

It is part of Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) five-year strategy, *Shaping Tomorrow, Together in Faith*, and is responding to the needs articulated by families, staff, and clergy.

"This is such an exciting development where we can build an extraordinary future for our students," the new Principal, Brenda Timp said.

"We hope to put students into the world as citizens who are able to participate meaningfully in all aspects of society."

A former teacher, planning and strategic systems leader and Principal of Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood, Brenda explained the naming of the College is based on the lives of two saints from Siena – Saint Bernardine and Saint Catherine of Siena.

St Bernardine was an influential 15th century Italian Franciscan priest and missionary preacher who devised the symbol IHS, the first three letters of the name of Jesus in Greek, in letters on a blazing sun.

"This symbol will be one of the icons of the Junior Campus," Brenda said.

"St Bernardine was very mindful of the importance of making the Gospel



Siena Catholic College will welcome its first Year 7 students at the start of the 2027 school year.

accessible so his preaching was easy to understand. He will be a wonderful guide for our junior students.

“Saint Catherine on the other hand was formidable. She taught herself to read and write, was very well educated and influential amongst the clergy, even convincing the Pope of the time, who was in residence at Avignon, to return to his pastoral duties in Rome!

“I think she will really inspire students to think about their place in the world beyond school, to understand who they are and how they can contribute to the world.”

Brenda agrees there has been an evolution in education where teachers are no longer only subject matter experts but have to understand 21st century skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration.

“We have to inspire our students with probing questions and establish a supportive and engaging classroom where they can inquire and collaborate in order to move from concepts initially to a place of mastery of learning.

“The most fundamental change has been the shift in the use of technology which is wonderful however we also need to interrogate the way we are using technology.

“It is not a matter of students coming into a classroom and having the content downloaded and teachers not engaged with the individual.

“Teachers need to have a deep understanding of how students

learn, stages of development, and of psychology. They need to have an acute awareness of each child’s wellbeing.”

Siena College will adopt a CSBB program of collaborative coaching where every teacher is given time to work with colleagues to analyse student data regularly. Teachers believe this is a key reason why NAPLAN results for CSBB continue to outperform most schools in NSW and across the country.

Another growing challenge for educators is the spotlight on how social media is impacting the behavior of young people along with the rise in mental wellbeing concerns and even compulsive social media addiction.

“I think it is really important for schools to be in partnership with parents on this, because we have to be giving our students consistent messages.

“However, I have so much faith in our young people. They really do understand the imperative to respect one another. In our Catholic schools we talk with students about the dignity of each and every person. We talk about how everyone is created in God’s image, and so that does give a sense of the importance of treating one another well, of upholding one another, of celebrating one another’s successes, of encouraging one another when we’re perhaps not going as well as we would like to. I see examples of that every day.”

It is early days but in the years ahead what memories would Brenda like



“I go into school every day and I feel so blessed because I love learning myself.” – Principal Brenda Timp.

Siena Catholic College graduating students to take with them?

“I would like them to say they engaged in the best learning. That it set firm foundations and really launched them into the future. That they left Siena with a really strong sense of who they are and how they can contribute to the world. That they left with a wonderful group of friends who will support them as they move into their next chapter.”

For further information including
[tours of both the Junior and Senior
Campus and Open Days
<https://www.sienadbb.catholic.edu.au/>

*Brenda Timp talks about her own pathway to teaching, the evolution of education and ensuring every learner is supported to be their best, in faith and learning; inclusive classrooms and parental connections; social media and AI challenges; and her vision for Siena Catholic College on **Around the Bay**, the Diocese of Broken Bay Podcast.*



CatholicCare's Interim Executive Director, Jodie Rollason.

Introducing CatholicCare's Interim Executive Director, Jodie Rollason

In July, CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay farewelled Executive Director Tim Curran, and we are delighted to welcome Jodie Rollason as our new Interim Executive Director. In her first weeks, Jodie has been meeting the people, programs and communities that make up CatholicCare, and she's been generous in sharing what she's learned so far.

When Jodie talks about what drew her to CatholicCare, she doesn't start with strategy or structure. She starts with people.

"It was really the people CatholicCare exists for, those who are most in need and most vulnerable," she says. "That, combined with the Catholic ethos that underpins everything we do. The idea

that we don't turn anyone away, that our services are truly for everyone – that deeply resonates with me."

Her career reflects that same focus. Jodie began working life as a nurse, an experience she says shaped how she sees people and how she thinks about care. She later moved into law, eventually leading a statewide community legal service through Wesley Mission, working with some of the state's most disadvantaged communities, including Indigenous and CALD communities. She has also run youth services. Different roles, but a consistent pattern – working alongside people when things are hardest.

Since joining CatholicCare, one of

"It was really the people CatholicCare exists for, those who are most in need and most vulnerable... That, combined with the Catholic ethos that underpins everything we do.

Jodie's first site visits was to our residential properties within the Permanency Support Program (PSP), which supports young people who are unable to live safely at home, often due to risks including neglect. There, staff work around the clock to provide

the stability and care these young people need.

“This is one of the parts of the role I know I will really value – being on the ground, meeting the people who do such important work every day, and seeing the heart behind our services,” she reflects. “I’ve heard a lot of very positive things about CatholicCare over the years, and I am starting to see for myself what makes this organisation so special. The care, commitment and sense of purpose I am seeing is deeply inspiring.”

“Our Permanency Support Program has some of the most wonderful,

“Our Permanency Support Program has some of the most wonderful, committed staff, who are working in a very challenging system,”... It’s a system that, by its nature, tends to be reactive rather than proactive, and she’s keen to explore what more can be done – from practical questions around guardianship and future planning for young people as they approach adulthood, through to the services needed to help them build genuine independence once they leave care.

committed staff, who are working in a very challenging system,” Jodie says. It’s a system that, by its nature, tends to be reactive rather than proactive, and she’s keen to explore what more can be done – from practical questions around guardianship and future planning for young people as they approach adulthood, through to the services needed to help them build genuine independence once they leave care.

But it’s the emotional toll that has stayed with her most. “These are children who have done nothing wrong,” she reflects. Many have been moved between homes through no fault of their own, and carers, bound by necessary safeguards, often can’t offer the simple physical affection a child might need after a hard day. “Imagine being a teenager going through everything they’ve been through, and not even being able to get a hug,” she says. It’s a gap she describes as almost unbearable to witness, and one she believes CatholicCare is well placed to help close – she has floated the idea of a volunteer “grandma program,” bringing warm, consistent, affectionate adult relationships into these young people’s lives. “Our staff are absolutely fantastic, genuinely caring people,” she adds. “You can see how attached they become to these kids. It’s finding ways to let that care reach further that I’m interested in.”

Ask her about the challenges facing the sector, and she doesn’t hesitate. “Attracting and retaining good people,” she says. “The work we do demands a lot, emotionally and professionally, and finding the right people, and then keeping them, is one of the greatest challenges we face. At CatholicCare, we hold ourselves to a high standard of care, and protecting

“Attracting and retaining good people... The work we do demands a lot, emotionally and professionally, and finding the right people, and then keeping them, is one of the greatest challenges we face. At CatholicCare, we hold ourselves to a high standard of care, and protecting that standard starts with looking after our people.”

that standard starts with looking after our people.”

Homelessness, too, sits close to her heart. “It troubles me deeply that in a country like ours, people are sleeping on the streets,” she says. “It’s not just a housing issue, it’s a human dignity issue. Nobody should have to wonder where they’ll sleep tonight.”

Across the different programs Jodie has encountered so far, the problems look different from one to the next – a young person turning 18 with nowhere solid to land, a family with nowhere to sleep tonight – but she keeps returning to the same question – what does it actually take for someone to feel like they matter? It’s the question she brought with her into nursing, then law, then youth services, and it’s the one she’s now asking of CatholicCare, as she gets to know the people and programs doing that work every day.

Bishop David Walker celebrates 30 years of episcopal ministry

Bishop David Walker has celebrated 30 years of episcopal ministry with a Mass in Chatswood, honouring his three decades of service to the Australian and local Church.

While Bishop Walker retired as Bishop of Broken Bay nearly 13 years ago, he has continued to serve the Church, particularly in the areas of adult faith and spiritual formation.

A celebration to mark his 30th anniversary of episcopal ordination was held on Thursday, 3 September at Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood, the place where exactly 30 years earlier he was consecrated as Bishop of Broken Bay.

Bishop Walker celebrated Mass, which coincided with the arrival of the major relic of Saint Carlo Acutis into the Diocese. The relic was welcomed into Our Lady of Dolours Church prior to Mass.

The relic, a section of St Carlo's pericardium, has been on a nationwide tour, covering 19 dioceses and 53 cities.

The pericardium is the fibro-serous, fluid-filled sack filled with fluid that encloses and protects the heart and greater vessels, holding them in

place and protecting the body's most important organ. The relic, therefore, is of major importance physiologically.

The pericardium also contains deep spiritual meaning. Spiritually, the heart is the centre of our inner life. Our relationship with the Lord is born in the heart and lives there: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart". (Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37) We also recall Mary, who "treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19).

David Louis Walker was born on 13 November 1938. He was one of six children (one died in infancy) in a close-knit family, who spent their childhood in the eastern Sydney suburb of Clovelly. His early education was with the Sisters of St Joseph and with the Marist Brothers at Marcellin College, Randwick. He subsequently entered the Seminary, studying at Springwood and Manly. In 1960 he gained the Baccalaureate of Theology, graduating magna cum laude.

He was ordained for the priesthood by Cardinal Gilroy on 21 July 1962 and in the same year obtained the Licentiate of Theology.

Following the retirement in Broken



Bishop Walker at his episcopal consecration.

Bay of the inaugural Bishop, Most Rev Patrick Murphy, David Walker was appointed the second Bishop of Broken Bay on 9 July 1996. He was ordained to the young Diocese of Broken Bay on 3 September 1996 at Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church, Chatswood, by Cardinal Clancy.

The ceremony was attended by 33 Bishops, 150 priests, and an overflowing congregation of more than 800 people. It had been moved from Corpus Christi Cathedral, St Ives, to accommodate the expected large crowd.

In his ordination address, he had expressed great hope for the future of the young diocese.

"I believe the call today is to be a Catholic community which lives the Gospel faith and witnesses it to contemporary people in a language and symbolism that they will find meaningful," he said in 1996.



The Relic of St Carlo Acutis has been on a nationwide tour.

As Bishop, he consolidated the Diocese of Broken Bay, creating the three deaneries and amalgamating several parishes to extend the quality of pastoral care to all parishioners.

He also founded *Broken Bay News*, the Broken Bay Institute and brought all the ministries of the Diocese under one roof at the Caroline Chisholm Centre, Pennant Hills.

Bishop Walker also moved the Cathedral from Corpus Christi, St Ives to Our Lady of the Rosary, Waitara.

He was a strong promoter of the permanent diaconate too, ordaining eight men as Deacons during his time in charge of the Diocese.

He served as Bishop of Broken Bay for 17 years, retiring on Wednesday, 13

November 2013, when the Holy Father, Pope Francis, accepted his resignation upon his 75th birthday.

“The highlight of my ministry as Bishop has been to share the Gospel with you, the people of the Diocese, and to help you grow in your faith relationship with Jesus,” Bishop Walker said upon his retirement in 2013.

“As a bishop, one is in a unique position to do that: indeed the reason we have bishops is to do that. I will miss it. The focus of a bishop’s ministry must be the people of God, and probably the success of my ministry lies in how well I have served you in that way. Only the Lord can judge that.”

Since retirement, he has continued to lead adult spiritual formation and education, one of his passions

throughout his presbyteral and episcopal ministry.

He still records a weekly video for the Centre for Christian Spirituality reflecting on the Gospel of the following Sunday, to help people better engage with the Mass and its readings.

He also said during retirement, he would enter into a ministry of prayer for the Diocese.

“As bishop, I have been grateful for all the prayers that have been said to assist me in my ministry,” he said.

“Part of my ministry was to return the favour, to offer prayerful support for you. However, I would see that retirement will be a time when I will be able to exercise a greater ministry of prayer for you.”

CATHEDRAL PRECINCT CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC:

TEEING OFF

FRIDAY
16 OCTOBER

7.45 ARRIVAL
AND REGISTRATION

NEWGREENS
CHATSWOOD
GOLF CLUB

REGISTER:




Women of Broken Bay

Lunch

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2026
11:30AM FOR A 12:00PM START – 2:00PM
NORTHBRIDGE GOLF CLUB





KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Mrs Kelly Paget,
Called to Lead: A Journey of Faith,
Family and Community.

Joseph House producing fruits as men discern their vocation

When Archbishop Anthony Randazzo opened Joseph House in Willoughby in 2021, his hope was that the house would become a place where young men would discover the divine purpose of their lives.

Five years down the track and that vision has certainly come true.

Not only is there no vacancy in the men's house of discernment, it has given several men the courage now to say "yes" to God's calling.

Four former and current residents are currently in formation for the priesthood while another one has entered religious life. While Joseph House is not intended to be for those only considering a vocation to the priesthood, four former and current residents are currently in formation for the priesthood while another has entered religious life.

Lucas Lopez Rizo, a current resident, is one who has begun formation for the priesthood.

"Joseph House helped me discern my vocation by providing me the environment I needed to enter into a deeper relationship with God," he said.

"By praying daily, I got used to taking



The men of Joseph House gather for community time.

everything that was going on in my life into God's hands and offering it to Him. And then by interacting with other men that were on the same discernment path, I realised they were also going through the same struggles, which gave me a sense of peace in knowing that everything is part of God's plan, and that He will never leave any of us alone.

"The combination of prayer and community life gave me the courage I needed to move forward in my journey, and I wouldn't be the person I am today without all the valuable lessons I learnt along the way."

"At the beginning, it seemed like too much in comparison with my prayer life before moving in, but I quickly discovered how beneficial it was for my spiritual life, and the prayer habits that I developed here have become an essential part of my everyday life..."

Lucas had been attending Mass at Manly Parish while discerning his vocation, but believes Joseph House provided him a greater opportunity to discern.

"At the beginning, it seemed like too much in comparison with my prayer life before moving in, but I quickly discovered how beneficial it was for my spiritual life, and the prayer habits that I developed here have become



Mass and adoration are celebrated in the House's chapel.

an essential part of my everyday life,” he said.

“One of the unique things about Joseph House is the community life. I learned a lot from the other Catholic men I had the opportunity to share this experience with, and I am still learning. Every new day gives all of us the opportunity to practice virtue and to serve our neighbour better.”

Other young men who have spent time at Joseph House have found their vocation in careers or married life, anchored in a firm Catholic faith.

Each day, the residents wake up at 5:30am for Morning Prayer and an hour of Eucharistic Adoration before heading to work or study. They live in community with other men discerning and also undertake formation.

Lucas is one of two residents currently in formation for the priesthood for the Diocese of Broken Bay. Tam Nguyen, a seminarian from Vietnam, has moved into the house in the past few weeks. Both men are expected to continue their formation at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd at some point.

Some former residents have also discerned a vocation to the priesthood and religious life.



Former Joseph House member John Yates begins Seminary.



Lucas (far right) with other seminarians from the Diocese and Archbishop Anthony Randazzo.

Rohan Viswalingam, a former resident of Joseph House, recently made his Simple Profession with the Order of Saint Benedict in New Norcia, taking the religious name of Dom Anthony.

Another former resident, John Yates, has left for the United States to begin formation for the priesthood.

John joined Joseph House at the start of the year from Queensland as a member of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross. In August, he began studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio along with seminarians from the Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter.

With some men expected to leave the house at the end of the year to continue their discernment, there will be vacancies at Joseph House in 2027.

Lucas encouraged any young man considering joining to take the plunge and commit to spending a year discerning where God is calling them.

“My simple advice to anyone wondering if this is for them, is to not

“We receive guests every week for our fraternity evenings, starting with Mass, followed by dinner and a talk by an invited speaker. We would be glad to share with you here at Joseph House, so if you are interested just get in touch.”

overthink it and just ‘come and see’,” he said.

“We receive guests every week for our fraternity evenings, starting with Mass, followed by dinner and a talk by an invited speaker. We would be glad to share with you here at Joseph House, so if you are interested just get in touch.”

For more information about Joseph House or to apply, go to bbcatholic.org.au/josephhouse

How is a new Bishop appointed?

Following the appointment of Archbishop Anthony Randazzo as Prefect of the Dicastery for Legislative Texts, the Diocese of Broken Bay has entered a period known as “sede vacante” (Latin for “the seat being vacant”).

During this period, the normal authority is suspended and limited governance is carried out by the appointed Diocesan Administrator, Very Rev Dr David Ranson.

The process of appointing a new bishop will also commence.

Here’s how the process works according to Canon Law:

In the first instance, it’s important to understand, it’s the Holy Father who appoints bishops.

Can. 377 §1: The Supreme Pontiff freely appoints Bishops or confirms those lawfully elected.

At least every three years, the Bishops of Australia draw up a list of candidates who might be suitable to be a bishop one day. In addition to this, Bishops have the individual right to make known to the Apostolic See, the name of any priest they think worthy and suitable to be a bishop.

Canon 377 §2: At least every three years, the Bishops of an ecclesiastical province or, if circumstances suggest it, of an Episcopal Conference, are to draw up, by common accord and in secret, a list of priests, even of members of institutes of consecrated life, who are suitable for the episcopate; they are to send this list to the Apostolic See. This is without prejudice to the right of every Bishop individually to make known to the Apostolic See the names of priests

whom he thinks are worthy and suitable for the episcopal office.

When a vacancy or need for a new bishop arises, a “ternus” (a list of three suitable candidates) is proposed to the Apostolic See. In Australia, it’s the responsibility of the Apostolic Nuncio (the Pope’s representative) to seek the suggestions of the Metropolitan and Suffragan Bishops of the vacant Diocese. He can also see the suggestion of the President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

To be a candidate, the person must:

be outstanding in strong faith, good morals, piety, zeal for souls, wisdom, prudence and human virtues, and possess those other gifts which equip him to fulfil the office in question;

- *be held in good esteem;*
- *be at least 35 years old;*
- *be a priest ordained for at least five years;*
- *hold a doctorate or at least a licentiate in sacred Scripture, theology or canon law, from an institute of higher studies approved by the Apostolic See, or at least be well versed in these disciplines. (Canon 378)*

The Nuncio will also seek the views of the Diocese’s College of Consultors. He may also seek to consult, in secret and individually, the opinions of priests, religious, lay people and other people of “outstanding wisdom”. He will then send the suggestions, along with his own opinion, to the Dicastery for Bishops.

Canon 377 §3: Unless it has been lawfully prescribed otherwise, for the appointment of a diocesan Bishop

or a coadjutor Bishop, a ternus, as it is called, is to be proposed to the Apostolic See. In the preparation of this list, it is the responsibility of the papal Legate to seek individually the suggestions of the Metropolitan and of the Suffragans of the province to which the diocese in question belongs or with which it is joined in some grouping, as well as the suggestions of the president of the Episcopal Conference. The papal Legate is, moreover, to hear the views of some members of the college of consultors and of the cathedral chapter. If he judges it expedient, he is also to seek individually, and in secret, the opinions of other clerics, both secular and religious, and of lay persons of outstanding wisdom. He is then to send these suggestions, together with his own opinion, to the Apostolic See.

Once at the Dicastery for Bishops, the Nuncio’s report is reviewed. They may approve the Nuncio’s top choice, pick another or reject the list entirely and tell the Nuncio to begin the process from the beginning.

The head of the Dicastery, Archbishop Filippo Iannone, O.Carm, will then present the final recommendation to the Pope, who will ultimately have the final say over the appointment. He may agree with the committee, select another option or propose his own option entirely.

Once the appointment has been made, the candidate will be contacted by the Nuncio, who will then choose to accept or refuse the appointment. If he is already a Bishop, he can only reject the appointment through appeal to the Dicastery for Bishops.

Once the appointment is accepted, it will be announced by the Holy See. If the candidate is not already a

bishop, he must be ordained within three months.

Canon 379: Unless prevented by a lawful reason, one who is promoted to the episcopate must receive episcopal consecration within three months of receiving the apostolic letters, and in fact before he takes possession of his office.

Australia is currently without an Apostolic Nuncio, following the retirement of Archbishop Charles Balvo on 29 June 2026.

Unfortunately, the process of appointing a new Bishop of Broken Bay will not be able to proceed until a new Apostolic Nuncio is appointed, which could be some months away.



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Broken Bay counting down to WYD 2027 in Seoul

It's less than a year until World Youth Day 2027 will begin in Seoul, and preparations in Broken Bay are in full swing, as the Diocese prepares to take more than 100 pilgrims to South Korea for an encounter with the Holy Father.

World Youth Day 2027 will be the 41st World Youth Day, and the first to be celebrated under Pope Leo XIV.

Established by St John Paul II in 1985, World Youth Day has become the largest gathering of Catholic youth in the world. It attracts hundreds of thousands of young pilgrims every three years to a different host city.

The Diocese of Broken Bay will once again be taking a group of young people aged 15 years to young adults aged 35 on pilgrimage from Greater Sydney, including students from Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB), with their journey set to begin on 26 July and run to 12 August 2027.

The pilgrimage will include a pre-pilgrimage journey to Japan, following in the footsteps of the many great martyrs who brought the Catholic faith to the country amid tremendous persecution. They will then journey to South Korea where they will gather with the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, and

an anticipated one million Catholics from around the globe, in Seoul.

Every World Youth Day has a theme and the theme for WYD27 in Seoul is: "Take courage, I have overcome the world!" (John 16:33).

Broken Bay will officially launch its pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2027 with **SeoulFest on 20 September 2026**, the Feast of Saint Andrew Kim Taegon.

The festival will feature Korean food, music, culture, games and activities, and give pilgrims the chance to meet other young people and families who might be joining them on pilgrimage in 2027.

The Diocese has also unveiled its mascot for the pilgrimage: a bucket-hat wearing kookaburra named Baylee.

The four chaplains for World Youth Day 2027 have also been announced: Fr Rosan Mathew, Fr Hien Vu, Fr Shayne D'Cunha and Fr Tan Nguyen. All four traveled to World Youth Day in 2023 as seminarians.

The chaplains will accompany the pilgrims throughout the pilgrimage, offering Mass, spiritual guidance and the Sacrament of Reconciliation to pilgrims.



Baylee – the mascot for Diocesan WYD pilgrims.

World Youth Day can often be a powerful time of encounter with Christ, as pilgrims enter more deeply into a relationship with God, supported by likeminded people and encouraged by the millions of other pilgrims attending. Many vocations have been born on World Youth Day and it is one of the great unifiers of the global Church.

The Diocese of Broken Bay has opened expressions of interest for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul. To register your interest, go to bbwyd27.org.au

Patron Saints of WYD 2027

Saint John Paul II

Saint John Paul II was the 264th Pope, serving as Pontiff from 1978 to 2005. Living through the Second World War and Nazi oppression, his priestly vocation was nurtured in an underground seminary. He would go on to be Archbishop of Kraków before being elected Holy Father. He proclaimed the Gospel through pastoral visits to 129 countries, and in 1984 founded World Youth Day, inviting young people from across the globe to become one in faith. He died in 2005 and was canonised in 2014.



Saint Andrew Kim Taegon and companions

Saint Andrew Kim Taegon was the first Korean Catholic priest. Born in 1821, he was sent to Macau to begin studies for the priesthood. He returned to Korea during a time of persecution but still laboured tirelessly to secure safe entry routes for missionaries. He was arrested just a year after his ordination. He was tortured and beheaded, dying at the age of just 25. He was canonised along with 102 other Korean martyrs in 1984, although as many as 10,000 Koreans Christians were killed during the 19th century.



Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini was born in Italy in 1850. She longed for religious life but was refused admission to several religious communities due to her fragile health. With an ardent desire to be a missionary, she founded her own religious order. Pope Leo XIII personally sent her to New York to care for the marginalised. She founded 67 institutions including orphanages, schools, hospitals, and convents—throughout the United States, South America, and Europe. She died in 1917 and was canonised in 1946. Having become a naturalised US citizen in 1909, she became the first US citizen to be canonised.



served simply and faithfully for the rest of her life, gaining a reputation for her special charisma and her sanctity. She died in 1947, having served as a sister for more than five decades. She was canonised in 2000 and became a powerful symbol of the fundamental dignity of every person, and the ability to overcome hatred and suffering.

Saint Carlo Acutis

Saint Carlo Acutis is a young saint who bore witness to the faith in the digital age. Born in London in 1991 and raised in Italy, he came from a family that wasn't particularly devout. However, from the age of seven he placed daily Mass and Eucharistic adoration at the centre of his life. Using his computer skills, he created a website documenting Eucharistic miracles from around the world and dedicated himself to spreading the faith through digital media. He was diagnosed with leukemia and died in 2006. He was canonised in 2025 and has rapidly become one of the most popular saints among young people.



Saint Josephine Bakhita

Saint Josephine Bakhita was born in Sudan around 1869. She was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery. After going to Italy, she recovered her dignity and freedom, was baptised and entered the Canossian Daughters of Charity in 1893. She



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Broken Bay launches its own podcast



The Diocese of Broken Bay has launched its own podcast, Around the Bay, as it strives to bring the Good News to all through a variety of digital and print mediums.

The podcast will feature interviews from people in and around the Diocese of Broken Bay, including clergy, laity and religious, talking about their journeys of faith, areas of ministry, and issues pertinent to the People of God in the Diocese.

There will also be conversations with educational leaders, people from business, politics, charities, and volunteers.

Very Rev Dr David Ranson, Diocesan



Administrator of the Diocese of Broken Bay, said: “I am very pleased to launch this exciting new series highlighting the wonderful people of our Diocese, and I express my warm gratitude to our Media and Communications Broken Bay team both for the initiative and the expertise in bringing it about.

“May the encounters represented by the series share the story of our Diocese in a fresh and creative way.”

Around the Bay is recorded in a specially designed podcast studio within the Caroline Chisolm Centre, Pennant Hills.

The podcast forms part of a renewed digital media strategy for the Diocese, which strives to spread the Good News in new and innovative ways, through videos, podcasts, social media, websites, newsletters and other digital offerings.

Fr Ranson was the guest on the

Fr Ranson was the guest on the first episode of Around the Bay, and discussed his role as Diocesan Administrator, his journey from Tasmania and his time as a Cistercian monk at Tarrawarra Abbey, to the Diocese of Broken Bay.

first episode of Around the Bay, and discussed his role as Diocesan Administrator, his journey from Tasmania and his time as a Cistercian monk at Tarrawarra Abbey, to the Diocese of Broken Bay.

He also talked about life as a parish priest, looking after the largest

parish in the Diocese of Broken Bay at Chatswood, providing insight into parish life and what is drawing people to the Church in the 21st century, some of his greatest influences, what motivates him as a priest as well as the major current issues of social media and generative AI.

The first episode has already been well-received, with hundreds of listeners across YouTube and

Spotify to hear about his story and reflections. More than 600 people watched the podcast on YouTube in just the first week alone, with people from across the Diocese and further afield tuning in.

In the second episode of the podcast, Brenda Timp, Principal of the new co-educational K-12 Siena Catholic College, Pymble will talk about the future of Catholic education within the Diocese.

She will also reflect on her 25 years being involved in Catholic education and her journey from growing up in South Africa and working in the mining industry, to teaching in Broken Bay.

Podcasts are one of the fastest growing digital mediums and represent a key way to spread the Good News, particularly to young people.

Podcasts are one of the fastest growing digital mediums and represent a key way to spread the Good News, particularly to young people.

Nearly three quarters of people aged 18 to 34 consume podcasts every month, while more than half of those aged 35 to 54 also listen to podcasts.

In the Catholic world, podcasts have become a powerful way of spreading the Good News. The Bible in a Year with Fr Mike Schmitz topped the Apple Podcast charts shortly after its release in 2021 while Pints with Aquinas, hosted by Australian Matt Fradd, has received millions of listeners each year.

In the second episode of the podcast, Brenda Timp, Principal of Siena Catholic College, Pymble will talk about the future of Catholic education within the Diocese.

The graphic is a promotional poster for the 'Around the Bay Podcast' by the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay. It features a purple background with a white outline of a church steeple on the left. The text 'AROUND THE BAY PODCAST' is prominently displayed in white. Below this, there are two main sections for the podcast episodes. The first section, labeled 'EPISODE 01', features a photo of Dr David Ranson, Diocesan Administrator, smiling and holding a red book titled 'Future With Possibility'. The second section, labeled 'EPISODE 02', features a photo of Brenda Timp, New Siena College Principal, smiling. Below her photo is the title 'Educating to Inspire'. At the bottom left, there is a QR code with the text 'Watch & Listen On YouTube'. At the bottom right, there is a QR code with the text 'Listen on Spotify'. The Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay logo is in the top left corner.

A Word from the Director of Schools



We continue to see strong momentum across Catholic Schools Broken Bay, with student achievement and opportunity bringing our *Shaping Tomorrow Together in Faith* strategy to life.

Our outstanding 2026 NAPLAN results are a wonderful example of this. Across Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, CSBB students delivered strong results, continuing to outperform State and National averages across key areas of literacy and numeracy.

Behind these results there has been a clear focus on knowing every learner, strengthening teaching practices, identifying student needs and responding with precision.

Learning and opportunity also extends well beyond the classroom. Students from St Paul's Catholic College, Junior Campus, Balgowlah recently had the extraordinary opportunity to train with coaches from Chelsea Football Club, delivered in partnership with Football NSW.

That same idea of turning passion into possibility can be seen in the journey of St Peter's Catholic College alumnus Anthony Lacovazzi. Anthony's interest in hospitality began in a Year 9 Food Technology classroom, developing throughout hospitality studies, work placement and winning CSBB's inter-school *Battle of the Chefs* competition. After completing his apprenticeship and earning the prestigious Oliver C. Shaul Scholarship, he is now working in a Michelin-starred restaurant in London. It was wonderful to see him recently return to *Battle of the*

Chefs as a judge, inspiring students now standing where he once stood.

Anthony's journey is a powerful example of what we are building for every student – opportunities to discover their strengths, gain confidence and connect their learning with life beyond school.

Across our broader sporting pathways, Term 2 has also delivered outstanding participation and achievement. Rugby, netball and tennis championships brought students together from across Broken Bay, while St John the Baptist, Woy Woy earned the opportunity to represent Broken Bay at the NSW Catholic Primary Schools Finals following the Primary Rugby 10's Chris Gangemi Team Qualifier.

What continues to stand out across all of these stories is the breadth of opportunity available to our students – in learning, pathways, sport and experiences that see our students discover just what they are capable of.

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If you have any news you would like to share with the CSBB Community, please email comms@dbb.catholic.edu.au

We would love to hear from you.



St Paul's Catholic College Junior Campus students with Chelsea Football Club coaches.

Chelsea Football Club Coaches Inspire St Paul's College Students at Football Clinic

Students from St Paul's Catholic College, Junior Campus, Balgowlah were privileged to experience an unforgettable day when coaches from world-renowned Chelsea Football Club visited Sydney to deliver an exciting football clinic on the Northern Beaches.

The Chelsea Football Club coaches worked with students through a series of drills, including goal shooting, dribbling, juggling and ball control exercises.

Students eagerly embraced the opportunity to learn from



St Paul's students learn new football skills.



Chelsea Football Club coaches St Paul's students.



St Paul's Catholic College student.

experienced coaches, gain valuable insights, and ask about a career in football. The enthusiasm was infectious, with big smiles, laughter and determination evident throughout the sessions.

For many students, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The chance to train with coaches from one of the world's most famous football clubs created memories they will never forget.

St Paul's Catholic College was one of four schools across NSW to have this exclusive opportunity. This clinic showcased the incredible sporting opportunities available to students through Catholic Schools Broken Bay. Delivered in partnership with Football NSW, the day highlighted the power of sport to inspire, connect and encourage young people to pursue their passions, both on and off the field.



CSBB's Brenda Timp and Danny Casey review the results.

Outstanding 2026 NAPLAN Results

Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) continues to outperform most State and National schools in the latest NAPLAN results.

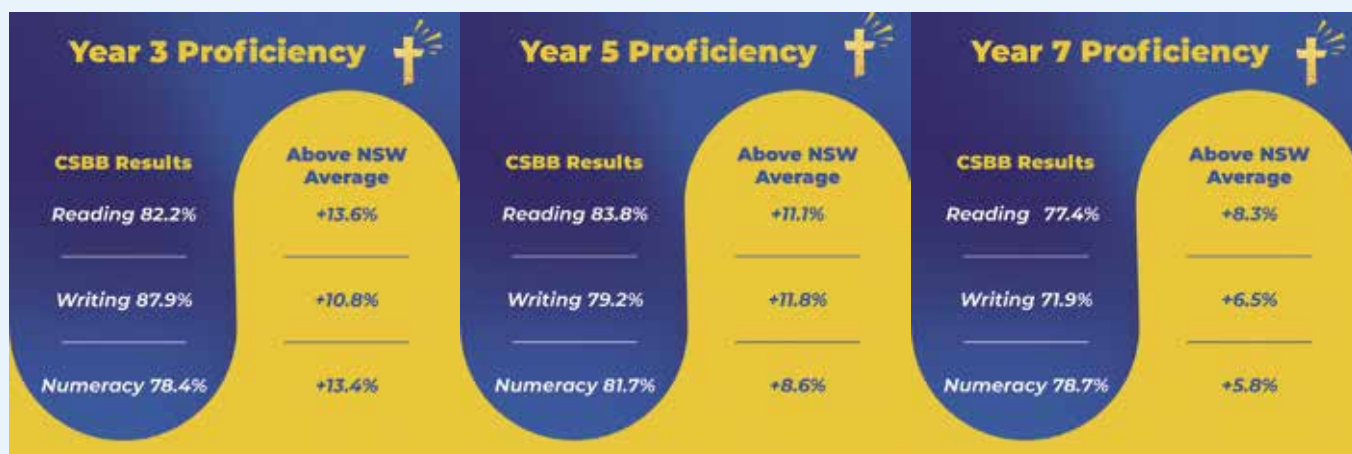
Results from Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 have all shown strong performances from students in the 2026 NAPLAN assessments released this week which places CSBB among the best performing education systems.

Year 3 achieved an average of 32 scaled score points above the National average across all domains – Reading,

Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation and Numeracy. A third of these students achieved the highest proficiency level (Exceeding) for Reading. This is the strongest result across all years to date.

When compared with National averages, Year 5 recorded the highest positive differential in Reading, Spelling and Numeracy across the four years of results available to date.

20% of Year 5 students achieved Exceeding proficiency



level in Numeracy, an increase of 4% on the previous best (2025) figures, while Year 5 Grammar and Punctuation had an increase of 8% in the Strong and Exceeding proficiency levels with 1 in 3 students improving their proficiency level.

Year 7 recorded the largest proportion of students at the Exceeding proficiency level in each of the literacy domains of Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation, similarly with Year 9.

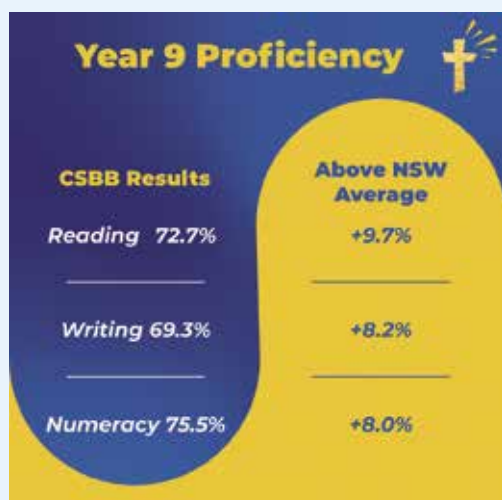
Also in Year 9, 25% of CSBB students achieved Exceeding in Writing, a figure which is around 10% higher than State and National percentages.

Director of Schools, Danny Casey said these outstanding results once more reflect the ongoing commitment of CSBB to excellence, equity, and high expectations for all learners as well as the hard work and transformation of culture and practice across all CSBB schools.

“These results are the outcome of deliberate and sustained efforts under CSBB’s *Shaping Tomorrow Together in Faith* strategy to strengthen teaching and learning.

“Central to this success is a focus on targeted and explicit teaching, aligned closely with the standards of the NSW curriculum. This ensures all students are taught the essential knowledge and skills that matter most.”

“We have delivered a strong and sustained focus on student learning. This includes high-quality curriculum implementation, widespread use of CSBB’s early years literacy and numeracy screeners that identify student learning needs early, and ongoing professional learning that builds teachers’ expertise.”

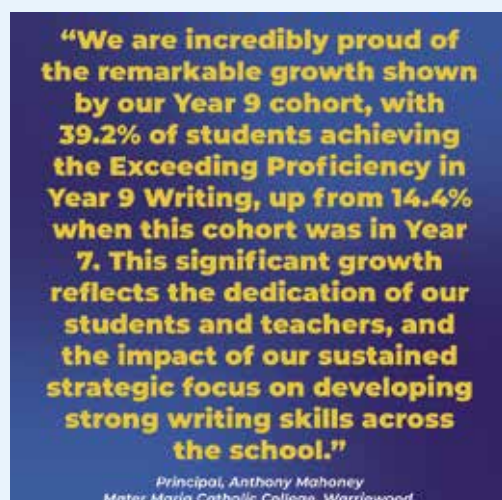


“The 2026 NAPLAN results affirm our belief in the power of teacher professionalism, evidence-informed practice, and the importance of knowing every learner. Catholic Schools Broken Bay remains focused on continuous improvement to ensure every student is supported to thrive – academically, spiritually, and personally.”

“The strategic use of assessment data, including CSBB’s new, state of the art, *Data Ecosystem*, has further supported teaching and learning, allowing educators to identify learning strengths and address areas requiring additional support. Teachers and leaders are responding with precision, ensuring interventions are targeted and effective, particularly for students who need it most.”

These results also reflect the strength of collaborative leadership across CSBB schools and the system-wide commitment to providing every student with access to high-quality learning opportunities.

Mr Casey said, “The 2026 NAPLAN results affirm our belief in the power of teacher professionalism, evidence-informed practice, and the importance of knowing every learner. Catholic Schools Broken Bay remains focused on continuous improvement to ensure every student is supported to thrive – academically, spiritually, and personally.”



From the Classroom to London

How CSBB Schools Turn Passion into Career Pathways

What if a Year 9 Food Technology class could be the first step towards a career in a Michelin starred kitchen in London?

For former St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah student Anthony Lacovazzi, that is exactly what happened.

Anthony is now heading to London to work in a Michelin starred restaurant after being awarded the prestigious Oliver C. Shaul Scholarship. His journey began much closer to home, through the practical learning, industry experiences and vocational pathways available at Catholic Schools Broken Bay.

Anthony's story shows what can happen when students are given opportunities to discover what they are good at, experience the world of work and turn an interest into a genuine career pathway.

At St Peter's Catholic College Tuggerah, Anthony was introduced to hospitality through Food Technology in Year 9. By Years 11 and 12, he was studying Hospitality and gaining practical experience that connected his learning directly with the industry.

A Year 11 work placement at The Cowrie in Terrigal became a significant turning point, leading to an apprenticeship after he completed his HSC.

While still at school, Anthony also competed in Catholic Schools Broken Bay's *Battle of the Chefs*, winning the competition in 2023. The competition brings students together from across CSBB schools to test their culinary skills in an authentic industry environment and experience the challenge, creativity and teamwork of professional kitchens.

For students, experiences like these provide more than a

For students, experiences like these provide more than a qualification. They provide a chance to discover a passion, build confidence, meet industry professionals and see where their skills could take them.



Anthony Lacovazzi is now working in a Michelin starred kitchen in London.

qualification. They provide a chance to discover a passion, build confidence, meet industry professionals and see where their skills could take them.

Anthony went on to complete his apprenticeship at The Cowrie, refine his skills at Sydney's acclaimed two hatted restaurant Bentley Restaurant and Bar and win Gold in the 2025 Cookery Challenge at TAFE Ourimbah.

He completed his apprenticeship ahead of schedule, with his achievements contributing to his selection for the Oliver C. Shaul Scholarship, which recognises Australia's emerging culinary talent and has now opened the door to his international career.

Catholic Schools Broken Bay Director of Schools, Danny Casey, said Anthony's journey demonstrates the importance of creating opportunities for students to discover their strengths and connect their learning with the world beyond school.

“Anthony’s journey is a wonderful example of what can happen when learning is connected to real opportunities, industry experience and strong pathways. His story began in a CSBB classroom and has now taken him to one of the world’s great culinary cities.”

St Peter’s Catholic College Principal, Roisin McVeigh said Anthony’s journey demonstrates the importance of giving students authentic opportunities to explore their strengths while they are still at school.

“Anthony’s story began with an interest in hospitality, but the opportunities available to him at St Peter’s helped him turn that interest into a pathway.”

Anthony has now come full circle. Recently returning to St Peter’s, he judged the 2026 Catholic Schools Broken Bay *Battle of the Chefs*, this time mentoring students who are standing where he once stood.

Pathways & Partnerships Lead at Catholic Schools Broken

“Anthony’s story began with an interest in hospitality, but the opportunities available to him at St Peter’s helped him turn that interest into a pathway.”

Bay, Phil Cox, said Anthony’s experience reflects a broader commitment across CSBB schools to ensuring students can see a future beyond the classroom.

“We want every student to have opportunities to discover their strengths and understand where those strengths can take them.

Anthony’s journey is a great example. His pathway started at school, but the opportunities he was given helped him build the confidence, skills and connections to take that pathway into the world.”



Anthony was introduced to hospitality in the classroom.

Rugby 10's – Chris Gangemi Team Qualifier

The CSBB Primary Rugby 10's Chris Gangemi Team Qualifier brought together students from across the Diocese for an exciting day of competition, teamwork and sportsmanship. As the qualifying event to determine Broken Bay's representative team for the NSW Catholic Primary Schools (CPS) Finals in August, the stakes were high and the standard of rugby was outstanding.

For the first time in many years, multiple schools entered teams, creating

a vibrant and highly competitive tournament. Played in perfect weather conditions, the event showcased the skill, determination and enthusiasm of all participating students.

A special thank you to the school staff and parent coaches who generously shared their time and expertise in preparing students for the competition. We also acknowledge the support of NSW Rugby, who provided referees and helped ensure the day ran smoothly.

St John the Baptist, Woy Woy – 1st
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Terrigal – 2nd
St Brendan's, Lake Munmorah – 3rd
MacKillop, Warnervale – 4th

Congratulations to St John the Baptist, Woy Woy, who were undefeated and will proudly represent Broken Bay at the NSW CPS Finals in Narrabeen, late August. We wish the team every success as they take on the best primary school rugby teams from across the state.



CSBB (Secondary Schools Term 2 Events)

Catholic Schools Broken Bay Secondary events showcase talent, teamwork and growth across our affiliated schools, with diverse opportunities for all students. Beyond the results, the events provide students with opportunities to represent their schools with pride, develop their skills and build connections through sport. The positive atmosphere, enthusiastic

support from staff and spectators, and respectful competition on display reflect the values that underpin Catholic Schools Broken Bay sport.

Catholic Schools Broken Bay congratulates all students, coaches, staff and officials who contributed to the success of the championships throughout Term 2. The continued

growth in participation, and the strong performances across a range of schools, highlights the positive influence of sporting opportunity within the Diocese. The Term 2 CSBB sport championship events were a wonderful celebration of student achievement, community spirit and the power of sport to bring young people together.

Netball

The Intermediate and Senior Netball Championships brought together students from across the Diocese for a fantastic day of competition at Pennant Hills Park in June, celebrating skill, sportsmanship and the continued growth of netball in our schools. One of the highlights of this year's championships was the continued expansion of opportunities for boys to participate. Following the successful introduction of boys' teams in 2025,

this year's event marked the second year of competition for boys, with every secondary school entering a team. The strong response reflects the growing enthusiasm for netball across the Diocese and demonstrates the inclusive opportunities being created for all students.

The championships showcased an outstanding standard of play, with students displaying commitment, teamwork and resilience throughout

the day. Encouragingly, success was shared across multiple schools, highlighting the strength and depth of netball programs throughout Catholic Schools Broken Bay. Schools from across the Diocese featured prominently in both intermediate and senior divisions, creating a highly competitive and exciting tournament.

Congratulations to our 2026 winners in each division.



Intermediate Girls: Champions: St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah; Runners Up: Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood
Senior Girls: Champions: St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga, Runners Up: St Brigid's Catholic College, Lake Munmorah
Year 10-12 Boys: Champions: St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga, Runners Up: St Brigid's Catholic College, Lake Munmorah

Boys Rugby

The CSBB Boys Rugby Championships brought excitement, skill and outstanding school spirit to Narrabeen at the end of June, with all seven of our boys' schools represented across both competition divisions (Under 14 and Under 16). The event provided students with a valuable opportunity to represent their school communities with pride, build friendships and experience the excitement of inter-school competition in a positive and supportive environment.

Players demonstrated determination, teamwork and sportsmanship in every

match, reflecting each school's efforts in ensuring adequate and safe rugby preparation in the lead up to the event. The championship titles were shared, with different schools claiming victory in each division. The spread of success highlighted the competitive balance of the tournament and the strong rugby programs being developed across the Diocese.

Catholic Schools Broken Bay extends its sincere thanks to NSW Rugby Union for its support of the championships. Their contribution of qualified referees ensured a high-quality competition

experience, helping matches run smoothly and providing students with an authentic representative-level sporting environment.

The 2026 Boys Rugby Championships were a wonderful celebration of participation, excellence and community, highlighting the important role sport plays in developing resilience, leadership and teamwork among our students. Congratulations to all players, coaches, staff and officials who contributed to another successful championship event at Narrabeen.



Under 14's: Champions: St Edward's College, Gosford, Runners Up: St Brigid's Catholic College, Lake Munmorah

Under 16's: Champions: Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood, Runners Up: St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah

Tennis

The Catholic Schools Broken Bay Tennis Championships at Pennant Hills once again brought students together for a day of enjoyable inter-school competition, sportsmanship and skill development. The championships provided students with the opportunity to represent their schools in a friendly yet competitive environment, fostering both individual excellence and a strong sense of community through sport. With Championship and Division 2 competitions available for both boys and girls, the event catered for a wide range of playing abilities, ensuring

meaningful participation opportunities for all students.

Winners of the Championship Division in both the boys' and girls' competitions earn the opportunity to represent Catholic Schools Broken Bay at the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges (NSWCCC) Tennis Championships in September. This provides students with a valuable chance to test themselves against some of the state's leading school-aged tennis players and continue their representative sporting journey.

The Tennis Championships continue to be an important event on the Catholic Schools Broken Bay sporting calendar, balancing participation and excellence while encouraging students to strive for their personal best. Congratulations to all players, coaches and staff who contributed to a successful day of competition at Pennant Hills, and best wishes to our Championship Division winners as they prepare to represent Broken Bay at the NSWCCC Championships later this year.



Girls Championship: Champions: St Joseph's Catholic College, East Gosford, Runners Up: St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah

Girls Division 2: Winners: MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale, Runners Up: Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood

Boys Championship: Champions: Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood, Runners Up: St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga

Boys Division 2: Winners: MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale, Runners Up: Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood

Giving back to those who have given so much

The priesthood is not a career someone chooses.

It is a loving response to God's call; a lifelong commitment to guide, serve, and care for God's people.

It is a vocation that endures forever, and even when a priest grows older and his responsibilities change, he never ceases to be a priest.

While we are aware and grateful for the work, generosity and compassion of our priests, there is not always the opportunity to assist them during those retirement years.

This year the Diocese of Broken Bay celebrates its 40th year as a Diocese. During this time our priests have been there for the most important moments for us and our families, the milestones in our lives including officiating at weddings, baptisms, anointing the sick and farewelling loved ones. They are the spiritual leaders, administering the sacraments,



The St Joseph's Appeal will help provide accommodation, healthcare and personalised support for our retired priests.

teaching the faith, visiting the sick, while at the same time managing the day to day operations of their parish. Quite a role!

This year the Diocese established the Priests' Retirement Foundation to ensure that priests who have given their lives in service to the Church are supported with dignity, compassion, and care in their senior years.

During September the Diocese is holding the inaugural St Joseph's Appeal to assist priests in their retirement.

Many parishes will be having the appeal in the first two weeks of the month however contributions are welcome throughout September.

Priests do not expect anything in return for serving God's people, however in their retirement we can show that the Church is truly a family by supporting those who have so faithfully supported us.

To know more about the St Joseph's Appeal visit <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/giving/st-josephs-appeal>

St Joseph's Appeal for the Care and Support of our Retired Priests



Chatswood

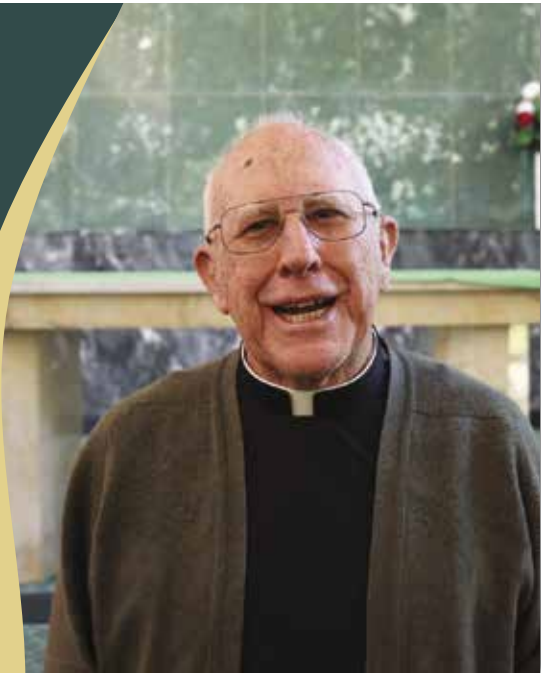
Let us give thanks to our retired priests for their lifetime of selfless service to God and His people in the Diocese of Broken Bay.
All donations are 100% Tax Deductible.



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PRIESTS'
RETIREMENT
FOUNDATION



Broken Bay News takes top honour at Catholic press awards

Broken Bay News (BBNews), the quarterly magazine of the Diocese of Broken Bay, has taken the top honour at the 2026 Australasian Catholic Press Association Awards in Christchurch recently.

BBNews was runner up in a number of categories but took out the top honour, the Bishop Philip Kennedy Memorial Award for Overall Excellence.

"BBNews has the most disciplined design system in the field, and the interiors hold that standard with proper headline hierarchy, generous picture use and section furniture that genuinely helps navigation," the judges said in their feedback.

"The May Commemorative Edition is the argument: Francis died on Easter Monday, Leo was elected three weeks later, and a team of two turned a full edition around inside a fortnight, ran an enlarged print run and had it signed by Pope Leo himself. Topicality, professionalism and service to the audience in a single artefact."

Archbishop Anthony Randazzo had Pope Leo XIV sign a copy of the magazine when he visited the Holy Father earlier this year.

The Philip Kennedy Memorial Award recognises overall editorial excellence and outstanding contribution by a Catholic publication in either print or online format.



Broken Bay News was also runner-up in the Most Improved Publication, Print category and runner-up for the Best Front Page category, for the front cover of its May 2025 Commemorative Edition.

The team at Broken Bay News would like to thank our readers and contributors who support the magazine every quarter.

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A Life of Giving, A Season of Receiving

Most of what Moya has done in her life, she has done for other people.

Eighteen months ago, the rhythm of her life changed completely. Her husband Harry – the man she met at nineteen, married in 1975, and shared a life with across two continents and four children – died suddenly. Harry had assisted with the domestic work in their household, so his death didn't just leave grief. It left a practical hole in the architecture of her daily life, on top of an autoimmune condition that flares up without much warning. "It's a big adjustment becoming one after sharing your life with someone," Moya says.

Some of Moya's family members suggested she look into a Support at Home package, and that's how CatholicCare came into her life. Moya was one of the first to join the program after CatholicCare launched its Support at Home services this year. "We know that as we age, and whether

we like it or not, our bodies deteriorate and performing daily tasks become increasingly more difficult, painful and burdensome," says Michael David, CatholicCare's Clinical Care Manager.

What Moya needed, it turned out, was help with physical tasks, like cleaning, that her condition now makes risky or too demanding. Her support worker, also named Harry, comes weekly. He talks about his two kids sometimes. There's a human element to it that Moya notices and values.

For most of her adult life, Moya was the one organising help for others. She studied nursing as a young woman and went on to raise four children across two continents, including two and a half years in Japan, where she built a social life through the JANZ ladies' group and weekly tennis at the Australian Embassy. For forty years, she was a member and eventually the President of the Catholic Women's League, contributing to domestic violence reform, social justice submissions to government and the slow, unglamorous work of advocacy. In 2016, that work was formally recognised – a Medal of the Order of Australia, and in the same year, a papal honour. She describes these awards as "a very special recognition that means a great deal to me and my family."

For Michael, there's something fitting about Moya now receiving support from the very institution she spent decades serving. "Although Moya is new to CatholicCare, Moya's story demonstrates how Support at Home can significantly improve an individual's quality of life, especially when support is provided by the Catholic Church, an institution Moya is a part of, which she has proudly served," he says.

Independence, for Moya, was never about doing everything herself. It was about staying the author of her own life – choosing where she lives, how her home runs, and what role her children play in it. "I have children who are caring and who I know I can call on," she says, "but I like that I don't need to rely on them in a carers capacity. I want to share in their family life, and I want my home to be a place where they can visit and stay, and not in the role as a carer."

Moya's faith underpins all of this. "When life has thrown curve balls, I am fortunate to have had my faith," Moya says. "That's not to say I wasn't angry or resentful at times. But we all have a path that we are journeying along through this life – some are shorter than others but it is what we contribute that matters. That's what I live by."

These days, Moya has joined the social committee at her residence. She still attends to the things she always attended to – community, connection, the people around her.

Moya's message to others is to accept the help that is available. "We all have limitations and we all need to acknowledge that at some point in our lives we will need help," Moya says. "If you're not coping, it's important to reach out. Many seniors have given a lot to others throughout their lives. Now is your time to enjoy what's available."

Coming from a woman who spent decades making sure other people got the help they needed, it's advice she's now living out herself.

For more information about our Aged Care services call 1800 324 924 or visit www.catholiccaredbb.org.au.



“I Know Now I Can Do Anything”

High above the ground at TreeTops Adventure Park Central Coast, Christie paused for a moment. 31-years-old and harnessed into the black course – one of the most challenging routes in the park – she looked down through the trees and took a breath. “I have a fear of heights,” she said earlier that morning. But she kept climbing.

Below her, a group of women watched on, cheering her forward. Some had met only hours earlier, but already there was a sense that this day was about far more than ropes and obstacles.

Each month, CatholicCare runs the Treetops Empowerment Climb for women who have experienced domestic and family violence. The day brings together survivors for connection, challenge, reflection and healing in the calm of the bushland at Wyong.

At the beginning of the day, the women gathered in a circle beneath the trees. It was National Reconciliation Week, and CatholicCare’s Danielle Habib invited anyone who wished to offer an Acknowledgement of Country.

Bec spoke first. A proud Dunghutti woman from Kempsey, she shared her determination to stay strong for her children and for the generations coming after them. One by one, everyone introduced themselves. Together, the small group realised they were parents to 39 children. Danielle paused on that number, acknowledging the strength it takes to raise the next generation while carrying stories of hardship and survival.

For many of the women, there was something healing about simply being among the trees. “You really feel at one with the land,” one participant reflected. “You feel light.”

But healing also came through challenge. As Bec moved through

the course, she found herself becoming overwhelmed with fear. “As I got further into the course, I was so scared and found myself in a heightened state,” she said. “Normally when I am in that state, everything descends into chaos. But today, I was able to come down safely out of that heightened state, and everything was OK. I learned to trust *safe fear*.”

For Christie, a mum of five children aged between five and sixteen, her journey to that treetop platform had been anything but easy. “Last year when I was living in Queensland, I was going through a rough patch,” she shared. “My kids and I got kicked out of our place.” She moved to NSW, first staying with her sister before experiencing homelessness.

“My friends and family turned their back on me,” she said.

Christie reached out to agency after agency for help. Eventually, she fell into addiction, and her children were removed from her care. “I didn’t think I would ever get my kids back and lost hope,” she said.

Then something changed. “I decided I would prove everyone wrong. I put my name down at nine or ten rehabs, and The Glen were the first to accept me.” Now in recovery, she said opportunities like the Empowerment Climb were helping her rediscover confidence in herself and her future.

As she moved through the obstacles suspended high among the trees, Christie became completely focused on the next step and the next platform.

“You forget everything in that moment because you are so focused on the course,” she said. “It’s a good thing for your mental health. This is a beautiful place to let it all out.”

Back on the ground after the climb,



John, a former police officer who now volunteers regularly with CatholicCare, led the women through a meditation using a sound bowl. Laying on yoga mats and looking up through the branches, the group listened quietly as the bowl echoed through the bush alongside birdsong and rustling leaves.

John had spent the day climbing alongside the participants, offering encouragement and reassurance on the courses. During a closing debrief circle, Danielle asked the women how it had felt having a man in the group. Several women responded immediately that they could not have completed the day without his support. The conversation turned to trust, safety and the reminder that there are good men in the world too.

By the end of the afternoon, hugs were being exchanged like old friends saying goodbye. “It felt like a community,” one participant, Nat, said. “I will remember this day for the rest of my life.”

For more information about this program call 1800 324 924.



Casting a light on the drivers of domestic and family abuse

Boys don't cry. Toughen up. Be a man. Most of us have heard these phrases so many times we no longer notice them. But CatholicCare's Respect Matters team knows there is a direct line between casual phrases like these and the domestic violence upending families across our community.

In the last 12 months alone, 1,910 domestic violence related incidents were reported on the Central Coast, a figure that, given up to 60% of cases go unreported, likely tells only part of the story. That link between everyday language and the harm it can help reproduce is what *The Cast*, a series of short clips driven by CatholicCare and supported by a grant from Central Coast Council, sets out to explore.

Ninety Central Coast locals, ranging in age from 7 to 83 years and drawn from diverse working and cultural backgrounds, were presented with a series of these familiar phrases

and asked to choose the one that resonated with them the most, then speak it to camera. Everyone involved shared the same motivation – an interest in being part of the project and a wish to see change. The result was launched on 28 July at Red Tree Theatre in Tuggerah, with the Hon. Jodie Harrison, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, in attendance.

The driving force behind *The Cast* was Nellie Srisurapon, CatholicCare's Domestic Violence Specialist, who brings more than 20 years of frontline case management and advocacy experience with migrant and refugee background communities. "The dynamic flow of it all is thanks to her," says Danielle Habib, who leads CatholicCare's Respect Matters team.

Danielle says the project set out to name something that usually goes unnamed – the everyday language

that shapes how we understand gender, long before anyone gets close to a crisis. For an organisation grounded in the belief that every person is deserving of dignity and respect, that work matters deeply.

"Every person can do something, and it starts with something as simple as the language we use," Danielle says. Phrases such as "toughen up" and "be a man" might sound harmless, but they set rigid expectations for how men and women are supposed to behave, and those expectations don't stay contained to a joke or a passing comment. Promoting rigid, hierarchical gender stereotypes helps reproduce the very social conditions that underpin violence against women, and stereotypes of masculinity in particular play a direct role in driving men's violence against women.

That's the discourse *The Cast* set out to interrupt. "The purpose was to cast

a light on these messages and beliefs that are so woven into the fabric of our society,” Danielle says.

The Cast builds on a much broader body of primary prevention work CatholicCare has established on the Central Coast, including securing \$581,000 in funding over three years through the NSW Government’s Primary Prevention grants program, part of the first-ever coordinated, statewide investment in this kind of work. It also builds on Project Respect, CatholicCare’s six-week schools program on respectful relationships, healthy masculinity, mental health and consent, and years of training delivered to recreational and sporting clubs, workplaces, childcare centres, and frontline domestic violence and family support workers.

The idea of the active bystander sits at the centre of all of it. Danielle says changing culture isn’t only about big interventions. It’s about people noticing when something isn’t right, and being willing to say something. “The behaviour you walk past is the behaviour you accept,” she says.

For Danielle, that principle isn’t theoretical. She recalls a night her daughter came into her room just before 9pm. “I need to speak now,” she said. Her daughter showed her a social media feed of a friend with a bottle of bleach, apologising to his mum and dad. Danielle rang 000 and told the operator it looked like he may be consuming a bottle of bleach. Police and an ambulance were sent directly to the scene, and the boy was rushed to hospital.

What mattered most that night, Danielle says, was that her daughter didn’t scroll past. “You are always saying, if you see something, do something,” her daughter told her afterwards. “I wouldn’t have

done that if we hadn’t had all these conversations.” It’s the same instinct Danielle hopes *The Cast* will build in everyone – noticing the small things, and having the confidence to speak up.

As domestic violence advocate Rosie Batty has said, “Whether you sit in a boardroom, a classroom or a seat on the bus, you have influence and you can contribute to the seismic shift towards a world free from violence.”

“You are part of this community, and

you can make a difference,” Danielle says. “Speak to someone if you don’t know what to do, because you’re not in this alone. We are a community, and your voice matters.”

You can watch the short film here:



Maddie gets back on the dance floor

For a whole year, Maddie Lewis sat at the edge of the dance class and watched. She knew every song. She had choreographed routines for this very group. But when her mum died in May 2025, dancing – the thing that had always brought her the most joy – was the first thing to go.

Then one day in June 2026, it came back.

“Suddenly, she just got up and danced,” says Community Programs Team Leader Natasha Abood. “It was one of those moments.”

Maddie has been part of CatholicCare’s community for 17 years, splitting her week between our Clarke Road Day Program three days a week and our Boonah Creative Arts Centre one day a week. At Clarke Road, her days are full – gym, cooking, dance and regular visits to local nursing homes where she sings for residents and plays board games with them. “She brings so much happiness to everyone here,” says

Natasha. “And when Maddie is happy, we are all happy.”

Maddie is one of eleven children. “They are a lovely family and all very close,” says Natasha. She lives with her dad, and before her mum’s death she would visit her regularly at her nursing home. When her mum died, the team at Clarke Road came up with the idea of Maddie visiting other nursing homes – a way for her to contribute to her community and find purpose through the thing she loves most. “I sang *Wicked* and *Anastasia* for the people there,” Maddie says.

When her mum died, the dancing stopped too. Maddie kept coming to Clarke Road, kept turning up to her Zumba class at Waitara – but for a year, she watched instead of joining in. Her mental health struggled.

What brought her back was time, and the knowledge – deep and long-held – that dancing is where she belongs. The *Barbie* movie has a special place in her life – she once choreographed

and taught one of its songs to the Clarke Road dance group, and she shares something with the film’s star. “I have the same birthday as Margot Robbie,” Maddie says, “and we were even born in the same year.”

Maddie is about to turn 36, and at Clarke Road, that is not a quiet occasion. “We celebrate every day that week,” Natasha says, “with multiple cakes and celebrations.”

Natasha has watched the full arc of the past year – the loss, the long stretch of sitting on the sidelines, and then the afternoon in June when Maddie simply stood up and danced again. It was not a dramatic declaration. It was just Maddie, ready.

For Maddie, music and movement have always been where she finds herself. After everything the past year held, she is finding her way back to both.

For more information about our disability services call 1800 324 924 or visit www.spirit.org.au.



Fr Stephen's 25 years

A Silver Jubilee and testament to God's fidelity

Reflecting on 25 years of priestly ministry, Fr Stephen Wayoyi Omwanda AJ says he didn't quite know what he was saying yes to when he first responded to God's call to be a priest.

Growing up in Kenya, the priesthood wasn't something he dreamed of, but he said God began to whisper along the way, awakening a desire to serve Him and serve His people.

"Looking back, I sometimes smile at my ignorance of thinking I knew exactly what I was saying yes to," he says.

"Twenty-five years later, I have discovered that saying yes to the priesthood is rather like beginning a journey without being given the complete itinerary. God reveals the road one kilometre at a time and occasionally includes a few unexpected detours!"

Fr Stephen was ordained a priest for the Congregation of the Apostles of Jesus on 9 August 2001.

He began his ministry in the Archdiocese of Tororo in Uganda, at Holy Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Nyondo, a vast parish with more than 36 sub-parishes. He later served in Christ the King Catholic Parish, Budadiri, which at the time covered 56 sub-parishes.



Fr Stephen congratulates Fr Shayne at his ordination.



Fr Stephen (centre) says his priesthood has had many unexpected detours.

After being temporarily assigned to a parish in the Archdiocese of Mombasa, Kenya, he came to the Diocese of Broken Bay, where he served in the parishes of Wyong, Woy Woy, Toukley, Pennant Hills, and now Lower North Shore.

"When I reflect about these twenty-five years, I don't only remember buildings, appointments or positions. I remember people I have encountered and interacted with," Fr Stephen says.

"I have found it very humbling to be invited into people's lives at moments when life is most real: when a child is born, when two people fall in love, when someone searches for meaning, when a family struggles, and when someone stands at the threshold of eternity. To be trusted with such moments is a sacred privilege; one I do not take for granted. I know that it is possible only through God's grace."

He also says even after 25 years, there are still things he's learning.

"I have learned that not every problem needs an immediate solution and that sometimes the most pastoral thing a person can do is simply sit with someone and listen," he said.

"I am also still learning the art of letting go and letting God take the lead. I have discovered that God often does some of His best work when I step aside and trust that His plan is better than mine."

Through the 25 years, Fr Stephen says he has been grateful to all those who have supported him and walked with him and hopes his priestly ministry can continue for many more years to come.

"The symbol of silver reminds me that priesthood is not about perfection. It is much more about humility, perseverance, faithfulness and grace," he says.

"A Silver Jubilee is not an ending. It is simply a reflective pause along the journey. A moment to look back with gratitude and forward with hope. I look forward to discovering what God still has to teach me.

"I pray that I may continue to celebrate the Eucharist with the same wonder that first drew me to the altar. Proclaim the Gospel with renewed conviction and accompany people through the ordinary and extraordinary moments of their lives."



Jodie Crisafulli (centre) with new Head of Safeguarding Broken Bay, Melinda Rixon (left), and) Fr David Ranson (right) and the Safeguarding team.

Safeguarding culture a lasting legacy

The former Head of Safeguarding Broken Bay, Jodie Crisafulli, is enjoying some quiet time after 22 years with the Diocese following her recent retirement, however her lasting legacy is the safeguarding culture she helped build.

Under her leadership, Broken Bay has become one of the leading dioceses in Australia in the field of safeguarding while also being recognised internationally.

At her recent farewell Diocesan Administrator Very Rev David Randson said that reputation has not happened by accident.

"It has been built through years of careful, patient, and often unseen work: developing our Safeguarding Charter, establishing comprehensive safeguarding policies and procedures, embedding awareness and training across the Diocese, and building a remarkable Safeguarding team whose professionalism reflects her own," he said.

Jodie's journey with the Diocese began in 2004 when she joined CatholicCare Broken Bay as Manager of Investigation and Training. In 2012 she extended her service to include the Chancery.

Over the years her responsibilities continued to grow from Manager of Complaints and Professional Standards, to Director of the Diocesan Office for Safeguarding in 2018, and in 2024 to Head of Safeguarding Broken Bay.

She also generously shared her expertise more broadly, serving as Assistant Director of the Professional Standards Office in NSW and the ACT and providing trusted counsel to Catholic Schools Broken Bay and CatholicCare.

"It has been a profound privilege and one that has been a deeply meaningful and humbling experience," Jodie said.

"There have certainly been many challenges during my time in

There have certainly been many challenges during my time in safeguarding, however there has been a real cultural shift on the journey."

safeguarding, however there has been a real cultural shift on the journey.

"It has been a journey marked by greater transparency, accountability, and a genuine commitment to protecting children and vulnerable people.

"I have also been privileged to work alongside many dedicated priests and colleagues who made real change possible, and I am confident that culture and commitment will continue."

Noting Jodie's legendary attention to

“Jodie became someone whose advice was sought, judgement was

Today, Safeguarding Broken Bay remains in safe hands. The new Head of Safeguarding Broken Bay is Melinda Rixon, who also has many years of experience in child protection and compliance.

Thank you Jodie and
welcome Melinda!



“It has been a privilege – and a deeply meaningful and humbling experience.” – Jodie Crisafulli



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Sr Clare Caeli enters novitiate with Nashville Dominicans

Sr Clare Caeli OP, known to the people of Broken Bay as Cailín Geraghty, has become a novice for the Dominicans of Saint Cecilia in Nashville, Tennessee, as she continues her journey discerning a religious vocation.

On Saturday, 8 August 2026 at the motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia in Nashville, Mother Anna Grace called forth Sr Cailín to the canonical novitiate of the order with the name: Sr Clare Caeli.

The name means 'Light of Heaven', and is very fitting given her particular devotion to St Clare of Assisi and Sr Clare Crockett, who was declared a Servant of God in 2024. Her feast day will be on the feast of Corpus Christi. She was also presented with the Holy Dominican habit.

Sr Clare grew up in the Diocese of Broken Bay, graduating from Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood in 2020, with an ATAR of 99.55. She studied a Bachelor of Accounting at the University of Technology, Sydney and was working as a finance graduate at QBE Insurance before joining the Dominicans. She also volunteered as a youth leader at Chatswood Parish and was also Youth President of the Northern Suburbs Region for the St Vincent de Paul Society. She joined

the Dominicans of Saint Cecilia in 2025 as a postulant.

The Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia, sometimes known as the Nashville Dominicans, were founded in Nashville, Tennessee in 1860. They combine a monastic communal lifestyle of contemplation in the Dominican tradition with an active apostolate in Catholic education. It currently has over 300 members, including several Australians.

While some religious orders discarded the habit and taking on a new religious name following the Second Vatican Council, some orders have retained these traditions. Upon entering the community, sisters are asked what name they feel the Lord may be calling them to receive.

In some communities, the names are proposed by the sisters while in others, the religious superior of the community will choose a name. For the Dominicans of Saint Cecilia, three names are proposed to the Mother Superior and she may choose one or give a totally different one.

After receiving the habit, a sister can spend two years as a novice, after which they take the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience for three years. After five years in vows, she can make her profession of perpetual vows.



Sr Clare Caeli OP as a postulant.

The Diocese of Broken Bay has a strong association with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia.

Sr Susanna Edmunds OP grew up in Wahroonga and attended Holy Name Church. She studied engineering at University of Sydney where she encountered the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia. She joined the order and professed perpetual vows in 2017. She is currently Dean of Studies at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd.

Sr Joanna Marie Collins OP grew up in Normanhurst and attended Queen of Peace Church. She attended Mount Saint Benedict College in Pennant Hills and earned a Bachelor of Education from Australian Catholic University before joining the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia. She professed perpetual vows in 2018.



Sr Clare entered the order last year.



Sr Clare (2nd row, 2nd from left) with other novices.

Seminarians Gala Benefit Dinner to celebrate, support vocations boom in Broken Bay

The Diocese of Broken Bay will host its second Seminarians Gala Benefit Dinner in November, as it seeks to celebrate and support the boom in the number of its seminarians.

More than 400 people attended last year's Gala Dinner, a strong sign of the vocational culture being built across the Diocese.

That support has been felt in the number of new vocations coming through the seminary, with five men beginning formation for the Diocese in 2026 and several more discerning to enter in 2027.

"This special event is an important occasion in the life of our Diocese, bringing together parishioners, clergy, supporters, and seminarians to celebrate and encourage vocations to the priesthood," said Very Rev Dr David Ranson, Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Broken Bay.

"The dinner recognises the commitment of those currently undertaking formation and acknowledges the vital role they will play in the future mission of the Church."



The dinner is a chance to support seminarians.



Last year's dinner was enjoyed by people across the Diocese.

Last year's gala raised more than \$25,000 to support the education and development of seminarians.

"The evening will provide an opportunity for attendees to meet and support our seminarians," said Fr David.

"It will also highlight the importance of fostering a culture of vocations within our communities, where prayer, encouragement, and practical support help individuals respond to God's call.

"As a community, we are blessed by the generosity of those discerning service to the Church, and occasions such as this remind us of our shared responsibility to support and accompany them on their journey. The Seminarians Gala Benefit Dinner serves as a valuable opportunity to strengthen awareness of vocations and reaffirm our commitment to those preparing for ministry."

The Diocese of Broken Bay is in the middle of a boom in the number of men discerning and entering formation for the priesthood. Currently, there are eight men in formation for the priesthood and that number could rise into double digits next year.

In the past five years alone, eight men

have been ordained as priests for the Diocese. In the previous 35 years, only 13 men had been ordained as priests for Broken Bay.

The Diocese has also been producing vocations for religious communities across Australia and internationally.

Dom Anthony OSB (formerly Rohan Viswalingam) made his simple profession of monastic vows before the community at New Norcia, Western Australia in March, after spending time in Joseph House. Meanwhile, Sr Clare Caeli OP (formerly Cailín Geraghty) has entered the novitiate of the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia in Nashville.

The Seminarians Gala Benefit Dinner is not only a chance to financially support the ongoing formation of seminarians, but also an opportunity to build and pray for a vocational culture within the Diocese that encourages young men and women to seriously discern where God is calling them.

The Seminarians Gala Benefit Dinner will be held on Friday November 6 at The Epping Club, Epping. More information including booking details from the Diocese soon.

Manly Freshwater Parish celebrate 150 years

Manly Freshwater Parish has celebrated its 150th anniversary, honouring the central role the parish has played, not only in the local Church, but in the Australian Church too.

For more than six generations, the parish provided the sacraments to the people of the region, watching as the suburbs of Manly and Freshwater transformed from sleepy, beachside getaways, to thriving populous suburbs.

The parish holds a particularly prized place in the life of the Catholic Church in Australia.

For almost 100 years, it was the home of St Patrick's Seminary, which educated more than 1,700 priests for the Australian Church.

To honour its 150th anniversary and the rich role the parish has played in the life of the Catholic Church in Australia, the Holy See has granted a Plenary Indulgence to anyone who visits the church during this year.

Archbishop Anthony Randazzo had requested the special indulgence and on 21 July 2026, it was granted.

"This indulgence may be gained by all the Christian faithful who are truly repentant and moved by charity from



Manly Freshwater has been a vibrant parish for more than six generations.

2 May until 8 December 2026. It may also be applied, by way of suffrage, to the souls of the faithful departed who are detained in Purgatory," the decree from the Holy See read.

"The indulgence may be obtained if the faithful visit, in the form of a pilgrimage, the parish church (or, on 24 June 2026, the Church of St John the Baptist, Freshwater, and on 4 August 2026, the Shrine of St John Mary Vianney, Manly) and there devoutly participate in the Jubilee rites; or at least devote an appropriate period of time to pious meditation, prayer, or other works of Christian devotion to the glory of God, offering fervent prayers to God for peace and harmony among peoples and against the errors of the present age, concluding with the Our Father, the Profession of Faith (Creed), and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace and Mother of Mercy.

"The elderly, the sick, those who care for them, and all who are unable to leave their homes because of a serious reason may likewise obtain the Plenary Indulgence, provided that they reject every sin and intend

to fulfil the three usual conditions as soon as possible. They should unite themselves spiritually to the Jubilee celebrations, offering to the merciful God their prayers, sufferings, and the hardships of their lives, thus finding consolation in their trials."

Manly is the oldest parish located within the bounds of the Diocese of Broken Bay and its establishment represents a rich part of the Catholic history of the region, as people began to move north from Sydney towards the Northern Beaches, upper North Shore and Central Coast.

When it formally split from the North Shore in 1876, the new Parish of "Manly Beach" extended from the Spit to Barrenjoey, later becoming Manly Freshwater.

The first parish priest was Fr Patrick Hallinan and the first baptism, of Florence Elizabeth Moss, took place on 14 September 1876.

At that time, the Catholic population of the Parish was 180 and the number of people attending Mass was 55 at Manly and 20 at Pittwater.



Visitors to the Parish can be granted a Plenary Indulgence.

By 1882, the Catholic population was swelling and had risen to 424. The need for a permanent church was apparent, although priority was given to building St Patrick's College, Manly, which would be the first major seminary in Australia for the training of diocesan priests.

In 1891, the foundation stone for the new permanent church was laid. The building of the new church coincided with an economic depression during

the 1890s, which meant funds were hard to come by.

Despite this, the community pushed to raise funds and showed its generosity. One parishioner, Mrs Isabella Dwyer, donated £2000 in 1908 (roughly \$500,000 in today's money) to help complete the church.

The completed Church of Mary Immaculate was officially opened and blessed by Cardinal Francis Moran on 6 June 1909.

Since then, the parish has undergone several changes, with new parishes being carved out from its original boundaries over time.

On 20th November 1921 the foundation stone for St John the Baptist Church, Harbord (now Freshwater) was blessed by Archbishop Michael Kelly, becoming part of the Manly parish. St John the Baptist was opened in July 1922, both as a church and a school.

Today, Manly Freshwater Parish stands as one of the most vibrant parishes in Sydney, supported by a strong community and a rich history. Its current Parish Priest, Fr Chima Ofor, is supported by Fr Marek Woldan and Fr Sam French.

The parish celebrated the milestone with a 150th Anniversary Gala Dinner at the Manly Pacific Hotel on Friday, 4 September.



St Mary Immaculate Church in 1895.



St Mary Immaculate Church in 2026.



SCAN ME

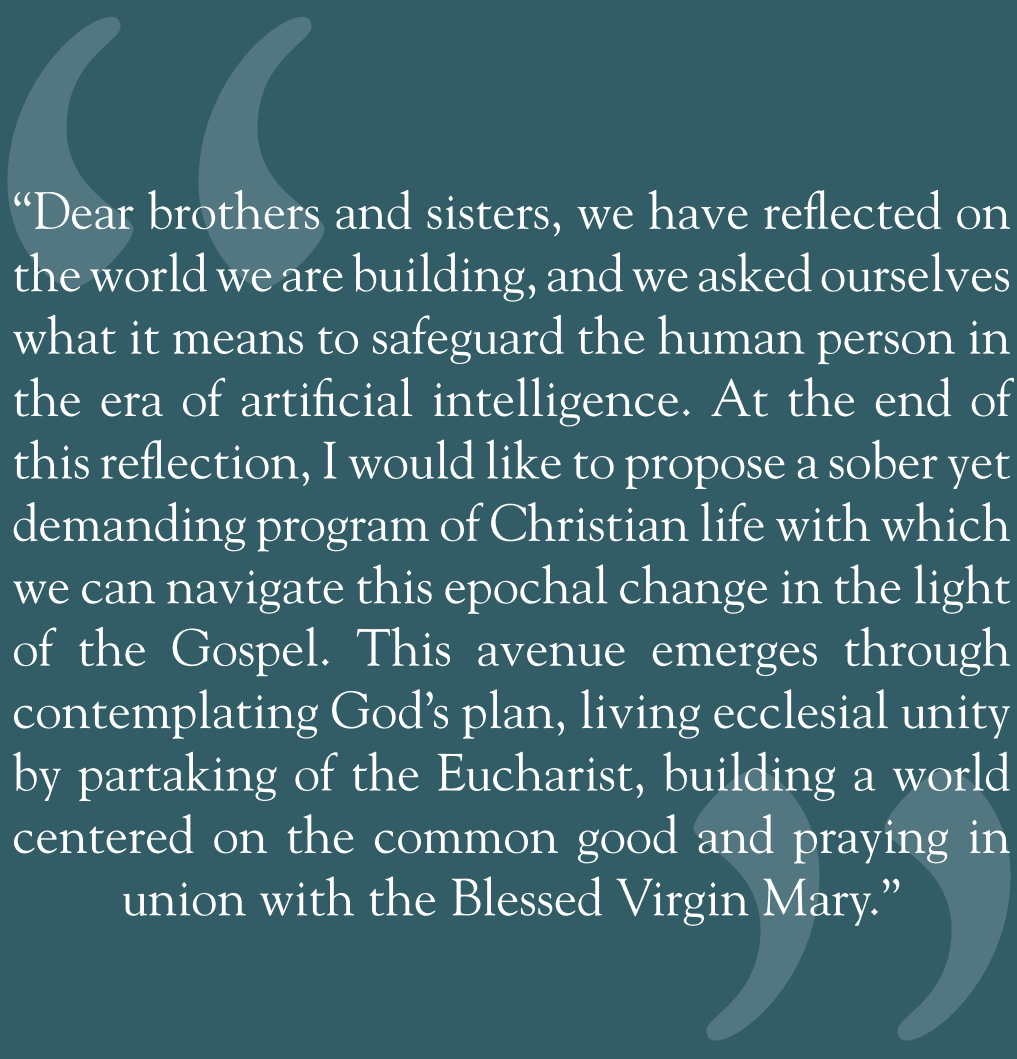
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“Dear brothers and sisters, we have reflected on the world we are building, and we asked ourselves what it means to safeguard the human person in the era of artificial intelligence. At the end of this reflection, I would like to propose a sober yet demanding program of Christian life with which we can navigate this epochal change in the light of the Gospel. This avenue emerges through contemplating God’s plan, living ecclesial unity by partaking of the Eucharist, building a world centered on the common good and praying in union with the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

POPE LEO XIV, *MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS*