



21 November 2025

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

Dear Fathers, Deacons, and my sisters and brothers in Christ,

In 2026, our local Church of Broken Bay will celebrate forty years since the establishment of our Diocese. This is a moment of grace for us all. We will mark the anniversary with a diocesan Liturgical Celebration on 28 May 2026 and a 40th Anniversary Diocesan Dinner on 29 May 2026.

As I reflected with you at our 35th anniversary, such occasions invite us to lift our hearts in thanksgiving for the countless ways the Holy Spirit continues to animate our Church, and to open ourselves to the new possibilities the Lord places before us.

Over these past five years, we have witnessed significant developments across our Diocese. Central among them have been the three regional Pastoral Discernments: the Central Coast in 2021; the Northern Beaches in 2023; and most recently on the North Shore in 2024. Each discernment has helped us listen more deeply to the lived experience of our people, identify pastoral priorities, and propose new initiatives to strengthen our missionary life.

While it will take time for their recommendations to bear full fruit, I am especially grateful for the establishment of the Ambrose Centre for Pastoral Formation at The Entrance, and the release of the new strategic plan for Catholic Schools Broken Bay, *Shaping Tomorrow, Together in Faith*. In this same period, we have also reviewed and renewed the work of the Chancery so that it may better serve the mission entrusted to us.

The XVI Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (October 2023–October 2024) has also been a significant moment in the Universal Church. One of its gifts has been the encouragement to rediscover our common mission as disciples of Jesus Christ. We stand on the shoulders of the popes who have guided the Church in our time:

- Saint John XXIII called the Church to renew herself in the spirit of the Gospel and to read the signs of the times.
- Saint Paul VI reminded us that the life of the Church is defined by communion: that is, cohesion and interior fullness, in grace, truth and collaboration, and mission: that is, apostolic commitment to the world of today.



- Saint John Paul II deepened this vision, teaching that *koinonia* gives rise to the Church's mission to serve as a sign of the human family's intimate union with God.
- Pope Benedict XVI further developed this theology of *communio*, describing it as both the mystery and the gift of the Church's life in Christ. He reminded us that *communio* is not a mere sociological bond, but a participation in the very life of the Triune God, a unity grounded in truth and love, expressed in the Eucharist, and lived out in charity. He further reminded us that the Church is not an association for religious purposes, but a living organism, a communion born from the Eucharist. This *communio* draws us into deeper unity with Christ and with one another, forming the foundation of every authentic ecclesial mission.
- Pope Francis, in his call to Synodality, continued this living tradition, inviting the Church to walk together in communion, participation, and mission. These three words capture the essence of the mystery of the Church as described by the Second Vatican Council and call each of us to renewed dialogue, discernment, and shared responsibility. As Pope Francis reminded us, participation is not optional, it is an essential ecclesial duty flowing from our baptismal faith.
- Pope Leo XIV, has emphasised that synodality is not a programme but a way of being Church, grounded in listening, participation and mission. The Holy Father affirmed that there is no single template for synodality across all countries and cultures, urging local Churches to discern their particular path. He reminds us that the synodal journey is an ecclesial journey led by the Holy Spirit, to help us grow as a missionary Church, constantly undergoing conversion through attentive listening to the Gospel.

With these teachings in mind, and trusting in the Lord who continually renews His Church, I wish to dedicate our 40th anniversary year to preparation for a **Diocesan Synod**, which I propose will be held from **30 April to 2 May 2027**.

The preparatory work will commence in the first half of 2026, with the appointment of a Synod Steering Committee in December 2025, and with the formal convocation of our diocesan journey at Pentecost 2026. The period from Pentecost 2026 (24 May) to Pentecost 2027 (9 May) will be a time for us to give thanks to God, to pray, to reflect upon our past, and to walk forward together in the power of the Holy Spirit, renewing our hope in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A Synod invites the whole community to listen attentively to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church today. The three regional Pastoral Discernments have already guided us significantly. Building upon these, we now broaden our gaze to ask: *What is the Holy Spirit asking of us as the Diocese of Broken Bay?*

My Pastoral Letters responding to each regional discernment will play an important role in shaping the Synod Agenda. This Agenda will also be formed through consultation with the Council of Priests, the Council for Pastoral Mission (including Deans, Heads of Mission, and Agency



Directors), and through three regional Assemblies in August and September 2026, following a period of parish and agency reflection across June and July 2026.

To ground this work, I am issuing with this letter, A Charter of the Ecclesial Life of the Diocese of Broken Bay, prepared with the generous and thoughtful input of the Council of Priests and Heads of Mission.

In recognition of the special character of our 40th anniversary, I have requested that in 2026 the Sacrament of Confirmation be celebrated regionally, enabling our communities to gather in thanksgiving for four decades of grace and mission. These celebrations will take place as follows:

- **Central Coast** – Edmund Rice Centre, East Gosford
 - 12 November at 6pm
 - 14 November at 11am and 3pm
- **North Shore** – Light of Christ Centre, Waitara
 - 20 November at 6pm
 - 21 November at 11am and 3pm
- **Northern Beaches** – The Treacy Centre, Oxford Falls
 - 26 November at 6pm
 - 28 November at 11am and 3pm

This is not the first time we have celebrated Confirmation in this way in the Diocese of Broken Bay, and I am confident that it will again strengthen us as disciples of Jesus Christ and unite us to one another as the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Further practical details will be provided throughout 2026.

As this Year of Jubilee draws to its conclusion, I pray that the year ahead will bring us a renewed joy in the Gospel and a deepened sense of our shared mission in Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit guide our Diocese as we look with hope toward our Synod and continue to grow as a community in communion, participation, and mission.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Anthony Randazzo', with a cross symbol to the left of the first name.

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL
Bishop of Broken Bay