



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo  
*Bishop of Broken Bay*

Message for BBNeighbourhoods  
13 April 2021

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

At Mass in our Cathedral on Easter Sunday I reminded the assembled faithful that the Season of Easter takes us all the way to Pentecost. It is a celebration that continues for 50 days. Unfortunately, there are no Easter eggs on sale in any of the shops that I have been to so unless one has been disciplined at the beginning of Easter, I fear that there will be very few sweet reminders by the time the 50 days are over.

The commercialisation of Easter and Christmas is one of those somewhat disappointing dimensions of our religious celebrations. And yet, we do not have to stop the commemoration of our faith simply because shops cease to carry our sweet reminders.

Easter is a time of recollection of our baptism. It is a time of welcome for those who have been initiated into the Body of Christ at the Vigil, and it is a time of preparation for many young people as they ready themselves for the sacrament of Confirmation. I hope that this season is a time for each of us to contemplate more deeply our baptismal call to holiness which might then lead us to ask, where and how is God calling me to live that holiness.

Asking these questions and spending time in prayer is the foundation to a culture of vocation within our community of the Church. God is calling some to married life, some to single life, some to consecrated religious life, and others to ordained life as deacons or priests. All of these begin with the universal call to holiness. The mystery of Easter plunges us into that life, in the same way that we were plunged into the waters of baptism. Might I encourage you to think and pray about this during the Easter season as individuals and as families and communities of faith. God has a purpose for each of us. Now is the time to enter a dialogue of prayer and life with God.

I have been delighted to hear from many of the priests and communities around the Diocese that people have been returning with great enthusiasm to our churches for Mass and the sacraments. The liturgies of the Triduum at the Cathedral where I celebrated Easter were extremely well attended. People have been reconnecting with each other after having been

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separated on and off for over a year. It has been a time of grace and life for our Catholic community. It has been encouraging to see so many people, maintaining COVID safety while opening pathways to reconnect and re-engage in our mission of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I am aware that some members of the community are still fearful of mixing in a crowd or gathering in the church building. I understand that might weigh heavily on some. This will be a time for us to assist our brothers and sisters in faith so that they are not unnecessarily burdened. While many are returning to Mass and community engagement, there will still be people who are isolated and alone. As our awareness of people's circumstances was heightened at the beginning of the pandemic, so it needs to be now as we probe the "new normal". As a community we have many opportunities to reach out to fellow pilgrims in faith. We also have shown that our mission to be the compassionate heart of Christ can make a difference in the lives of others. As we take up the new challenges in the community and in society, may we be filled with the Spirit of the Risen Lord. May our words and actions bring the love and the joy and the peace of Christ to all whom we meet.

Blessings of Easter joy to you and your families,

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