



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay

Message for BBNeighbourhoods
20 May 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In 1844, Australia became the first country in the world to adopt the patronage of Mary, Mother of God, under the title Help of Christians. For 176 years, Australians have invoked Mary's heavenly intercession, in joyful times and in times of suffering.

It is with confidence in Mary's love and fidelity that the Catholic Bishops of Australia have turned once more to her intercession in a particular way during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, on Sunday 24 May at the conclusion of the 8.30am Mass at our Cathedral, I will entrust the community of the Church of Broken Bay to the protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Help of Christians. I will also celebrate the Mass of the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians at the Cathedral on Monday 25 May at 7am. I hope that people all around the diocese will be able to participate in these Masses, as they will be livestreamed.

To assist you in your families and homes, I have asked our Office for Evangelisation to prepare a prayer resource for use in families and in Parish communities. I commend this beautiful resource to you for your use. The link to access the resource in this week's BBNeighbourhoods.

As our children are returning to school, we entrust them in a particular way to the maternal protection of Our Lady. I am conscious too of so many teachers and staff at our Catholic Schools, as well as many who work in our Public Schools. You too deserve our thanks and our prayers.

Finally, I am always conscious of the many women and men from around our Diocese who are involved in essential services. Your ongoing dedication and service to the community during this health crisis is greatly appreciated. I pray that through Mary's intercession, the Lord will guide and protect you.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

+Anthony