



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay

Message for BBNeighbourhoods
2 February 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I hope that my first *vox episcopi* message for 2021 finds you well rested after a somewhat hectic year and that, notwithstanding the COVID restrictions over the Christmas and New Years periods, you have been able to connect with family, loved ones, and friends.

I am deeply grateful for the many kind messages of condolence that I received when my mother, Caterina, passed away on 29 December 2020. I found your kindness and thoughtfulness at that moment of sorrow to be most consoling. I am also grateful to our clergy who offered Masses for the repose of my mother's soul. The distress of not being able to attend my mother's funeral, which was held in Queensland where the border was closed, was lightened by the solidarity of you, the people and clergy of our Diocese. I thank God for you and pray the Lord's blessing will come to you in abundance throughout 2021.

My 2020-2021 Pastoral Letter to the Diocese, "[Jesus Christ, our beginning and end](#)," which I issued on 29 November 2020, is proving to be very well received. I have been told by priests and people from around our community of the Church that it has been thought provoking and engaging. That is what I was hoping to achieve. In some instances, groups of the faithful have gathered to read, reflect, and discuss the Pastoral Letter and then spend some time in prayer. I am delighted that it has been of use and that sisters and brothers from our community are finding creative ways to treat the Pastoral Letter.

To this end, I hope that you will appreciate the soon-to-be released Diocese of Broken Bay Lenten Program 2021 titled, "Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega." I have asked Evangelisation Broken Bay (EBB) to draw upon my six priorities outlined in my Pastoral Letter and prepare a Lenten method for us to probe the mystery of faith during Lent 2021. I hope that you will find it of benefit. I am thankful to our EBB Team for their work and commitment to the project.

With COVID restrictions having been eased by the NSW Government in recent days, I have issued a [COVID-19 Restrictions Update](#) for our community of the Church. While we will have greater access and movement for various celebrations and functions in our churches and halls, I would still call upon you to exercise prudence and charity when we gather. The Government has asked that mask wearing indoors be mandatory. Please respect this Government requirement, especially in our churches when we gather for prayer and worship. Above all, let's encourage one another by showing respect and care for every member of the community, in church or beyond. I appeal to you as my sisters and brothers in Christ, and as good, responsible, and praiseworthy citizens.

May the week ahead be one of grace and peace for you and your families.

+Anthony