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# BBN

PUBLICATION  
OF THE CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF  
BROKEN BAY

# #218

JUNE 2023



# OLÁ LISBOA

# Ignite Conference comes to Broken Bay in September

Ignite Conference, one of the biggest Catholic conferences in Australia, will be coming to Broken Bay in September, featuring guest speakers such as Fr Rob Galea and Sr Therese Mills MGL, and the Diocese Director of Vocations, Fr Sam French.

The conference, hosted in both Brisbane and Broken Bay, draws together a network of high school students, young adults, ministry leaders, families, teachers, priests and religious from around the country, building a passion for mission and a stronger faith in Christ.

Over four days, the conference aims to transform people's faith experience through formation, encouragement, fraternity, and worship.

The Ignite Conference has been held in Sydney for several years but 2023 will be the first time Broken Bay has hosted the event.

"I am delighted the Diocese of Broken Bay will be hosting the Ignite Conference this year," said Bishop Anthony Randazzo.

"Ignite is a dynamic event for students, young adults and their families. It provides wonderful opportunities for faith formation in a creative and fun environment while encountering the living Christ. Let's all pray the 2023 Ignite Sydney Conference brings new hope and life to our community of the Church."

The conference caters to a range of age groups, engaging in different streams over the weekend, with specific talks and breakout groups designed for each unique age group.

During a meet and greet event for the conference in May, high schoolers and young adults from the Diocese got the chance to mingle with conference organisers and hear more about the exciting experiences offered by the conference.

Director of Ignite Youth, Kym Keady, said the conference had been transformational in the lives of thousands of young people over the years it had been run, and highlighted it as a unique opportunity for young Catholics to gather with likeminded people to worship, praise and learn more about God.

Four students from St Leo's Catholic College spoke about how transformative the conference had been in their own lives. Each presented unique stories about their own journey with the Catholic faith, but each praised the role Ignite had played in bringing them into a closer relationship with God.

This year's Ignite Conference will feature a range of vibrant and dynamic speakers.

Fr Rob Galea currently serves in the Diocese of Sandhurst, Victoria, and is an internationally acclaimed author, singer and songwriter. He was a contestant on Australia's X Factor in 2015, and has featured in newspapers, magazines and TV shows across the globe. He is passionate about sharing the word of God through music and is known for his work with young people.

Sr Therese Mills MGL has been a sister with the Missionaries of God's Love for 23 years. She is actively involved in the formation and mentoring of young



Fr Sam French.

people and even competed in The Amazing Race Australia alongside Sr Judy Bowe MGL.

Fr Sam French, the Diocese of Broken Bay's Director of Vocations, will also be a key speaker at the event. Fr Sam was ordained just two years ago but brings a youthful enthusiasm and fervour for youth ministry from his own past experiences. He has a drive to connect with younger generations which has led him back to social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube, to bring the Gospel to youth.

The conference will also feature Sam Brebner, Manager of Ministries to Young People in the Diocese of Auckland, New Zealand; Sam Clear, Director of Youth Evangelisation for the Archdiocese of Hobart; Brendan Malone, founder and director of LifeNET NZ; and Kym Keady, Director of Ignite Youth.

*The Diocese of Broken Bay will host Ignite Conference from 28 September to 1 October 2023 at the Cathedral Precinct, Waitara.*

To register, go to [igniteconference.com.au/register](https://igniteconference.com.au/register)