



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay

Message for BBNeighbourhoods
1 September 2020

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This week marks the beginning of the Safeguarding Month of September for the Diocese of Broken Bay. Our theme this year is 'Focusing on the Rights of the Child'. We dedicate September to this theme as an ongoing reminder for us to build and value the culture of safety and well-being for all people in the community of the Church. It is something that we are committed to, every day, all year round.

We begin this month with a Liturgy of Lament, an opportunity to gather and pray to God and to acknowledge the suffering caused to our most vulnerable and to give public expression to our sorrow. The theme of the Liturgy this year is 'Listening to the Past: Caring for the Future'.

Safeguarding month in 2020 will be marked by a number of 'firsts':

- It is the first time as your Bishop that I will release my message on the priority of safeguarding in our mission and ministry. I have done this through a video that you can watch [here](#) which communicates that safeguarding is not simply a tick-the-box exercise, but an important priority that needs to be acknowledged and embraced throughout the whole life of our Diocese and upheld on multiple levels.
- It is the first time we welcome a person who is a survivor of sexual abuse to be with us and share her story at the Liturgy of Lament. She will be present to give voice to her experience and bear witness to her journey of survival. To listen to her story is a privileged moment. I am personally grateful for her trust, her dignity, her courage, and for giving us this opportunity to hear her voice.
- As a community of the Church, we need to defend and promote the spiritual rights of our children. It is the first time the spiritual rights of the child will be articulated along with the human rights of the child in our newly released Diocesan Rights of the Child Framework. This is an initiative about which I feel very strongly. This year observes 30 years since Australia ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. That is an important milestone. Our Diocesan Framework will be released during the month and will be an excellent resource for catechesis, education, and ministry.



I am thankful for the work being done in our parishes and communities, our Catholic Schools and by our Catechists in the Public Schools. I am particularly aware of the ministry and mission of CatholicCare, the merciful arm of our Church. So many good people in our community of the Church are committed to ensure that children and vulnerable people have a safe environment in which to live and grow, to pray and worship.

I encourage all people in our Diocese of Broken Bay to reflect on your contribution to Safeguarding in our communities and consider how you can engage throughout September with initiatives that raise awareness and build a culture of safety and care.

Blessings and thanks,

+Anthony