



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay

Message for BBNeighbourhoods
16 March 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The community of the Church has been present in our part of the world since the early settlers explored the Aboriginal lands to the North of Port Jackson in the late 18th Century. They eventually crossed the Hawkesbury and ventured further North beyond the area that is said to have been named Broken Bay by Captain Cook in 1770.

This year we will celebrate 35 years as the Diocesan family of Broken Bay. Compared to over 200 years of European settlement, and thousands of years of Indigenous life and culture, 35 years sounds miniscule. And of course, as a chronological timeline, it is. However, our community of the Church is not merely defined by *Chronos* or chronological time, as a community of disciples of Jesus Christ, we are primarily people of the Lord's time or *Kairos*. As such, I am delighted to call us together as one community of the Church so that we might reflect upon the past, celebrate the present, and look with hope to the future. This edition of *Broken Bay Neighbourhoods* has been prepared with our BB35 celebrations in mind. I trust that you will find it informative and that it will be a source of stimulation for hearts and minds committed to the mission of Evangelisation as well as enriching our identity as sisters and brothers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

BB35 also incorporates the universal themes of Saint Joseph and the Family, established by Pope Francis for this year. Our BB35 logo, which you will see on flyers and banners throughout the year, draws together the local and universal dimensions of our Catholic community and emphasises that there is one Body of Christ, one Church.

I have been delighted to receive feedback regarding our Broken Bay Lenten program. The feedback has not just been about the content, it has extended also to the positive and inclusive way that people around the diocese have been able to participate. Again, the creative genius of many of our communities has meant that a vast variety of people have connected with each other and with the community of the Church. Thank you to all who have taken up the program as a way of probing the mystery of faith this Lent. I am pleased also that the Lenten

MOST REVEREND ANTHONY RANDAZZO BISHOP OF BROKEN BAY
PO Box 340, Pennant Hills NSW 1715, Australia P +612 8379 1614 E bishop@bbcatholic.org.au

www.bbcatholic.org.au



program has allowed so many to discover more about the six priorities for our community of the Church that I wrote about in my Pastoral Letter.

The Season of Lent is a marvellous time to discover and rediscover the forgiveness and mercy of God. Our priests have ensured that the sacrament of Reconciliation is available during Lent, and they will be offering opportunities for the sacrament in these weeks leading up to Holy Week. The sacrament of forgiveness is a great way to prepare for Easter, and I would encourage men and women, young and old, to prepare for and celebrate this sacrament.

Some people, for one reason or another, are so burdened by memories of sin that they lose themselves in the shadows of darkness. The consequence is that they find it difficult or traumatic to approach the sacrament. It can play out in their scrupulosity, and consequently they can repeatedly confess the same sins, always hoping but never really believing in God's merciful love. I would like to offer this short prayer that I have written and hope that it may be of assistance to anyone who carries the burden of fear or sin.

Prayer for Healing of Memory

God, the Father of mercies,
with confidence, I pray,
that in your love you would heal and purify the memory of my sin.
Free me from the distraction of past sin and the burden of guilt,
and in your mercy pour your Spirit into my mind and heart
so that with dignity I may live life to the full as your (daughter or son).
Through Christ Jesus, your Son, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and for ages unending. Amen.

Being reconciled to God, to others and with ourselves, is a joy made real in the Holy Spirit. I would like to encourage all members of the faithful, brothers and sisters of the Lord, to approach our celebration of Easter with this joy and with a deep trust and hope in God.

Last Easter we were unable to gather as we normally do for the Paschal Feast. It is my hope that we will be able to gather more 'normally' this year, after last Easter and the Christmas restrictions which we all felt so acutely. By a separate letter I share guidelines as to how best we might enter our liturgies through Holy Week and Easter. We give God thanks for the way in which we have been spared the trauma of so many other places and that the situation is as controlled here as it is. Whilst it is important that we retain our sense of COVID



responsibility, it is also important now that we return to a liturgical and pastoral practice as close as possible to 'normal'.

This week is full of important markers and feasts: 500 years of Christianity for the Filipinos, St Patrick's Feast Day, St Joseph's Feast Day. On Friday, 19 March this week, I will be installing and blessing a timber statue of Saint Joseph in our Cathedral. I commissioned this statue as my gift to you and I offer it in memory of my parents, Colin Randazzo and Caterina Di Losa, who are both recently deceased. I hope that you will find the image of Saint Joseph, which will be placed alongside Mother Mary and the child Jesus, a source of spiritual strength and devotion as well as an inspiration for Christian virtue and family life.

May these final days of Lent be rich in blessings for you and your families.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

+Anthony