
SEMINARIANS' BENEFIT
GALA DINNER
PAGES 4-5

DIACONATE ORDINATION
FOR THREE
PAGES 10-11

JUBILEE OF CHOIRS
SONGS FOR THE SOUL
PAGES 16-17

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DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY**

DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

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We acknowledge the Darug, Gurringai 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.

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BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Planning with Purpose:

The Cathedral Precinct Redevelopment Journey

By Bishop Anthony Randazzo



*'If the LORD does not build the house,
in vain do its builders labour.'*
Psalm 127:1a

After four years of prayerful listening, parish and diocesan community engagement, and reflection, it is with gratitude and hope that I offer an update on the planning and development of the Hornsby Cathedral Precinct. This process has been, and continues to be, one of patient consultation and shared vision, a journey we are making together as a diocesan family, in collaboration with Cathedral parishioners, the local Council, and the wider community.

From the very beginning, this project has not been about buildings. It is about people, those who have gone before us, those we serve today, and those who will call this place home in the centuries to come. We are undertaking this work not for a quick fix or short-term gain, but to ensure that the Cathedral Precinct will be a place of welcome, prayer, learning, service, and mission for the next two hundred years.

Progress Through Consultation

Since the initial stages of consultation began on 13 June 2022, the Diocese of Broken Bay has sought to engage openly and meaningfully with the Cathedral parish community, and the broader diocesan community. I am grateful for the many voices that have already contributed thoughts, ideas, hopes, and concerns. Each contribution has enriched our

understanding of what the Cathedral Precinct means to people and what it could become.

Let us be clear: no architectural designs have been developed or decided upon. We remain in a stage of deep listening. There will be further opportunities for parishioners, school families, and civic partners to be involved as we move forward. The Cathedral Precinct will be shaped by this dialogue, not imposed, but informed by collaborative conversation.

We are about to start a process of broader consultation with neighbours and the wider local community, to share this exciting vision and help shape our plans.

We are also in the early stages of ongoing engagement with Hornsby Council and the NSW State Government, ensuring our planning complements the broader needs and opportunities of the region. These conversations take time and trust. When consultation is genuine, as ours is, it requires patience and respect. Ownership of this project must be authentic and shared.

Above all, I ask you to keep an open mind and heart as we continue this journey and share the vision more broadly. Let us remain committed to discerning together, through prayer and dialogue, how the Holy Spirit is calling us to shape the future of our Cathedral home.

A Living Heritage

The Diocese of Broken Bay, established in 1986, inherited a legacy of faithful service that stretches back to the 19th century. The early Catholic community in the Hornsby region gathered for Mass in homes, schools, and makeshift churches, driven by devotion and a vision for the future.

In 1897, the Sisters of Mercy, at the invitation of Cardinal Francis Moran, responded to the needs of the vulnerable by founding a home for children and women at Waitara. That same spirit of compassion continues to animate our ministries today. Generations of families, like the Collingridge family, whose descendants still serve in the Cathedral parish, have helped weave this community's fabric with prayer, service, and hospitality.

Today, the Cathedral Precinct is the spiritual heart of the Diocese. It is home not only to the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary and our Cathedral clergy, but also to diocesan offices, CatholicCare, and two thriving Catholic schools, Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School and Saint Leo's Catholic College. Thousands of parishioners, students, staff, volunteers, and visitors pass through the Precinct each week.

This is a place where faith is lived daily, in the church, in the classroom, in service to the poor, and in pastoral care for all who come seeking accompaniment in faith and life. It is a place that belongs not only to the Church, but to the broader community. It has always been a space where people from many walks of life have gathered to pray, learn, and be together.

Planning for Growth and Renewal

As we look ahead, we must plan responsibly and with foresight. Hornsby and its surrounding suburbs are experiencing strong population growth. Enrolments in our Catholic schools are increasing, and parish participation is vibrant and diverse. To meet these needs, the Precinct must evolve.

Some of the challenges we face include:

- Ageing facilities that require renewal to meet modern safety, accessibility, and environmental standards;
- The need for better integration

of the site's various uses, educational, pastoral, administrative, and spiritual;

- The demand for improved site management, including traffic flow, parking, pedestrian safety, and shared space usage.

We also hope to restore outreach programs, such as, but not limited to, the weekly community kitchen that offered meals and friendship before the pandemic. In all of this, we aim to create a space that is welcoming, inclusive, functional, and future-ready.

A Vision Grounded in Faith and Justice

I have tried to be clear in articulating a vision that is centred on people, not structures. The Precinct must be a locus for community, a gathering place for the whole person: body, mind, and spirit.

Our plans aim to:

- Build a spiritual home for our diocese and parish, a sacred space where we can worship God, celebrate the sacraments, and pray individually and communally;
- Strengthen Catholic education, ensuring space for learning and growth in faith, knowledge, and wisdom;
- Expand pastoral care and support services, especially for the vulnerable;
- Enhance environmental stewardship, protecting and celebrating the natural beauty of our land;
- Engage more deeply with Australian indigenous communities, honouring their custodianship and stories.

We are particularly blessed that this Precinct sits near precious ecological areas, including a Blue Gum Forest and waterways that are home to unique flora and fauna. We take seriously our responsibility, inspired by Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*, to protect creation and educate future generations to do the same.

Partnership and Shared Responsibility

The Church does not plan in isolation. We have always walked with others, councils, civic groups, neighbours, and families of all faiths or none. That same spirit must guide our path now.

We are committed to early and open collaboration with Hornsby Council, State Government partners, our neighbours, and community leaders. Together, we can ensure that any future revitalisation and regeneration is not only respectful of heritage and character but responsive to future needs and rich in community benefit.

This is a time for shared stewardship. The Cathedral Precinct can be a place that strengthens the Hornsby community as a whole, a place of learning, belonging, compassion, and peace.

Guided by Prayer

More than anything, this journey is a spiritual one. We are not simply master-planning a piece of land, we are discerning how to best use the gifts entrusted to us by God for the good of all.

I invite all members of our community of the Church of Broken Bay to pray:

- That the Holy Spirit may guide our conversations, strengthen our hearts, and illuminate our path;
- That our actions may be founded in wisdom, justice, and peace;
- That our generosity may reflect God's love for every person who walks through our Cathedral Precinct.

I pray for creative imagining, the strength to dream big, and the humility to listen well. Let us walk together in hope, shaped by dialogue and guided by prayerful purpose.

May the Lord be the true architect of our Cathedral Precinct, now and always.

+Anthony

Seminarian gala dinner shows strong vocations culture in Diocese

More than 450 people were in attendance at the Seminarians' Benefit Gala Dinner, a sign of Broken Bay's strong and growing vocational culture.

People from almost every parish in the Diocese were in attendance, with some traveling from even further afield to support the current and future seminarians of Broken Bay.

Fr Joey Frez, Vocations Director for the Diocese of Broken Bay, thanked all those attending for their support and outlined his vision for a growing vocations culture within the Diocese.

"At first we estimated that there would be only a few guests attending this benefit gala dinner but we were not afraid to dream big, so we decided to push for 300 guests," said Fr Joey.

"We are in shock that we have more than 450 people in this room right now because as Bishop Anthony said, 'If it is the Lord calling, do not be afraid'."

Seminarians Huy Trần, Alfred Soliman, Shayne D'Cunha, Tân Nguyen, and Matthew French were at the dinner while Victor Atuhura, who is currently on placement in Uganda, tuned in with a video message, thanking the people of Broken Bay for their prayers and support.

The night, in late August, was filled with performances and fundraising.

Raffle, silent auctions, lucky door prizes, a live auction and other generous donations combined together to raise more than \$25,000 on the night.

Bishop Anthony Randazzo was one of the most competitive bidders on the live auction, winning a 1985 State of

Origin jersey signed by Peter Wynn, Steve Roach and Wayne Pearce.

Bids were also flying for a dinner with the Seminarians of the Diocese, while a dinner cooked by seminarian Matthew French was also a hot ticket item.

Young men from Joseph House, the Diocese of Broken Bay's house of discernment, and others discerning the priesthood, joined together for a performance, while some of the Diocese' newest priests, Fr Aldrin Valdehuez, Fr Roger Delmonte and Fr Hien Vu, joined together for a performance too.

One of the highlights of the night was a beautiful Vietnamese hymn from seminarians Huy Trần and Tân Nguyen, followed by a rendition of Salve Regina from all of the current seminarians of Broken Bay.

Fr Joey thanked his predecessors who have run the Vocations Office, for building the wonderful vocations culture the Diocese now enjoys. He also outlined plans to expand the ministry and asked for the entire Diocese to partake in the ministry, through their prayers or direct action.

"The next step in our efforts in the Vocations Office is to ask parishioners in their respective parishes to nominate the names of men who they think have the vocation to the priesthood," he said.

"We did this in Chatswood in 2023 and we had 12 nominees. The archdioceses of New York and Denver also did the same this year and they had around 900 nominees each."

The overwhelming support of parishioners and sponsors is a



Fr Joey Frez, Vocations Director.

testament to the growing vocations culture within the Diocese of Broken Bay.

This culture has encouraged many local men to say yes to God's call and it's hoped there will be many young men entering the seminary for the Diocese in the coming years.

Fr Joey said the support of the entire Diocese was needed to keep up this strong effort.

"As I have said on my visits in the parishes before, the vocations office cannot do it alone," he said.

"We need your help and we are so happy and blessed by your support to vocations especially with your presence tonight. Thank you for your prayers, kindness and generosity.

"Let us dream big for vocations in our diocese because as Bishop Anthony said, 'If it is God calling, do not be afraid'."





VOCATIONS




ANSWERING THE CALL:

THANK YOU to all our parishioners, sponsors and supporters for supporting our SEMINARIANS' BENEFIT GALA DINNER



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Church's two newest Saints have a home in Broken Bay

The Church's two newest Saints will both have a home in Broken Bay, with relics of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and Blessed Carlo Acutis installed in Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood ahead of their canonisation.

The pair, canonised by Pope Leo XIV on Sunday, 7 September 2025, make them the first of his pontificate.

Bishop Anthony celebrated Mass to celebrate the canonisation on the Sunday evening when he also formerly installed the relic of Pier Giorgio, and blessed the church's new Eucharistic Chapel.

"Our Mass featured a 30-strong student orchestra from Pius X College and Mercy College along with a



The relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis was installed last year.



The relic of Blessed Carlo.

special Mass Setting written by our Parish Director of Music, Mr Titus Grenyer, 'Mass in Honour of Blessed Carlo Acutis', said Chatswood Parish Priest, Fr David Ranson.

"During the Mass we installed a relic of Pier Giorgio Frassati. This will complete our new Eucharistic Chapel which has exposition of the Blessed Sacrament whenever our church is opened. In this chapel we also have a relic of Carlo Acutis permanently available for veneration."

The chapel was designed by architect John O'Brien and completed earlier this year for the permanent display of the relics.

Fr David said the canonisation of both saints presented a great message that the Spirit of God can inspire young people to great holiness.

"The canonisations highlight for me the power of the Spirit of God to spark the life of discipleship even amongst people who are young in age," he said.

"It is my hope that these two saints will inspire many young people to live their lives with both passion and purpose. They are wonderful role models for our young people."

Fr David added the new Eucharistic Chapel would create a place of constant prayer in the heart of Chatswood.

"For our parish the creation of the Eucharistic Chapel with the relics has given our church an amazing new life. Many people come and spend time in silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at all times through the day and evening. There is hardly a time when there is not someone in our church in prayer," he said.

“It is our hope that the church and its chapel become more and more a place of belonging and silence for people. I would say that this Year of Jubilee has been a very special one for us, and one that marks a truly new

way of being for us as a church in the city of Chatswood.”

Blessed Carlo had previously been scheduled to be canonised on Sunday, 27th April during the Jubilee

of Teenagers, while Blessed Pier Giorgio had been set to be canonised on Sunday, 3rd August during the Jubilee of Youth. The death of Pope Francis meant both these canonisations were postponed.

Pier Giorgio Frassati

Pier Giorgio Frassati was a young man who devoted his life to social justice and charitable work, to help the poor living in his hometown of Turin, Italy.

Born on 6 April 1901, his inclination to help others manifested during his childhood, although he was also known to be fond of practical jokes.

In his early adulthood, he joined Catholic Action and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, to help serve the poor people of Turin

through charity. He was also a fierce advocate for social reform, and was particularly inspired by Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum novarum*.

He was also known for his adventurous spirit and was a great mountaineer and athlete.

He died on 4 July 1925 at the age of just 24, due to polio. The cause for his canonisation was opened after the poor of Turin made several pleas to the Diocese. He was beatified in May 1990.



Carlo Acutis

Carlos Acutis was a young man with such a strong devotion to the Eucharist, he dedicated the final years of his life to building a website cataloguing Eucharistic miracles from around the world.

Born on 3 May 1991 to non-religious parents, from an early age he showed an attraction to the Catholic faith.

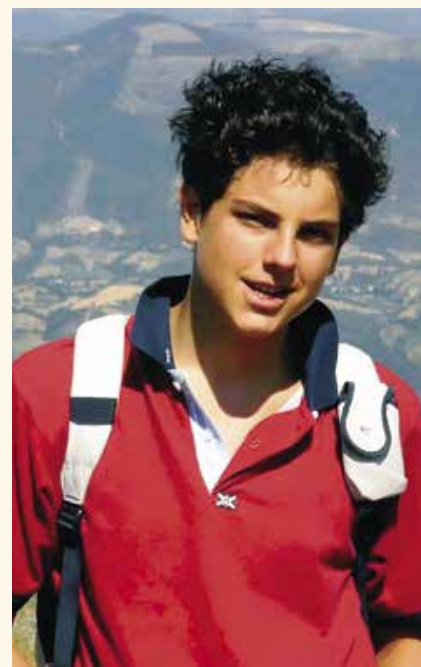
Even as a child and through his teenage years, he was a frequent communicant and attended Eucharistic Adoration regularly.

He loved video games too and would play Halo, Mario and Pokémon,

although he limited this to just one hour a week. He also enjoyed computers and began to create a website dedicated to showing all the reported Eucharistic miracles from across the globe.

In October 2006, he developed an inflammation of the throat and was hospitalised, where he was diagnosed with leukemia. Just three days later, on 12 October 2006, he passed away after falling into a coma.

The calls for his beatification began shortly after his death. He was beatified on 10 October 2020.



Bishop Anthony to ordain three new transitional deacons for Broken Bay

Bishop Anthony Randazzo has announced he will ordain three new transitional deacons for the Diocese of Broken Bay, continuing the strong run of ordinations the Diocese has enjoyed in recent years.

Shayne D'Cunha, Huy Tr  n, Tân Nguyen have been studying at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd for the past 7 years and will be ordained to the Order of Deacons on September 12.

Their ordination is a beautiful gift for the Diocese, which is seeing the fruits of a new vocational culture being built within Broken Bay.

Between 2000 and 2020, just two men were ordained as priests for the Diocese of Broken Bay: Fr Vincent Nguyen and Fr Paul Durkin.

But a renewal is taking place in the Diocese. Five men have been ordained as priests for the Diocese since 2021, with more set to be ordained in the coming years. Shayne, Huy and Tân will likely be ordained as priests in 2026.



(L to R) Huy Tr  n, Bishop Anthony Randazzo, Shayne D'Cunha, Tân Nguyen.

In addition to the three set to be ordained as deacons, the Diocese has three other men currently in formation for the priesthood, with more set to join the seminary in the coming years.

"That culture of vocations has been rekindled in our Church very strongly, and the Lord has blessed us" said Fr Paul Durkin, Vice-Rector of the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, and priest of the Diocese of Broken Bay.

"When I took over as Vocations Director 12 or 13 years ago, we had no one in formation. It was one of the things I was most conscious of, to keep promoting a culture of vocations in the Diocese.

"We've had several ordinations in recent years and that really is a wonderful boost to our Catholic faith and Catholic community."

At the Seminarians' Benefit Gala Dinner in late August, Bishop Anthony Randazzo said there were many young men in the final stages of discerning God's call to priesthood, and some could be joining the seminary as soon as next year.

We give thanks to God for the gift of vocations for our Diocese and pray more young people will hear God's call to devote their life in service of the Church.

Each of the three seminarians have enjoyed very different routes to ordination, which you can read about in the following three pages.



The three seminarians in the Seminary of the Good Shepherd Chapel.

Shayne D'Cunha

Disatisfaction with “a dream” career led to God’s calling

At the age of 18, Shayne D'Cunha was living the dream of most people his age.

He was playing for a professional football (soccer) team and representing his country at the under-19 level.

“Ever since I was a young kid, I loved playing football,” he says.

“In high school, I realised I could take it a bit seriously and I always had a dream of playing for Australia and playing in front of big crowds.

“By 18 I was semi-professional, playing for the under-19 national team for Australia and played a few seasons with the Western Sydney Wanderers. I was realising my dream.”

But a growing dissatisfaction with what was meant to be his dream, led him to discern a different path.

“I experienced the dissatisfaction with the world in a very strange way because football was something I loved, yet at the same time, it couldn't provide me with what I thought it could: that self-worth and that happiness,” he says.

Shayne was raised in the Parish of Pennant Hills and would attend Sunday Mass growing up but started to take his faith more seriously during his early adulthood.

Not only was he in a transition period in his daily life, he was also in a transition period in his spiritual journey, coming to know more deeply who Jesus Christ was and who His Church was.

“Consequently I started to search and moved away from a worldly way



of understanding who and I am and reality, and towards a Christian way,” he says.

“This experience led me to realise just how much Our Lord desires to be part of my life and I wanted to communicate that to others.”

Shayne entered the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in 2019 and following seven years of study, will be ordained a transitional Deacon for the Diocese of Broken Bay on 12 September.

He shares many great memories of his time in the seminary.

“I really enjoyed my first year in the seminary,” he says. I learned the importance and joy of fraternity,

prayer and study. World Youth Day and my parish placement at Warnervale in 2023 were also great.”

Ahead of his ordination, he says: “I’m excited and also a little nervous! But underneath both of those is peace.”

He says other young men in the Diocese need to be courageous in responding to where God is calling them.

“Do not be afraid! Be courageous and respond to Our Lord’s call with confidence; not so much in your own abilities but confidence in God who calls and sustains you,” Shayne says.

“A phrase I like to recall is ‘God doesn’t call the equipped, he equips the called’.”

Tân Nguyen

A desire to heal leads to Holy Orders

Tân Nguyen once had dreams of being a doctor.

Growing up in the south of Vietnam, he was the third of four sons in a faithful Catholic family.

But his desire to become a doctor was matched by a draw towards the seminary and after narrowly missing entry to medical school, Tân says the Lord's call grew stronger.

"I recognised that it is good to heal bodies, but even greater to serve as a 'doctor for the Lord', namely a priest who helps heal spiritual wounds and leads souls toward eternal life," he says.

At the end of 2012, he sat the entrance exam to become a pre-seminarian for the Diocese of Xuan Loc. He was accepted with 70 other men, but was required to complete a bachelor's degree before entering the seminary.

After graduating with a biology teaching degree, he offered himself as a missionary, and after meeting Fr David Ranson in 2017, came to Broken Bay in 2018.

After seven years of study at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, he will be ordained a transitional Deacon on Friday, 12 September.

He says he knows clearly he is meant to be in Australia and serve the people of Broken Bay, helping to heal their souls.

"In parishes, seminary and pastoral placements, I've met many carrying a quiet burden of faith, strained family relationships, mental-health challenges," he says.

"There, the Lord, in many ways, has shown me the deeper meaning why He brought me here: He needs me to



serve His people with even compassion like His. I may not have much to offer, but with a daily 'yes', an ordinary witness of faith, I hope to sow small seeds of the Gospel, help build the faith community of Broken Bay, and offer my life for the salvation of souls."

He admits coming to Australia has had its challenges, being away from family and adapting to the culture, but seminary life has helped keep him focused on his calling.

"The high point has been the liturgy and prayer and that's really kept me going," he says.

"I've been falling in love with the life of prayer. Constantly having conversations with God during the day, especially in mental prayer, silent adoration, and the Office, and the rosary helps me to discern the vocation with more clarity.

"I learned that God calls one to Holy Orders to serve His Church isn't a quick idea or an instant feeling that

one might feel at a certain moment. It's a steady longing for something or someone greater than oneself (perhaps God Himself, His love, or His service).

"Growing in love for the sacraments, especially daily Eucharist and regular confession, taught me how to be loved by Jesus and how to love like Him."

For any young men discerning their vocation, he recommends the same.

"Stay close to Jesus in the Eucharist, in Scripture, and in silent prayer," Tân says.

"In that quiet, ask: 'What would give me the deepest joy and meaning?' and 'What vocation/life does my heart most desire to live that would also help me grow in holiness, for my family, for the Church, and for the world?'"

"Do not be afraid to have a little adventure with the Lord. Trust Him. He will surprise you with more than you could ever imagine."

Huy Trần

Beauty, goodness and truth pave the road to the Diaconate

Huy Trần says three major conversions in his life set him on the path to Holy Orders.

Born in Vietnam and growing up in a faithful Catholic family, it was the Mass and study that led him to respond to God's call.

"I heard my calling since I was a kid. Over the years, it has been three conversions," Huy says.

"There was a conversion to beauty when I was a kid, the first time I went to the Mass with my dad and I saw the beautiful vestments of the priest and I wanted to be a priest. As a kid I thought that was a pretty good reason," he says.

"Then the conversion to goodness, when I joined the altar boys in my parish, seeing what the priest did and participating in the activities of the priest.

"Then the conversion to truth in the seminary, when I first studied the simplicity and truth of God. They have all helped me to make my decision."

Huy entered seminary in Vietnam in 2013 and studied a computing degree in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. After he graduated from his degree, he joined the major seminary.

"At that time, my bishop asked if I was willing to go to a different country to be a missionary and I eventually ended up in the Diocese of Broken Bay at the end of 2018."

He says he feels a mix of nervousness and excitement ahead of his ordination to the Diaconate.

"I'm looking forward to being back

in the Diocese, to work and minister there," he says.

"The harvest is abundant so I hope to contribute what I have been given, to the people who I have been entrusted with.

"I'm looking forward to being in the parish, baptising, witnessing marriages and officially preaching in the Mass.

He looks back fondly on his time of preparation over the past few years.

"Doing pastoral work in the hospital was very much confirming my vocation," he says. "I've enjoyed accompanying people personally and having that interaction with people,

and having them sharing their lives with me.

It's all life giving. I try to help and console people, trying to be Christ to other people and showing that in those moments."

For Huy, his vocation has been a love affair and its one he encourages other young men within the Diocese to discern.

"Above all, it's love," he says.

"Love is the most important part of every vocation. It's not just a romanticised love but it's to will the good for someone else. That's the moments you find God."





Praisefest: A Night of Hope and Unity in Chatswood

Natalia Plata — Praisefest organiser, Chatswood Parish

It's hard to talk about this event without reflecting on what we initially envisioned — a tribute to Carlo Acutis, the first “millennial” saint, a figure reminding young people that holiness is within reach. We had planned for it to coincide with his canonisation, fully prepared and excited: the playlist was ready, songs rehearsed, volunteers contacted, and even the food practically on the table. Every detail had been carefully arranged.

Then came the announcement: “Pause everything, we're postponing for a while.” That “while” turned into a little bit more than we expected — the event was rescheduled to the second

date we had for this year. A new theme, new songs, but the same spirit — and now, a message of hope.

Hope to connect with young people. Hope to remind the teenagers of the city that this is *their Church*. Hope to show that we are not the future of the Catholic Church — we are the present. As Pope Francis had encouraged us, we are here to make some noise in faith and life.

We hope this Praise and Worship night offered a space to remember that we are not alone, and that our faith is beautiful — a harmony of differences and unity. Though we come from different backgrounds, in Christ we are united as one Church. That is the hope we wished for the more than 150 participants of this edition.

It was a night where the music played loudly — thanks to our wonderful band — and our prayers were just as powerful. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made everything possible: the volunteers, Fr David for stepping in at short notice, the priests assisting with confession despite the cold and rain, and most importantly, the attendees — students, young adults, and teachers alike.

For many, nights like this spark a desire to go deeper in faith and



Fr David Ranson speaks at Praisefest.

community. If you felt that inspiration, we encourage you to connect with your local youth groups. These groups are a fantastic way to build friendships, explore big questions, and grow closer to Jesus — continuing the spirit of hope and unity from the Praise and Worship night.

Our hope now is to see everyone again next year — stay tuned for details! We want to make noise, move hearts, and demonstrate what a united Church in Australia looks like in Christ

Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood hosted Praisefest on August 1. It was a night of talks, prayer, reconciliation and praise & worship music.



Praisefest was envisioned as a tribute to Blessed Carlo Acutis.



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Our Lady of Dolours



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Encountering Jesus Christ in the Eucharist — Bishop's Pastoral Letter

Bishop Anthony's second Pastoral Letter to the people of God in the Diocese of Broken Bay, invites everyone to deeply reflect on what it truly means to be a Eucharistic people. The letter — *The Mystery of Faith: Encountering Jesus Christ in the Eucharist* — references the 54th International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028. "This momentous occasion will draw the attention of the global Church to our shores and invite us into a deeper encounter with the central mystery of our faith: the Most Holy Eucharist," Bishop Anthony said. "It offers a profound opportunity, not only to celebrate, but to renew our understanding, appreciation, and lived experience of the Eucharist, which is the source and summit of the Christian life."

The Pastoral Letter, in a bound booklet with a cover image of the 13th century fresco of the Eucharist with Christ, Virgin and Saints, known as the Mass of St Michael, and distributed to all parishes for The Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on 14 September, calls all parish and faith communities, families, individuals, clergy and consecrated religious, to prepare their hearts for the historic 2028 event.

However, Bishop Anthony emphasises the journey toward the Congress is not merely a timeline on the calendar; it is a spiritual pilgrimage. "The Bishops of the Second Vatican Council, in their wisdom and vision for a regenerated and revitalised Church, reminded us that the faithful must be led to a 'fully conscious and active participation' in the liturgy.

"This invitation is not simply about external gestures, standing, sitting, singing, or responding at the right times. It is about allowing the Eucharist to shape our hearts and our lives. "It is about bringing all that we are, our sorrows and our joys, our sins and thanksgiving, and uniting them with the offering of bread and wine, which, through the power of the Holy Spirit, become for us the Body and Blood of Christ," he said.

The Pastoral Letter also encourages everyone to pray and reflect on all aspects of the Eucharist including Jesus' enduring presence, receiving the Lord in the heart of the Mass, receiving Christ worthily, and receiving the Body of Christ as a sacred encounter.

The Bishop also writes that following careful and widespread consultation,

"As we journey together toward the Eucharistic Congress of 2028, may we grow in wonder at the gift of the Eucharist and renew our commitment to be, in all we say and do, a people formed and sent by the Eucharistic Lord."

Holy Communion from the chalice, suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, will once again be made available throughout the diocese from the Solemnity of Christ the King, Sunday, 23 November 2025. The Letter also includes guidelines for receiving from the chalice, which is not obligatory.

"As we journey together toward the Eucharistic Congress of 2028, may we grow in wonder at the gift of the Eucharist and renew our commitment to be, in all we say and do, a people formed and sent by the Eucharistic Lord," Bishop Anthony said.



United in Christ at NSW Parliament House



Gathering at NSW Parliament House for the launch of the Christian Alliance Council of NSW.

More than 50 leaders from Christian denominations, ministries, charities and organisations, joined Premier Chris Minns and political representatives at NSW Parliament House in August for the launch of the Christian Alliance Council of NSW.

In a powerful testament to faith and unity, the gathering demonstrated that what unites people in Jesus Christ is far greater than what divides, and that a united Christian witness can bring hope, strength, and renewal.

Described as an historic moment in the state, the Christian Alliance Council of NSW seeks to foster unity and friendship, and renew relevance of Christianity through all faith and cultural communities.

Held on the feast day of Australia's first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Bishop Anthony was asked to address the gathering.

He said Mary MacKillop's writings and life emphasised Christian unity through love, compassion, and shared faith in God's providence. She encouraged her followers to bear with one another, forgive each other, and let charity guide their actions. Her focus on unity stemmed from a deep belief in God's

love, and the importance of working together to serve those in need.

"We may be members of different Christian communities, but we are all members of the One Body of Christ. We come from different traditions, shaped by different histories, cultures and expressions of faith. We need not see these differences as obstacles but as shared gifts," he said.

"In the Catholic Church this year we are celebrating a Holy Year — the Jubilee of Hope. And we have been speaking a lot about synodality. Synodality means journeying together, listening, speaking honestly, and discerning what the Holy Spirit is telling us. It is not necessarily easy work. It requires patience, trust, faith, and a heart anchored in prayer.

"However, synodality is not just a path for the Catholic Church; it is a call for all Christians to listen, to speak, to discern, and to dialogue together. From dialogue flows cooperation and recognising one another as Christians not by pretending differences do not exist, but by respecting them, and still choosing to work together: in service to the poor, in care for our earth, in defending human dignity,



Bishop Anthony with the Moderator of the Uniting Church, Synod of NSW/ACT Faaimata Havea Hiliau.

and in witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If all we do is look in the opposite direction from one another, or choose competition over communion, we will always remain apart, and our ability to proclaim the Gospel will be compromised."

Premier Minns; Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport and Minister for Jobs and Tourism, Stephen Kamper; and Opposition Leader Mark Speakman all spoke about the key role faith communities play, and the importance of the public celebration of Christianity in NSW.



Sacred song is an integral part of the Liturgy.

Songs of Soul

Joshua Willard, Cathedral Director of Music, Diocese of Broken Bay.

Among the celebrations taking place this Holy Year, the Jubilee of Choirs (22 November) highlights the important place these liturgical ensembles have in the life of the Church. But before we explore the role of choirs, perhaps we should ask: why do we sing in liturgy at all?

From the earliest days of Christianity, communities gathered and grew in song. Indeed, the importance of singing is continually revealed through scripture and by the saints. In his letters to the Ephesians (5:19) and the Colossians (3:16), Saint Paul explicitly instructs those church communities to “sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs” as part of their prayer and

worship. The Israelites sang to the Lord after passing through the Red Sea. Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn together at the Last Supper before heading for the Mount of Olives. While in prison, Saint Paul and Silas sang hymns to God. Saint James wrote in his letter: “Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing praise.” Saint Augustine said: “Singing is for the one who loves.” From the Apostolic Age and through the centuries, singing has remained an integral part of Christian life — from private prayer to public liturgy, it is an ever-present and vital aspect of our faith heritage. Today, following the example of Christ and his apostles and saints, we ourselves still gather week after week “singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs” when we participate in the celebration of the Mass.

“The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art. The main reason for this pre-eminence is that, as sacred song united to the words, it forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy.”

In Sacrosanctum Concilium (SC)
— the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 1963 — the Council Fathers of

Vatican II said: "The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art. The main reason for this pre-eminence is that, as sacred song united to the words, it forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy." Again, in the document *Musicam Sacram (MS)*, the Church reaffirmed this importance: "Liturgical worship is given a more noble form when it is celebrated in song. Indeed, through this form, prayer is expressed in a more attractive way, the mystery of the liturgy is more openly shown, [and] the unity of hearts is more profoundly achieved by the union of voices."

So, again and again, we see the

Firstly, the choir sings the Mass. Traditionally, choirs were clerical groups and would sing the Mass, while the priest celebrates the Mass. This can take the form of singing parts of the Mass 'in dialogue' with the congregation, such as the *Kyrie* or the *Gloria* — particularly if the latter is sung with a repeated refrain — and the Gospel Acclamation, where the congregation may sing the *Alleluia* while the choir alone leads the acclamation verse.

importance of singing for all the faithful. What, then, is the specific role of the choir? Because *Sacrosanctum Concilium* also says: "**Choirs must be diligently promoted.**" Well, there are several functions the choir fulfills.

Firstly, the choir sings the Mass. Traditionally, choirs were clerical groups and would sing the Mass, while the priest celebrates the Mass. This can take the form of singing parts of the Mass 'in dialogue' with the congregation, such as the *Kyrie* or the *Gloria* — particularly if the latter is sung with a repeated refrain — and the Gospel Acclamation, where the congregation may sing the *Alleluia* while the choir alone leads the acclamation verse. In this way, the choir holds a leadership role, while still ensuring "the whole body of the faithful may be able to contribute that active participation which is rightly theirs".

At other times, the choir will sing with the congregation. Its role in this case is not to lead the people, but to join and support them as fellow members of the gathered assembly. While fulfilling this function, the choir may add harmonies or descants to enrich the liturgy with musical elements that are beyond the means of the congregation alone.

At other times, the choir can sing alone. When fulfilling their ministry in this way, the choir may draw from the Church's rich treasury of sacred music to enrich the liturgical celebration with compositions entirely beyond the capabilities of an unrehearsed congregation. This too is a perfectly legitimate function of the choir, during which the assembly may continue to actively participate as they "unite themselves interiorly to what the

So, as we can see, choirs hold an important and liturgically vital role in the life of the Church. The ministry of a choir is one requiring many things, but especially dedication, commitment, expertise, and love — and the Jubilee of Choirs will be a time to recognise and celebrate the particular way God's grace is expressed through these special groups in our churches.

ministers or choir sing, so that by listening to them they may raise their minds to God".

So, as we can see, choirs hold an important and liturgically vital role in the life of the Church. The ministry of a choir is one requiring many things, but especially dedication, commitment, expertise, and love — and the Jubilee of Choirs will be a time to recognise and celebrate the particular way God's grace is expressed through these special groups in our churches.

To commemorate the Jubilee of Choirs, a Festival of Song will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral on Saturday 22 November at 6.30pm, following the 5pm Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King. All welcome.

A Word from the Director of Schools



As I look back on the past few months, I am deeply proud of the milestones and achievements unfolding across Catholic Schools Broken Bay. Together, we are living out our mission with courage, purpose, and joy — and building a future centered on the family journey.

The launch of our new five-year strategy, *Shaping Tomorrow, Together in Faith*, marked a defining moment in our path forward. Recently more than 2,000 staff and clergy gathered for our Strategy Day, where Bishop Anthony unveiled a bold and future-focused plan for Catholic education across our Diocese. From new K-12 pathways including establishing Early Childhood Education to specialist facilities like the Eileen O'Connor Catholic School, this strategy is about more than buildings — it's about shaping lives. *Shaping Tomorrow, Together in Faith* reflects the future needs of our families, staff, and parishes, and I look forward to walking alongside our families on this journey.

Our **2025 NAPLAN results show CSBB outperforming** State, National, and NSW Catholic Independent school averages across multiple domains. These results affirm our belief in attracting best teacher talent, evidence-informed practice, and the importance of knowing every learner.

We are also seeing the impact of our **2024 HSC High Achievers** who returned earlier this year to share their HSC journeys and create resources to inspire and support the Class of 2025. Their stories help support our current cohort and remind them of their network at this time — teachers, families, and peers working together.

The launch of our new five-year strategy, *Shaping Tomorrow, Together in Faith*, marked a defining moment in our journey. On July 4, more than 2,000 staff and clergy gathered for our Strategy Day, where Bishop Anthony unveiled a bold and future-focused plan for Catholic education across our Diocese.

It was a joy to see **two CSBB teachers named in The Daily Telegraph's Australia's Best Teachers** campaign — alongside celebrating leaders like **Kevin Williams**, who has given over 40 years in service to education.

Beyond the classroom, our students continue to make us proud in sport, with Broken Bay Primary teams shining at the **NSWCPS Polding Rugby and Touch trials**.

Together, we continue to form hearts and minds to know Christ, love learning, and be the very best they can be.

Danny Casey
Director of Schools
Catholic Schools Broken Bay

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STAY CONNECTED

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

We would love to hear from you.

Alumni Success Guiding the Next HSC Cohort in 2025



Left to Right: Spencer, St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga, 6th Place in Course, Engineering Studies; Sera, St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga, Nominated, ARTEXPRESS; Joel, Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood, Nominated, ONSTAGE — Drama; Emily, St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga, Nominated (Reserve List) Callback (Dance) — Dance Core Composition, Nominated ONSTAGE — Drama Individual Project; Mackenzie, Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood, 1st in Course, Studies of Religion 1; Zara, Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood, Nominated ONSTAGE — Drama; Daniel, Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood, Nominated — SHAPE — Industrial Technology — Timber Project; Brooke, St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah, Nominated SHAPE; Taylah, Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood, All Rounder; Grace, St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah, ONSTAGE, Drama.

Earlier this year, we welcomed 10 of our 2024 HSC High Achievers for a special photo shoot and video interview session. It was more than just cameras and lights — it was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, celebrate their incredible accomplishments, and hear firsthand how each student navigated their own unique HSC journey.

Across panel sessions, these students shared practical tips, called out teachers who made a real difference, and spoke openly about the challenges and triumphs of their HSC journey.

The following 10 alumni took part — many of whom are already stepping into exciting new chapters:

- Joel, Daniel, Taylah and Mackenzie from Mater Maria Catholic College
- Spencer, Emily and Sera from St Leo's Catholic College
- Zara from Mercy Catholic College
- Brooke and Grace from St Peter's Catholic College.

Left to Right: Spencer, St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga, 6th Place in Course, Engineering Studies; Sera, St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga, Nominated, ARTEXPRESS; Joel, Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood, Nominated, ONSTAGE — Drama; Emily, St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga, Nominated (Reserve List) Callback (Dance) — Dance Core Composition, Nominated ONSTAGE — Drama Individual Project; Mackenzie, Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood, 1st in Course, Studies of Religion 1; Zara, Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood, Nominated ONSTAGE — Drama; Daniel, Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood, Nominated — SHAPE — Industrial Technology — Timber Project; Brooke, St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah, Nominated SHAPE; Taylah, Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood, All Rounder; Grace, St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah, ONSTAGE, Drama.



On Catholic Schools Broken Bay social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube), we share valuable study tips and insights from our high achievers — real strategies that helped them thrive under pressure and stay motivated through the ups and downs of their final year. This is also available on our website as a resource for our parents.

We couldn't be prouder of our students and everything they've achieved. Their results are a testament not only to their hard work and dedication but also to the unwavering support of their teachers, families, and school communities. Behind every high achiever is a network of encouragement.

To view our 2024 High Achievers videos please visit <https://csbb.catholic.edu.au/hsc-support>



Catholic Schools Broken Bay redefines education across Diocese



Following last month's launch of its bold and innovative five-year strategy *Shaping Tomorrow, Together in Faith*, Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) has revealed transformational changes set to redefine Catholic education across the Diocese.

Unveiled by Bishop Anthony Randazzo on 4 July at the all-staff Strategy Day, the plan charts a visionary course for a Catholic education that is faith-driven, future-ready, and designed to meet the evolving needs of families.

"This strategy is about courageously shaping a future where every child can thrive from Baptism into post-school life," Bishop Randazzo said. "Together, we are building an extraordinary future." Director of Schools Danny Casey said the transformation is about far more than new facilities.

"We are expanding pathways, modernising facilities, and reshaping the way Catholic education supports parents and their children," Mr Casey said. "Our aim is to walk alongside families from the very earliest years of learning, through school and beyond — while staying true to our mission of faith and academic excellence."

Major initiatives announced

At the heart of the transformation are landmark projects that respond directly to community needs, planned across six precincts:

- Southern Beaches — St Paul's Catholic College, Manly, having successfully transitioned to co-education,

"We are expanding pathways, modernising facilities, and reshaping the way Catholic education supports parents and their children," Mr Casey said. "Our aim is to walk alongside families from the very earliest years of learning, through school and beyond — while staying true to our mission of faith and academic excellence."

will expand into a dynamic Year 5-12 multi-campus College. A new Stage 3 Learning Hub for Years 5 and 6 will be established at the Balgowlah campus.

- The two North Harbour Parish schools of St Cecilia's, Balgowlah, and St Kieran's, Manly Vale, will come together as a single primary school community at the Manly Vale site, freeing the Balgowlah campus for the new Stage 3 Hub at St Paul's.
- North Shore — A new K-12 College with Early Learning will be established across the two Pymble Parish schools, Sacred Heart Primary School and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Primary School creating a much-needed secondary pathway on the North Shore.

- A specialist Eileen O'Connor facility will be established at the site of St Philip Neri Catholic Primary School to expand the support we provide to students with additional needs. The current St Philip Neri and St Thomas Willoughby communities will join together on the Willoughby site.
- Northern Central Coast — MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale will become a full K-12 College (pathway) with Early Learning and Out of School Hours Care (OSHC).
- St Brigid's Catholic College and St Brendan's Catholic Primary School at Lake Munmorah will deliver a similar pathway, alongside an Eileen O'Connor option.
- Southern Central Coast — A new base campus for the Eileen O'Connor Catholic School will be built adjacent to St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah.
- \$300 million will be spent on significant upgrades to multiple schools across the Central Coast to meet enrolment demands.
- Cathedral and Northern Suburbs — Master planning for a Baptism-to-post-school K-12 pathway centred on Cathedral College, Wahroonga, incorporating St Leo's and Our Lady of the Rosary Waitara is underway.
- Northern Beaches — A focus on planning for the establishment of new secondary options to meet

local demand and provide clear educational pathways for families

- Exploration of opportunities for Early Childhood Education and Care to meet the needs of each community.

A strategy shaped by the community

What makes *Shaping Tomorrow, Together in Faith* unique is its foundation in community voice. Parents, carers, students, staff, and clergy have all contributed to its design, ensuring the strategy reflects local feedback and aspirations, while positioning CSBB to lead educational innovation.

Beyond buildings

While the initiatives include significant capital investment, the strategy extends well beyond bricks and mortar. It reimagines Catholic education across six precincts, with:

- New K-12 pathways to provide more choice and smoother transitions.
- Expanded Early Childhood Education to give children the best start in life.
- Modern learning spaces that inspire collaboration and creativity.
- Enhanced career pathways linking students with industry and post-school opportunities.

“Shaping Tomorrow, Together in Faith is about more than keeping pace with change — it’s about leading it,” Mr Casey said. “We remain deeply committed to providing every child with an education that is rich in faith, filled with joy, and focused on helping them become the very best they can be.”

“Shaping Tomorrow, Together in Faith is about more than keeping pace with change — it’s about leading it,” Mr Casey said. “We remain deeply committed to providing every child with an education that is rich in faith, filled with joy, and focused on helping them become the very best they can be.”

For more information and full details of the plan, visit our **website**



CSBB Teachers Named Among Australia's Best Teachers by *The Daily Telegraph*

We celebrate two of our outstanding educators, Madeleine Loneragan from *St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, Lake Munmorah* and Susan Lockwood from *St Joseph's Catholic College, East Gosford*, who have been named in *The Daily Telegraph's* Sydney Weekend magazine as part of the "Australia's Best Teachers" campaign.

Madeleine Loneragan — Nurturing Growth and Wellbeing

Madeleine, a dedicated Kindergarten teacher and Coordinator 2, plays a pivotal role in supporting the wellbeing of her school community. She is instrumental in leading Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) initiatives, analysing behaviour data through Compass, and shaping the development of new discipline policy.

Known for her expertise in restorative practices, Madeleine's work in the reflection room highlights her deep commitment to understanding and meeting the needs of each student. Colleagues and families alike value her professionalism, reliability, and positive energy. Madeleine is not only a passionate and skilled educator but a very valued member of the school community who enriches the culture of St Brendan's every day.

Susan Lockwood — Inspiring Through the Arts

At St Joseph's Catholic College, Sue has dedicated more than three decades to inspiring students in Drama and English. Her teaching has consistently produced exceptional results, with students achieving Band 6s in the HSC and multiple *OnStage* nominations in 2024.



Susan Lockwood

Sue's classroom is a masterclass in engaging students, building their confidence, and encouraging them to take creative risks.

Beyond the classroom, Sue is a tireless advocate for the Arts. She has created countless opportunities for students through musicals, showcases, and extracurricular programs, while also taking them to live performances to broaden their horizons.

Sue's generosity, passion, and dedication to her students make her a true role model and inspiring educator — a deserving recipient of national recognition.

A wonderful acknowledgement for both.

To read the article in the *Sydney Weekend Magazine*, please visit <https://bit.ly/4p2V2T5>



Madeleine Loneragan

Kevin Williams, 40 years in education!

A huge congratulations and recognition to Kevin Williams, Principal, St Patrick's Primary East Gosford and Precinct Lead — Southern Central Coast, for an incredible 37 years of service within Broken Bay and over 40 years in education!

From thousands of students and families to countless colleagues, Kevin has made a lasting impact — and continues to do so every single day. Between Principalships, Kevin served in the role of Deputy Workstream Lead in the CSBB central office. During this tenure, Kevin led the establishment of the CSBB Collaborative Coaching initiative that is now central to building the capacity of our teachers to improve student learning outcomes.

Anthony Gleeson, Principal, St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga, had the privilege of going to Teachers College at Strathfield with Kevin and remembers Kevin fondly, "The 'Kev' that you see and hear today is the same Kev as he was then. A genuine, sincere guy who has the students at the centre of his teaching."

Anne Duncan, Senior Workstream Lead: Capability and Enablement, spoke of the joy of working with Kevin as a colleague. "Kevin is authentic, hard-working, passionate about Catholic education and humble. Kevin gives of his best to achieve the best for every student, every day, and is gifted in building the capacity of the people with whom he works. And he makes people laugh. A truly wonderful human being."



Kevin Williams

Many parents shared their thoughts about Kevin saying, "Our dedication to education and the Catholic community has been truly remarkable, thank you for welcoming our family and shaping the minds of countless students over the years."

"We are truly blessed to have such an inspiring educator and leader within our community."

"Congratulations, Kevin! Your dedication to education is truly inspiring."

"Always at the gate to have a chat and say hi to all the kids. Definitely a one-of-a-kind Principal."

Congratulations Kevin!



Susan Lockwood teaching Drama to St Joseph's Catholic College students.



CSBB Students Outperform State, National, and NSW Catholic Independent School Averages

Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) is proud to share the strong performance of students in the 2025 NAPLAN assessments, reflecting the ongoing commitment of our schools to excellence, equity, and high expectations for all learners.

Director of Schools, Danny Casey said, “These results are the outcome of deliberate and sustained efforts under CSBBs Towards 2025 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.”

CSBB has developed a strong culture of professional learning which supports teachers to deepen their understanding of curriculum content while building a rich knowledge of their learners. Teachers are equipped not only to deliver content effectively but also to differentiate instruction in response to students’ individual needs. Mr Casey also said, “Across CSBB, schools have implemented consistent practices to monitor and track student progress against expected standards. This approach enables timely and informed instructional decisions, ensuring that no student is left behind.”

The strategic use of assessment data 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.

Year 3 and Year 5 NAPLAN Performance

CSBB schools continue to achieve higher average scaled scores than the State and National averages in Year 3 and Year 5 in Reading, Writing, and Numeracy. In Year 3, CSBB students scored up to 40 points above the National average, ranked among the top two NSW Catholic systems in all domains and outperformed Catholic Independent schools in Year 3 Reading, Writing, and Numeracy. A higher proportion of CSBB students achieved in the Exceeding proficiency levels across most domains, with a smaller percentage in Needs Additional Support than the National trends.

Year 7 and Year 9 NAPLAN Performance

In Years 7 and 9, CSBB students again had higher average scaled scores than the National averages in Reading, Writing and Numeracy. CSBB ranked in the top three Catholic systems across these domains and consistently maintained a smaller percentage of students in the Needs Additional Support level when compared to National figures.

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 2025 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.”

Rounding out Term 2 with Primary Rugby and Touch

During the last week of Term 2, Broken Bay Primary teams attended the final two representative pathway events at NSWCPSS Polding Rugby and Touch selection trials.

Rugby — Skill, Determination, and Selections for Polding

Our Broken Bay Boys' Rugby team played with determination and skill at the NSWCPSS Polding Trials in Forbes, impressing everyone with strong performances in every match. Selectors noted the depth of talent, making this year's decisions especially tough. Every player should be proud of their efforts and teamwork.

Congratulations to Oliver N, Gatai Dover P and Charlie P on their selection in the Polding Boys Team. Our team was well supported by our experienced staff — Bridie Cartwright (MacKillop) and Andrew Spencer, who travelled to Forbes with the team.

Touch — Team Spirit in Port Macquarie

Despite a week of torrential rain and logistical adjustments, our Broken Bay Touch teams travelled to Port Macquarie and played well under blue skies & sunshine. After a chilly start to the day, our teams found their rhythm and with their teammates played some great games of touch.



Boys Rugby team: Noah C, Cooper D, Alexander D, Kayden F, Rocco H, Nicholas H, Christian K, Vilitati L, Anthony L, Oliver M, Oliver N, Gatai Dover P, Charlie P, Adam P, Oliver R, Kingston W, Reuben W, Easton Y

Congratulations to Evelyn V & Madison R on their selection in the Polding Girls Touch Team for 2025. Our teams were supported by our experienced staff — Monique Powell (Tumbi Umbi) and Erin Kessler, who gave their time to travel to Port Macquarie with the teams.



Boys: Paxton An, Rocco H, Isaac J, Lennox K, Connor L, Oliver N, Jake P, Huxley T, Cruze T, Michael-Cruz T, Reuben W, Easton Y



Girls: Josilyn C, Evie C, Lea C, Sienna H, Matilda H, Amarli M, Phoebe N, Madison R, Caoimhe T, Evelyn V, Niah W

Ignite brings hundreds to encounter with Christ in Broken Bay

Ignite Conference returned to the Diocese of Broken Bay for a third straight year, bringing hundreds and hundreds of young people deeper into a relationship with Christ.

The four-day conference was hosted by Broken Bay at the Waitara Cathedral Precinct, and included a number of keynotes, workshops, and praise and worship rallies.

In his opening Mass on the August Friday morning, the Feast of Saint Benedict, Bishop Anthony Randazzo, welcomed the hundreds of attendees to the conference, and encouraged them to use Ignite as an opportunity to grow in faith and holiness.

“You are not gathered here by accident. You are not listening to these Scriptures or celebrating this Eucharist by coincidence,” he said.

“Like Saint Benedict, we live in a time of uncertainty, of noise and confusion, where darkness tries to shout louder than the light. But you are not children of the dark. You are daughters and sons of the Light. You belong to Jesus Christ.”

The conference attracted people from not only beyond Sydney, but beyond the state too, with a number of clergy and parishioners coming from interstate and even overseas.

The Vocations Office had a booth at the conference, along with many other religious orders, while the Diocese also set up a cafe, encouraging people to come and mingle over a coffee or hot chocolate.

Through workshops, Mass, the Sacraments, keynotes and

praise & worship rallies, the conference provides a wonderful way for people of all ages to encounter Christ and enter into a deeper relationship with him.

“There is no substitute for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. You cannot give what you do not have,” said Bishop Anthony in the homily of his opening Mass.

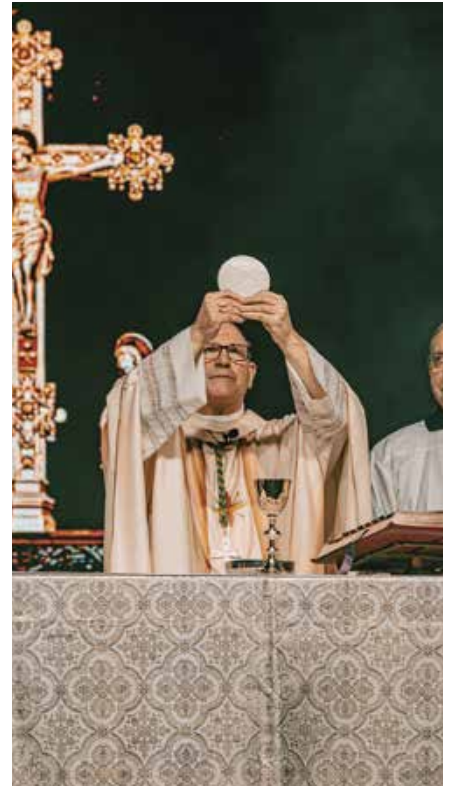
“Let Jesus look into your heart. Let Jesus speak to your soul. Let Jesus heal the wounds, strengthen the weak spots, and pour out his Holy Spirit over your life. And then, go. Go into your schools, your parishes, your cities, your digital spaces. Be the light. Proclaim the truth. Love boldly. Serve generously. Forgive relentlessly. Stand firm in Jesus.”

While people have an opportunity to encounter Christ, they also have an opportunity to encounter other faithful Catholics or find ways to strengthen their faith. Religious orders and priests have a strong presence in the conference, reminding people that God is always asking His children to discern His calling in their life.

The hope of the conference is that all those attending will be renewed in their Christian mission, think deeply about the vocation to which they are being called, and become people of hope in a darkened world.

“My dear people, run! Run toward Jesus. Run with the Gospel. And do not look back,” said Bishop Anthony.

“You are not alone. The Church is with you. The saints are cheering for you. The Holy Spirit is within you.



Bishop Anthony celebrates Mass at Ignite.

“You were not made for mediocrity, you were made for mission. You were not made to fit in, you were made to stand out. You were not made to hide your light, you were made to shine.”

“You were not made for mediocrity, you were made for mission. You were not made to fit in, you were made to stand out. You were not made to hide your light, you were made to shine.

“So, shine, my young brothers and sisters. Shine with the light of Christ in a darkened world.”



A message from our Executive Director



Tim Curran

At CatholicCare, our mission is driven by a deep commitment to the Gospel values of compassion, dignity and social justice. These values shape our approach to working with the most vulnerable in our communities, and they are central to the work we do at Dom's Place.

Dom's Place, a service launched by our homelessness team three years ago, was born out of a clear need — to create a safe and inclusive space where people facing homelessness and marginalisation could access a range of critical services, free from barriers that often prevent them from getting the help they need. Unlike traditional services that often require

Our approach at Dom's Place is deeply rooted in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching — especially the preferential option for the poor and the dignity of the human person.

formal referrals or appointments, Dom's operates as a 'one-stop-shop' where individuals can simply drop in, seek support, and connect with the services that will make a difference in their lives.

Our approach at Dom's Place is deeply rooted in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching — especially the preferential option for the poor and the dignity of the human person. We recognise that everyone has inherent dignity, regardless of their circumstances. Our goal is to foster an environment where individuals can access a variety of services — from meals and laundry to case management, mental health support, and counselling — without the need for complex referrals. We remove the power imbalances that often exist in service delivery and allow people to engage on their own terms, in a way that respects their dignity and autonomy.

Over the past year, Dom's Place has become an essential hub in our community, welcoming over 5000 visits, with an average of 10 new visitors each week. For many of our visitors, Dom's Place is a lifeline — providing not just material support, but also a sense of belonging and connection. Whether they are simply having a meal, playing a game of pool, or accessing specialist services, Dom's offers a space where everyone is treated with respect and kindness.

In the past six months alone, we have provided over 600 mental health interventions, more than 400 drug and alcohol interventions, and 700 housing interventions. These are just a few examples of how Dom's Place is making a tangible impact on the lives of our most vulnerable neighbours.

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None of this would be possible without the support of our dedicated staff, volunteers, and the wider community. We are grateful for everyone who contributes to this vital work, and we are inspired by the resilience and courage of those we serve. As we look to the future, we remain committed to expanding our reach, deepening our partnerships, and continuing to provide essential services to those in need.

Together, we can help build a more just and compassionate world — one that reflects the love and care we are called to show for one another, especially for those who need it most.

A Deacon's Presence: Serving at Dom's Place

Deacon Kevin McGregor

Earlier this year, I had a conversation with Bishop Anthony where he asked me about my work at the parish. I told him that most of my time was dedicated to liturgical duties. While these tasks are essential, I knew that the role of a Deacon encompasses more than just what happens within the church walls. Deacons are meant to be on the fringes, reaching out to the disenfranchised, offering a presence where the Bishop himself cannot be. I suggested that I dedicate time to visit Dom's Place, a drop-in centre in Hornsby for people who are homeless, transient and in need. The Bishop listened and gave me a simple direction — "Yes, go to Dom's Place."

As both a Deacon and a firefighter with a background in nursing, I've always found myself drawn to listening to people's stories. I've often dreamed of having a role where my primary job was to be there for people, offering nothing but an open ear. And so, I began my journey of becoming a presence at Dom's Place.

As both a Deacon and a firefighter with a background in nursing, I've always found myself drawn to listening to people's stories. I've often dreamed of having a role where my primary job was to be there for people, offering nothing but an open ear.

Every time I visit, I let people know that I'm there for them — no strings attached. "What can I do to be of service?" is my simple question, and I don't ask for anything in return.

One moment stands out to me. It was a BBQ day, and one man, who was sleeping rough at the time, waited patiently for the line to move. By the time he reached the front, all the sausages were gone. I felt a deep sadness watching his disappointment. I offered to go out and buy him some food, but he declined, not wanting to inconvenience anyone. The next time I was there, I made sure to bring extra sausages.

When I'm there playing pool or chatting to people, I try to make them feel comfortable. I want them to have a chance to forget their struggles, even if just for a moment. Some people want to talk about their lives, their challenges, while others just want to relax and have a game of pool. I'm there for both. The goal is to offer a space where life can feel normal for a while — a brief escape from the weight of their everyday battles.

I'm especially sensitive to the needs of women who come through Dom's Place. I never approach them directly, aware of the trauma many have faced. Instead, I let them come to me, knowing that they may have experienced violence or exploitation in the past.

One day, I met a man at Dom's who had just been released from jail. He wore an ankle monitor, and when he stood next to me, he casually said, "I just got out of jail." It struck me how normal he seemed, despite his past. I wasn't there to judge, just to listen.



Deacon Kevin McGregor

In reflecting on these experiences, I view them through the lens of Christ, the Christological perspective. At Dom's Place, I see Christ's love breaking through in unexpected ways. There's a beauty in witnessing young staff, most of whom are women, choosing to work in such a challenging environment, to love and care for those who have been abandoned by society. The staff are at the coal face of trauma, yet they continue to show compassion in the face of it. Dom's Place, I believe, is truly a meeting of heaven and earth.

I am often asked, "Who are you? Are you a worker here? Or are you one of us?" I tell them that I'm a Deacon at the Cathedral and a firefighter, but I don't offer too many details. I want them to understand that I'm not there to stand apart but to be present, as one of God's children, just like they are.

At its core, I'm realising that being a Deacon means being a steady presence in the lives of those who need someone to listen and simply be there — without judgment, just as Christ would.

Testimonials: Doms Place clients

Rick

"I've been coming to Dom's Place for a few years now. When I first arrived, I was living in my car with my dog, Magic. They helped me find housing, and that changed everything.

Being homeless was scary. At first, it felt like an adventure, but that wears off fast. I was terrified of losing Magic. I lived in my car for nearly a year. CatholicCare helped get me into temporary accommodation, and Jess — my Case Manager — was amazing. Jess and Bec made sure I had what I needed, and now I'm in stable housing. I finally feel like a human being again.

The support I've received from Bec and the team has been consistent. There is genuine warmth and empathy. Dom's Place is an incredible place — Hornsby is truly lucky to have it.

I used to struggle heavily with addiction, and although I still use occasionally, it's reduced a lot since I got housed. I attended the drug and alcohol group here, and it made a big difference. The group gave me structure and helped me work toward

my goals. The people running it were smart and kind, and supportive — they used CBT, DBT and mindfulness approaches that really helped.

They've always welcomed Magic, which means the world to me. This week I didn't have much money, and being able to come here for meals was a huge relief. It's such a fantastic and essential service — they help you from the ground up when you've got nowhere else to go.

There's something real about this place. We live in such a competitive society where everyone is looking for opportunities and advantages, but the people here are more honest and genuine than out there.

Even when someone's having a tough time — dealing with drugs, anger, or acting out — the staff at Dom's handle it with such compassion and grace.

I don't have a Case Manager here at Dom's anymore, but I know they'll always help me. Sometimes Housing doesn't listen to me, but when I speak to Bec, she makes sure I am heard and supported.

As for the future, I'd like to go back to study — maybe community services or drug and alcohol counselling. Not necessarily to work in the field, but to learn and stay on a better path. I want to keep growing and not slip back into old habits.

Melissa

I love this place because it's safe and peaceful. The cameras help me feel secure, and I can hang out with people I'd usually only see on the street. Out there, there are no rules, it can get rough — and sometimes



Melissa

people react badly to diversity. Out there I am judged — but here, I'm respected. You also learn self-respect here. I love watching other people become better humans.

I knew Rebecca from my Case Worker days before Dom's Place existed. When I heard this place was opening, I was really glad.

I come here every day to sit, chat, connect, have a coffee and have lunch. One of the things that is difficult for me at the moment is money — medical, insurance, food, electricity, phone — you name it, there are so many bills. I've got no food, but when I come to Dom's I can fill my belly and get through another 24 hours.

They've got a gardening group started and I've been growing trees to bring here. Sometimes you just click with someone and there's this therapy vibe — gardening, art, feeling like you're giving something back. I love encouraging others to have a go too.

My unit is tiny — my bathroom door barely opens. I can't do crafts or art at home, but at Dom's I can sit and



Rick

work on stuff with room to breathe. I was homeless for six years before I got housing, so having people around who care means the world. I've faced discrimination and judgement my whole life but there is an innocent inquisitiveness of the people here. They ask me questions about who I am, which has touched my heart and filled a hole in my body. The people here are angels to me.

Dom's Place keeps me from sitting in the park all day and getting picked up by people who exploit you. That's why I come every day. If I am ever lucky enough to get employment, I have had experience of fronting up somewhere every day.

Doreen

I love everything about Dom's Place — the creativity, the art, the wellness vibes, and the staff are just wonderful. It's like a tapestry of delight. I help out in the kitchen — tidying, dusting, mopping — and it really makes me feel good. I like to share my happiness.

I was homeless years ago but now I am living in housing with



Doreen

my granddaughter just walking distance across the highway. Bec helped me find a psychologist for my granddaughter — what a blessing. She just turned 11 and loves coming to Dom's Place in the school holidays — she brings her cooking mitts and has a real sense that she's achieved something when she leaves.

Bec is the living soul of this place. Dom's Place isn't just a hub — it's a heartbeat. It gave me a real sense of community, which is my culture. I'm Māori, so community means everything. Before Dom's, I'd just go shopping here and there. Now I'm here almost every day

Jarrold

I've been coming to Dom's Place for about two months now. I found out about it from other homeless friends at the park. Dad kicked me out because I wasn't getting a job. I have bipolar and I just couldn't manage work. Sometimes I'd sleep in my car, sometimes on the street, sometimes at a friend's place. Now, with the help of Dom's Place I am in temporary accommodation.

I was nervous to come here for the first time, and I was surprised how cool it was. I thought it would be like a typical clinic but I get to play guitar and chat to people and eat. I come here every day.

Dom's Place has helped me find community, support and food. I have a Case Worker here who has helped me because I'm at an in-between stage. I'm not technically a kid anymore and I'm not technically an adult either because I was too young for homelessness support. But CatholicCare helped me anyway,



Jarrold

There's this stereotype of people who are homeless — but at Dom's, nobody judges because everyone's fighting their own battle: court stuff, kids, money issues...

even though I am under 25. If I was 16, I wouldn't have lasted a day without getting help, but at my age you fall through the cracks.

There's this stereotype of people who are homeless — but at Dom's, nobody judges because everyone's fighting their own battle: court stuff, kids, money issues...

My goals are to finish a Cert IV in Mental Health, do a Diploma in Community Services, and get my car and bike licenses. I want to do Scouts again like when I was a kid.

If I ever get there, maybe I'll help other people like I'm being helped now.

Priests pray together at Manly for Feast of St John Vianney

In celebration of the Jubilee of Priests, Bishop Anthony Randazzo was joined by retired and active clergy from across the Diocese for an afternoon of prayer in Manly.

On the Feast of Saint John Vianney, the patron of all parish priests, the priests gathered for a special moment of prayer in the Cardinal Cerretti Chapel, in the grounds of the old Saint Patrick's Seminary, Manly.

For a few of the priests, the Cardinal Cerretti Chapel would have brought back memories of seminary life, gathering for morning prayer and Mass. The seminary was closed in 1995 and is now home to the International College of Management, Sydney.

The afternoon in the Chapel included a time of Adoration and Reconciliation.

"We thank God for the priesthood we have received, and we thank the Lord especially for the gift of this model of priestly life: a man of great humility and unwavering love, a man of sacrifice, of prayer, and of mercy. Saint John Vianney, canonise in 1925, one hundred years ago, has again been brought to our attention by Pope Leo



The priests gather in the Cardinal Cerretti Chapel.

XIV as a 'model of priestly holiness and missionary zeal'," Bishop Anthony said during Mass for the day.

"Saint John Vianney himself called the priesthood 'the love of the Heart of Jesus.' That is not a poetic phrase alone, it is a summary of his entire life.

"Today, more than ever, the Church needs priests who live their vocation not as functionaries, not as mere administrators, but as men whose

hearts beat in unison with the Heart of Christ.

"Let us, then, entrust ourselves anew to Saint John Vianney. May he intercede for us, that we may be holy, joyful, merciful priests. May he inspire young hearts to say yes to Christ's call. May he guard us in moments of trial and rekindle in us the fire of our first love. And may we never forget: the priesthood is not about us. It is about Him, and about the people He loves.

"And if we love Jesus with all our hearts, we will find ourselves, as John Vianney did, loving God's people with a love that never grows old."

Following prayer, some of the priests joined a pilgrimage walk from the Chapel to St Mary's Manly, the Shrine of Hope for Priests and Vocations, hosting the Relic of St John Vianney.

At St Mary's, they enjoyed a night of celebrations with the local parishioners and others from across the Diocese, including dinner and a keynote speech.



The priests outside the old St Patrick's Seminary, Manly.



Bishop Anthony celebrates Mass at St Mary's, Manly.

Jubilee Pilgrimage as part of Year 11 Retreat

Philippa Mercer

Youth Ministry Coordinator,
St Joseph's Catholic College East Gosford

Recently, a pilgrimage was undertaken by a group of 25 students and staff from St Joseph's Catholic College as part of the Year 11 retreat. This pilgrimage reflected the spirit of the Jubilee Year of Hope within the Diocese of Broken Bay.

Our pilgrimage commenced with Mass at St Patrick's Church in Gosford, where we were privileged to visit the St John Paul II Centre. Here, students deepened their understanding of the life and legacy of this significant saint. The opportunity to pray before the relics of St John Paul II was profoundly moving for all participants, setting a prayerful and reflective tone for the day.

Following this, we journeyed to visit all four diocesan shrines. At Our Lady of Dolours in Chatswood, we venerated the relics of Carlo Acutis. His story resonated strongly with our teenage students, as Carlo



The pilgrimage reflected a spirit of hope.

was himself a young person who courageously faced cancer. Through learning about his commitment to sharing the Gospel with youth, our students found an inspiring example of living faith in action.

After visiting the Cathedral shrine at

Waitara, our pilgrimage continued to Manly Parish, where we prayed before the relics of St John Vianney, embracing the opportunity to connect with this humble and dedicated shepherd of souls. To conclude this special day, we travelled to St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. In the cathedral's quiet and sacred space, students joined others in prayer and contemplation, drawing strength from the communion of the wider Church.

This pilgrimage was a deeply significant experience for our students. Participating in this journey during the Jubilee Year of Hope has enriched their personal faith journeys, helping them to appreciate their belonging to the universal Church and encouraging them to embrace their own roles as pilgrims of hope.

We are grateful for the Diocese's support in fostering such spiritually formative opportunities and look forward to continuing to nurture the faith of our young people.



The students visited shrines across the Diocese.

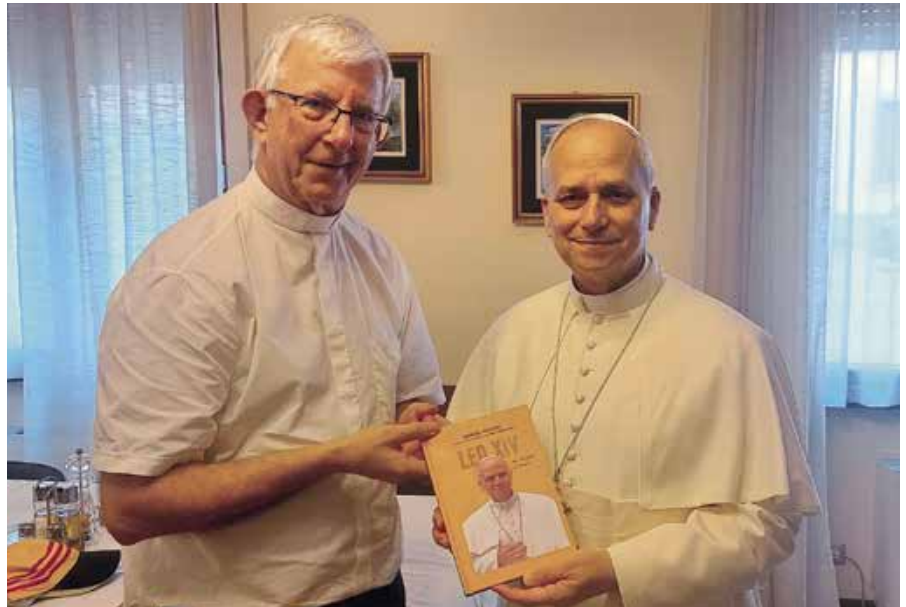
First biography of Pope Leo XIV launched at North Harbour

The English translation of the first biography on Pope Leo XIV (*Leo XIV — An Apostle of Peace*) was launched at the St Kieran's Church, Manly Vale in July, in a joint event run by ATF Press and the Augustinians.

The book was written by Samuel Pruvot, editor-in-chief and editorial writer at Famile Chretienne in France, and details Pope Leo XIV's rise from a boy in the suburbs of Chicago, to the Vicar of Christ.

The book includes an introduction by Fr Tony Banks OSA, the Australian assistant general of the Order of St Augustine for the Asia Pacific region, who lives and works in Rome at the order's headquarters.

Speaking at the launch, Fr Peter Jones OSA, the Prior Provincial of the Augustinians, spoke of his surprise at the election of their brother Augustinian, who many knew simply as "Father Bob".



Fr Tony Banks OSA presents the book to Pope Leo XIV.

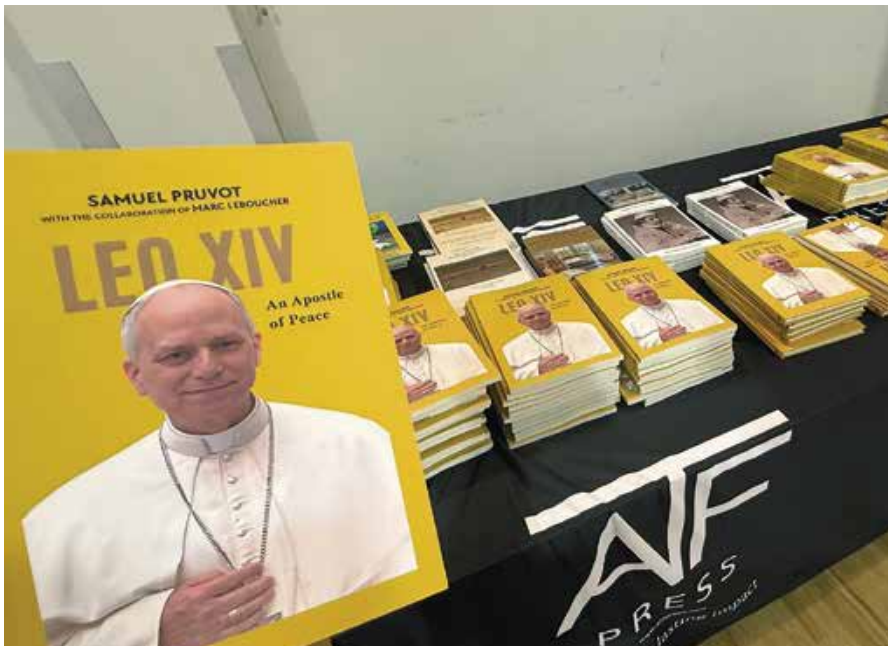
"At 3:14, the solemn announcement began, and quickly the names Robertus Franciscum were articulated. A sudden shock set in. Our Augustinian brother, someone so many of us knew and experienced

personally, had been elected to the papacy. Incomprehensible," he said.

"With my confreres, I watched the first appearance of Pope Leo XIV, our brother Robert, on the balcony in St Peter's Square. His election was a shock, but this does not mean that it was unwelcome, or that there are misgivings. Instead, it was the shock that someone whom many of us know in a very immediate sense was now elected to such a prominent, universally significant position. In that moment, I felt the prayers of many were answered — that whatever outcome the election may have, it would be a good one."

He said the surprise at Pope Leo XIV's election has led many to immediately hurry to understand just who this new Pope was and where he had come from.

"These early works on Leo have been quickly prepared to enable prompt accessibility to wide diversity of audiences who wish to familiarise



The book details Pope Leo XIV's rise from a boy in the suburbs of Chicago.



The launch attracted wide interest.

themselves with the life and person of the new Pope,” he said, speaking about the book being launched.

“Pruvot’s work is relatively brief but informative. Roughly the first third relates to the process of the conclave both generically, and to this particular conclave. There is reference to various sources of information and there is conjecture, for example the speculation as to the Pope’s frame of mind as the conclave evolved.

“Particularly worth reading is a profound reflection from Mother Yvonne Ruengoat, the former superior general of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesians), and a member of the Dicastery for Bishops.

“The latter chapter of the book deals with the person himself. Various influential aspects of his person are dealt with — family, nation, religious congregation, Peruvian experience, leadership, and his role in the Vatican. The synodal disposition of the new

Pope and link with Augustinian identity are also explored.”

He said the book was a great guide for anyone looking to understand just how Pope Leo XIV would act as the Vicar of Christ.

“This book’s immediate strength is

a prompt and timely familiarisation in accessible terms to the person, spirituality and theology of Robert Prevost now Pope Leo XIV, and its implications for the life of our Church and indeed the world,” he said. “I recommend it in that context.”

In the introduction, Fr Tony Banks said he had known the Pope well, as they worked alongside each other when then-Fr Robert Prevost was the Prior General of the Augustinian Order.

“I have known Pope Leo as mentor, as guide, as companion at the table in our refectory and at the table of the Lord,” Fr Banks wrote.

“He has been a diligent listener, a considered responder, a provocateur for goodness and reason.

“But most of all he has always shown his care and love for those who have encountered him. His faith is expressed in actions, and only then backed up by words — a true son of Augustine.”



Fr Peter Jones OSA speaks at the launch.

Kincumber celebrates canonisation of Peter To Rot

The canonisation of Oceania's newest Saint will be celebrated on the Central Coast, as the Parish of Kincumber unveils a relic of Blessed Peter to Rot in late October.

Beatified in 1995, Blessed Peter To Rot will be canonised on Sunday, 19 October. A week later, on Sunday, 26 October, a relic of the saint will be installed at Holy Cross Church, Kincumber.

Peter To Rot was born on 5 March 1912 in then-German New Guinea. Both his parents had converted to Catholicism years before and he was taught the basics of catechism. Despite a local priest suggesting he would make a good priest, Blessed Peter's father suggested he study to be a catechist instead.

He became a catechist in the local area in 1933 after studying for three years. He married in 1936 and had three children.

When Japanese forces occupied the nation in 1942, they interned all the foreign missionaries, leaving Peter in charge of his local parish. His courageous witness to the faith during these years led him to be imprisoned

"This is a moment of great pride and joy for the Church in Papua New Guinea, whose faithful have long revered Blessed Peter To Rot as a model of unwavering commitment to the Gospel."

in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp, where he would be killed by lethal injection in 1945.

He was declared a Servant of God in 1986 and his beatification received approval in 1993. He was officially beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1995 while on a visit to Papua New Guinea.

Bishop Anthony Randazzo said the canonisation of Blessed Peter To Rot was a momentous occasion for the Church in Oceania.

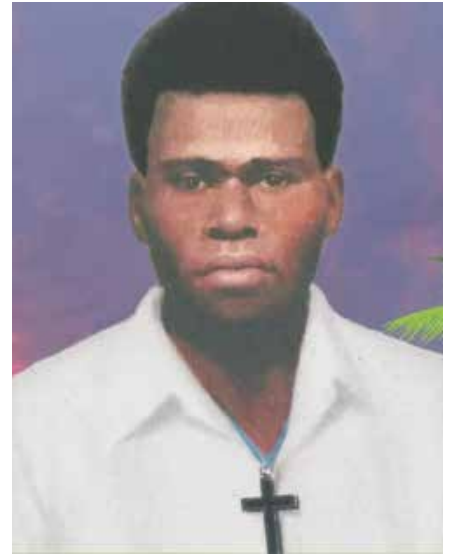
"This is a moment of great pride and joy for the Church in Papua New Guinea, whose faithful have long revered Blessed Peter To Rot as a model of unwavering commitment to the Gospel," he said.

"His canonisation is a powerful affirmation of the Church's deep-rooted faith in the region and a testament to the strength and vitality of the Christian community in Oceania."

The event at Kincumber will bring together many of the parish's ministries, as the day will also involve the blessing of a new statue of Saint Mary MacKillop in a newly landscaped garden, and the presentation of Papal Blessings to a small group of dedicated volunteers.

The parish said both Peter To Rot and Mary MacKillop were defined by their trust in God, with both carrying out the mission to bring Christ to those most in need.

"We as the Holy Cross Parish community wish to uphold these two saints as inspiration for how to live by the word and teachings of God and how to bring these actions into the



Blessed Peter To Rot.

"We as the Holy Cross Parish community wish to uphold these two saints as inspiration for how to live by the word and teachings of God and how to bring these actions into the lives of those around you."

lives of those around you," the parish announced.

"The Celebration Day will bring joy, hope, and a sense of connectedness to all."

The celebration of Blessed Peter To Rot's canonisation will take place on Sunday 26th October 2025, at Holy Spirit Church, Kincumber.

The parish invites all to join them for this special event, beginning with Mass at 11am, followed by light refreshments.

HOLY CROSS PARISH

SAINT PETER TO ROT

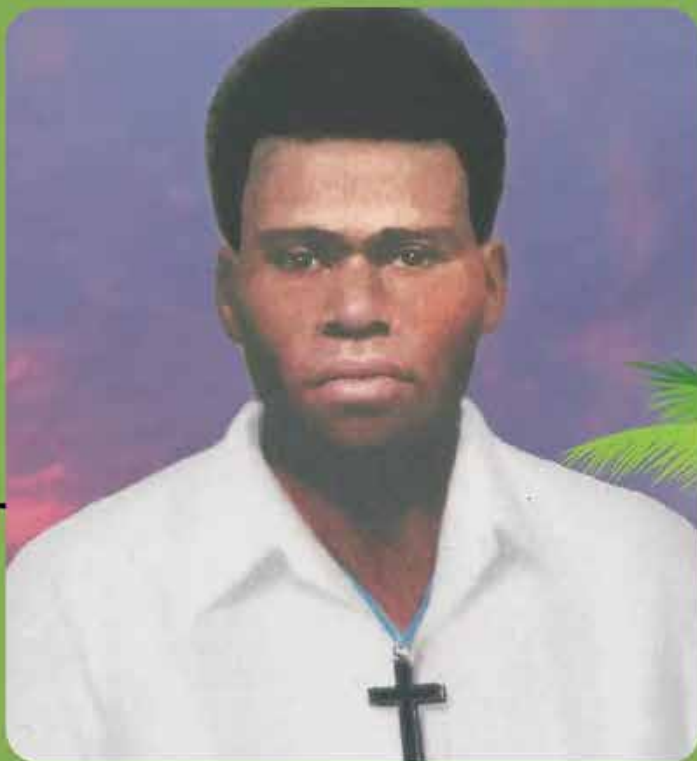
We warmly invite you to join us in celebrating the Canonisation of Saint Peter To Rot and the Blessing of his Relic in Holy Spirit Church.

CELEBRATION DAY

- MASS FOR SAINT PETER TO ROT
- BLESSING OF THE MARY MACKILLOP STATUE
- PAPAL BLESSING PRESENTATION
- LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

**SUNDAY
26 OCTOBER 2025**

Mass @ 11:00am



(02) 4369 1211



Holy Spirit Church, KINCUMBER NSW

Fr Robert Brogan gets Papal Award in 65th year of priesthood

Retired priest Fr Robert Brogan has been awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal, just as he celebrates his 65th anniversary of ordination.

Bishop Anthony Randazzo personally presented him with the award, in honour of his distinguished service to the Church.

“Fr Robert was not able to attend our Inaugural Diocesan Awards evening in June, however it seemed very appropriate to present him with this Papal Award for distinguished service to the Catholic Church, and to the Pope, in time for the feast of Saint John Mary Vianney, the humble Curé of Ars and the patron of all parish priests,” said Bishop Anthony.

Fr Robert celebrated his 65th anniversary of priestly ordination earlier this year. He was ordained for and served in the Archdiocese of Sydney until the creation of the



Bishop Anthony presents Fr Robert with the award.

Diocese of Broken Bay in 1986. Even since retiring from full time ministry in 1999, he has served the Diocese through his ministry.

Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (meaning “For Church and Pope” in Latin) is a decoration of the Holy See. It is currently conferred for distinguished service to the Catholic Church by lay people and clergy.

The medal was established by Leo XIII on 17 July 1888 to commemorate his golden sacerdotal jubilee and was originally bestowed on the men and women who had aided and promoted the jubilee.

Other recipients of the *Pro Ecclesia*

Fr Robert celebrated his 65th anniversary of priestly ordination earlier this year. He was ordained for and served in the Archdiocese of Sydney until the creation of the Diocese of Broken Bay in 1986.

et Pontifice in the Diocese this year were Rev William (Terry) Johns, who also celebrated his 68th anniversary of his Priestly Ordination, and Sr Helen Merrin OAM.



Fr Robert recently celebrated 65 years of priestly ministry.



“I will give you shepherds
after my own heart”

Jeremiah 3:15