



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay

Message for BBNeighbourhoods
27 April 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This Saturday, 1 May, we commemorate the second feast of St Joseph in our liturgical calendar. It is the feast of St Joseph the Worker. On 19 March, the Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of Mary, I installed and blessed a statue of St Joseph in Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, and on Saturday I will be opening and blessing a newly established house of discernment for young men, named “Joseph House”. I announced this initiative on 8 December 2020, the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church and am pleased to be able to see the project come to fruition on the feast of St Joseph the Worker. It is a project that I have dedicated to the intercession of the earthly father of Jesus in this year of Saint Joseph.

The House will be a place for young men to uncover the call to holiness that comes through baptism, whilst spending some serious time in discernment and contemplation, while being active in the world. The aim is that they can meet the challenge of living as Christian men in a fruitful environment, under the guidance of St Joseph as a great role model of virtue and character.

On Saturday 17 April, I convened a meeting of the Plenary Council delegates and animators from across the Diocese for the first time since the pandemic began. The aim was to re-animate the Plenary Council initiative, to provide formation on this theme and to commission the four delegates for the Diocese of Broken Bay – Alison Newell, Raj Rajasingam, Danny Casey, and Fr David Ranson.

Until our gatherings were interrupted by COVID-19, the Diocese of Broken Bay was recognised as one of the highest responders to the Plenary Council invitation to “Listen to what the Spirit is saying” to the Church in Australia. The Council is an opportunity for a holy listening, a truthful speaking, and a dialogue of love. I look forward to continuing the journey of the Plenary Council with the many enthusiastic people who are generously engaged in this task.

My presentation on the Plenary Council day has been produced as a video resource for use throughout the Diocese and can be accessed [here](#). I hope that you might find it of use also for our ongoing mission of evangelisation in Broken Bay.

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As we journey in the Easter Season, we also continue to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation. More specifically, we are entering into the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. I am grateful, after the restrictions of COVID last year, to be travelling to parishes and conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation for the first time in the Diocese. I know that many of our young people have been waiting patiently in anticipation of this moment of grace. I hope that it will be a time of bringing to life the power of the Holy Spirit in them and in our community of the Church. Thank you to all families and carers, catechists and teachers, priests and deacons who have been accompanying the young candidates. May God bless you all abundantly.

Easter joy to you and your loved ones,

+Anthony