
**BISHOP ANTHONY
RANDAZZO**
A COMMUNITY
JOURNEYING TOGETHER:
PAGE 2-3

ST JOHN PAUL II
AUSTRALIA'S FIRST
SHRINE AND
TWO RELICS:
PAGE 4-7

WORLD YOUTH DAY:
A GLIMPSE OF LISBON
FOR OUR PILGRIMS
IN 2023:
PAGE 14-15

BBN

PUBLICATION
OF THE CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY

#216

DECEMBER 2022





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DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY**

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BISHOP'S MESSAGE

A community journeying together

By Bishop Anthony Randazzo



If I were to say that the past two years have been distressing to some, challenging for others, and uncomfortable for most, I suspect that you might accuse me of stating the obvious. And yet, sometimes the obvious needs to be named simply because those caught up in distress, challenge, and discomfort, might be so overwhelmed that they lose their voice. They rely upon others to support and accompany them and sometimes to name issues with them. The result is often a newfound clarity and freedom which allows life not merely to continue, but to flourish.

As the Christian community journeys together toward the celebration of the birth of our Saviour at Christmas, the words from the Prophet Isaiah, speak into the distress of God's people, and make a clear prophecy of the grace that will come in the time of Christ.

"Console my people, console them,
says your God." (Isaiah 40:1)

The opening words of the prophecy speak of consolation, which is the encouragement of God. God's encouragement gives comfort which is the strength of God. Isaiah speaks of a spiritual comfort that will be given with the coming of Christ. However,

this comfort was first given to the people of Israel.

In Matthew's Gospel, the evangelist reminds us that the Christ was "sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (cf. Matt 15:24), but Jesus reassures us that even if one member of the Lord's flock strays, God will seek them out to console and encourage, to strengthen and save.

My brothers and sisters, might this be our inspiration as we approach the end of another challenging year? Our God, who draws near to us in the tiny child of Bethlehem, promises to console our world in its distress. God's promise of salvation in Christ is our consolation in times of challenge. And God's strength to save is our only comfort, our single joy, our lasting peace.

As Catholic Christians, our faith does not allow us to be consumed by challenges. In fact, at the heart of our faith is the gift of joyful hope. In the letter to the Romans, Saint Paul illustrates ways to live that are greater than our circumstances, regardless of what might confront us. The Apostle says, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer". (Romans 12:12)

Some signs of hope in our community of the Church are the works of evangelisation through our developing Pastoral Mission, *One in Christ*. Our Pastoral Mission is not a strategy or a plan, but an engagement of all of Christ's faithful – lay and ordained, throughout our diocese. It is a work in progress that seeks to lead us more deeply to Jesus Christ, to build up the bonds of communion in our Church, and to equip and

commission each person for mission in the world.

Another sign of hope is *Towards 2025* in Catholic Schools Broken Bay. Our families and communities, teachers and school staff, have embraced the challenge of providing learning opportunities to our children and young people for quality faith formation, academic education, artistic expression, sporting proficiency, human development, and life skills. Our great hope is that the children of Broken Bay are being educated in heart and mind to be the very best that God has called each person to be.

A new ministry that offers hope is *Dom's Place* located at Waitara. Dom's Place is where homeless people or people who don't quite "fit" in some social settings, can come and be part of our community. It is much more than a drop-in centre. The staff from Catholic Care offer professional support as well as opportunities

for group and social engagement. Dom's Place makes provision for clothing and bedding renewal, as well as clothes washing facilities. Men and women can drop in for a coffee and conversation and there are also occasional BBQ's. I would like to acknowledge that this work builds on other good works around the diocese, like *Mary Mac's Place* at Woy Woy, however, I think that this is one of the most positive new initiatives that I have seen for a while. I suspect there may be ongoing opportunities to reach out to people in need in many parishes throughout our diocese.

One more sign of hope in our community of the Church is our Cathedral consultation which took us to the fourth forum that was held on 4 November, the feast of Saint Charles Borromeo. Thus far the participation, respectful dialogue, and constructive feedback have been superb. Facilitated by Deacon Peter McCulloch and Fr Brendan Lee and coordinated by Emma McDonald and my Chancery

Happily, it is obvious that in the midst of all the challenges, our hope in Christ Jesus sustains us and urges us on.

Team, it has been marvellous to put into practice the principles of synodality that are being encouraged by Pope Francis. The outstanding "hope" from the consultation is without a doubt the desire for the Cathedral parish and precinct to be well positioned for mission, hospitality, outreach, and service to the people of the diocese and beyond.

Happily, it is obvious that in the midst of all the challenges, our hope in Christ Jesus sustains us and urges us on. In thanksgiving we give all to God because in Christ, God has given all to us.

+Anthony



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Thousands gather for installation of St JP II relics at Gosford

William McInnes

More than 17 years after he passed away, Saint John Paul II still draws a crowd.

There wasn't a spare seat inside St Patrick's Catholic Church, East Gosford, which became the first shrine to St John Paul II in Australia, as two first class relics of the great saint were installed in a Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Bishop Anthony Randazzo DD JCL.

More than a thousand people were in attendance on Saturday, October 22, with hundreds making their way through the church well into the afternoon as they took the opportunity to ask for the intercession of St John Paul II, and remember the life of a loving and faithful man.

"Everyone was very joyful and there were lots of young people who said how uplifting it was. There were so

many happy people," said Father Greg Skulski, Parish Priest of Gosford.

"We had people come from Sydney, Cessnock, Wollongong, and the Northern Beaches. I even met people who had come from Melbourne, especially for the installation. They booked tickets immediately when they heard about it."

Despite rainy conditions in the days leading up to the installation, by God's grace the skies were clear above Gosford for the momentous day.

The relics were processed through the church by parishioners, in the midst of a flurry of white and yellow Vatican flags, as Fr Greg welcomed the more than a thousand people gathered in person and watching online.

In his homily, Bishop Randazzo reflected on the pontificate of St John Paul II, highlighting his deep faith



Bishop Randazzo opens the Pastoral Centre.

and courage, inspired by the love he received from God, which he conveyed to the rest of the world.

“The shrine which we inaugurate today must first and foremost be a sanctuary of love,” said Bishop Randazzo.

“Love was at the very centre of the life and ministry of St John Paul II. His deep faith, and apostolic courage were only possible because he was utterly convinced that he was loved first, by God.

“It was this love, genuine love, by a man of great human charisma, which was so attractive to others. So much so, that his life and ministry gave courage to believers right across the world to live the Christian vocation without fear. In a word, he helped us not to fear the truth, because truth is the guarantee of freedom. To put it even more succinctly, he gave us the strength to believe in Christ.”

Bishop Randazzo said St John Paul II was a reminder to all the faithful that if they lived by truth and in love, they would grow, in all ways, into Christ.

“I am confident that this shrine, this sanctuary of love, along with the St John Paul II Pastoral Centre, will become one of the great pilgrimage places in Australia. It will be a place for all people, believers and non-believers alike, to seek the truth of the gospel.”

He praised St John Paul II's openness to the power of the Holy Spirit, helping to bring the Catholic Church into the third millennia, all while maintaining utter fidelity to Christ and the doctrines of the Church.

“It is my hope that this shrine, this sanctuary of love, will be a place where pilgrims might remain in the great silence before God, with St John Paul II as a holy companion, that silence



The Chehade family were one of the many families who attended.

will become prayer,” said Bishop Randazzo.

“Through his heavenly intercession, he once again accompanies us to the universal vocation, to the heights of Christian life, to holiness.”

Following his homily, the relics were incensed, then processed from the altar by Bishop Randazzo and Fr Greg, to the reliquary, where they were installed.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Fr Greg thanked God for making the day such a success. He also thanked Bishop Randazzo, all the clergy and seminarians who attended, the parishioners and gathered pilgrims, praising the hard work of all those who had contributed to the opening of the Shrine.

He also spoke of his excitement about acquiring the relics and his joy at Gosford becoming a place of pilgrimage.

The most emotional part of the celebration came when Bishop Randazzo called upon the gathered

pilgrims to thank Fr Greg. An enduring applause turned into a standing ovation for the beloved priest, an endearing expression of the love shared between the Parish Priest and his flock.

More than 130 volunteers contributed to the installation, helping with everything from food, to the liturgy, and everything in between.

In the prior few months, a painting and marble statue were commissioned, the liturgy planned, kilos of food organised, volunteers assembled, and event promoted.

The day before, Fr Greg was personally vacuuming the church, paying particular attention to the area immediately in front of the reliquary, while white and yellow Vatican flags were hung up in the foyer of the church.

On the morning of the installation, the volunteers were at the church early to prepare, putting out chairs, cooking food and putting the finishing touches on the church.

Continued on p6

Continued from p5

Just prior to the Mass, Bishop Randazzo blessed the neighbouring St John Paul II Pastoral Centre, before engaging in some quick media commitments along with Fr Greg.

Throughout the day, hundreds of people processed through the church, taking their opportunity to see and pray before the relics, asking for the intercession of St John Paul II.

Fr Greg said the vision for the shrine had been to create a new inspiration for evangelisation, for the parish, Diocese and beyond.

"We need fresh, new ways of evangelisation and bringing God's good news to people, particularly to baptised Catholics who aren't practicing like they should," he said.

"St John Paul II is loved by many people and his teachings are really important for the current society."

The installation was the culmination of months of hard work from Fr Greg, Gosford parishioners and other people across the Diocese.

"Everything began 10 months before and there was a lot of excitement, stress and thoughts about how we would go about it," said Fr Greg.

"When Bishop Anthony made the decree in April, we were able to form the committee and it began a journey, organising every aspect including liturgy, music, hospitality, welcoming and organising the whole event.

"At many times, there were challenges, but I think, the fruits of the hard work of everyone are visible now."

Following the installation, Fr Greg said he was overwhelmed by the number of letters, emails and calls from people praising the beautiful liturgy and warm atmosphere.

"What I was expecting is happening," said Fr Greg.

"People are coming back to church and I've noticed a lot of people who I hadn't seen before sitting in the pews. People who haven't been in a while are coming back and people who aren't Catholics are seeing the statue outside, coming in and asking questions.



Fr Greg stands before the portrait of St John Paul II.

"The goal is achieved already in many ways and people are really interested."

The parish is expected to begin hosting schools and Catholic groups in the Pastoral Centre, helping to unpack the teachings of St John Paul II while also giving people the opportunity to pray before the relics with special Masses, healing evenings, encounter evenings, and adoration.

"My hope is these new initiatives will bring more people to God and encourage others towards conversion," said Fr Greg.

He said the local parishioners were very proud Gosford had become a centre of pilgrimage for many Catholics and hoped the presence of the relics would continue to revitalise the Catholic community on the Central Coast and across the Diocese.

"It's all about community and this community was prepared to organise, to make big steps in our faith journey. We are blessed we can rely on many people to help us on that journey towards conversion."



Bishop Randazzo kneels before the relics.



Broken Bay's own St John Paul II portrait

Q&A with Polish artist Ewa Michalska

How long have you been an artist for? Were you trained?

I have been a painter for about 20 years. I studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Wroclaw, as well as the Art Institute in Opolu. The process of learning to draw and paint is mostly laborious, systematic and painstaking work at home.

Art faculties help develop one's awareness and broaden one's horizons, but people generally attain their skills at special artistic high schools, which I did not attend. I had to learn artistic skills and techniques by myself using the small amount of talent which God granted me.

Is being an artist your full-time job?

I'm a teacher too. For me, painting and teaching is equally important. Teaching youth at the Artistic

High School in Nysa gives me the opportunity to shape the next generation, so that art for them is not just an unintelligible and unattainable product of the abstract ideas of a small handful of artists. I want art to become a part of each person's daily life, especially in a world where we still continuously fail on a spiritual level.

What was the process of creating the painting? And how long did it take?

It took me a few months to paint this portrait. This painting is oil on canvas. Once I designed the painting, I created a monochrome underlay, following which I applied oil paints gradually in order to achieve the right concentration of colour.

Do you have any connection to St John Paul II?

The main links I have to JP II are a

common homeland, the same God, as well as a particular love for His Mother.

Nevertheless, from all this came a certain event in my life which had a particular impact on my future artistic path. Upon completing my studies, I was offered the chance to exhibit my work. I accepted the challenge but had to create a new series of paintings. I decided to paint a series of portraits so I found an appropriate model and arranged to commence my painting. However, I couldn't stop thinking that the theme of my paintings should be St John Paul II. This was a few years following his death. At the time, the art world was dominated by secularism and modernism. I worried that the theme of St John Paul II would be badly received or even rejected.

After a few weeks, I nevertheless gave in to my internal voice and decided that the focus of my paintings would not be the model I had arranged, but St John Paul II. I felt inner peace at this decision and painted a series of portraits of St John Paul II. As a result (and as I firmly believe), St John Paul II himself ensured the success of my exhibition, while I looked on astonished at the warm reception it received. At the vernissage, I met my current boss, who offered me a job at the Artistic High School, where I work to this day. I know it is thanks to the protection of St John Paul II that I can continue working at the easel and with students.

I would like to publicly give thanks to St John Paul II for directing my artistic path – he has effectively become the patron of my craft. I am particularly humbled that Fr Greg chose me to paint this portrait for the new Shrine in your parish, achieving this through Father Greg, God's young and faithful servant.



A warm welcome for Episcopal Pastoral Visitation

Bishop Anthony Randazzo made his first Episcopal Pastoral Visitation to the Parish of Holy Name, Wahroonga at the end of last month and the schedule could not have been more varied – or busy!

Bishops of a Diocese have the responsibility to visit all of the Parishes in their Diocese every five years. This visit was delayed due to pandemic health restrictions so there was much to catch up on.

Parish Priest, Fr Paul Durkin and Assistant Priest, Fr Sam French hosted the Bishop along with parish staff for the three-day Visitation.

There were meetings, lunches and afternoon teas with parish staff, parishioners and lay ministry leaders. Bishop Randazzo wanted to hear first-hand what was happening in the parish, how were people implementing and developing his vision for the Diocese, what were the key issues and areas of concern.

Bishop Randazzo also visited three schools – Prouille Catholic Primary

School, and St Edmund's College and St Lucy's School. St Edmund's College is a special co-educational high school for teenagers with a wide range of disabilities and St Lucy's School, a Catholic K-12 school in the Dominican tradition, also provides for students with disabilities. The Bishop shared stories with many of the children who were keen to show him their work and achievements.

Apart from celebrating Mass, Bishop Randazzo also administered the Sacrament of Baptism – twice.

He visited Hammond Care Wahroonga, a retirement village where he chatted with and blessed a number of residents.

"It was a very busy few days but everyone was so welcoming and the Visitation was an extremely enriching time for me as I hope it was with all the wonderful people I met," the Bishop said.

"I met so many committed and talented people making extraordinary efforts, be it in parish ministry,



Bishop Randazzo is welcomed by Parish Priest Fr Paul Durkin.

our schools, in aged-care – really throughout the community.

"A visitation like this shows me how we can continue to grow our support and empower people in their service to Jesus Christ.

"And I know what I experienced here is being repeated throughout the Diocese," he said.



Bishop Anthony performs a baptism.



Bishop Anthony visited many of the schools in the parish area.



Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood is lit up in red.

Chatswood lights up for Red Wednesday

The iconic Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church in Chatswood was awash with Red on Wednesday, 23 October, as close to 150 faithful from across the Diocese gathered to pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

In support of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Red Wednesday initiative, the church was flood lit red and interior also decorated in red.

A Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Anthony Randazzo DD JCL, Bishop of Broken Bay, began the evening and prayers were dedicated to Christians across the globe who were suffering or facing persecution for their faith.

Bishop Anthony was joined by clergy from across the Diocese, special

guests from ACN and Archbishop Haigazoun Najarian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Australia and New Zealand.

During the Mass, Bishop Anthony's homily highlighted the privilege of being able to exercise our faith freely in Australia, while recognising the importance of prayer and supporting those in other countries who aren't able to attend Mass.

Following the Mass, Kylie Cullen from ACN spoke about the importance of their work, and the importance of prayer.

The faithful then mingled in the forecourt of the church, enjoying Lebanese cuisine, where many Christians still face persecution.

Chatswood joined iconic sites across the globe, including Notre Dame in Paris, the British Houses of Parliament and the Colosseum in Rome, which were flooded red on the same evening.

Churches and Cathedrals in Bathurst, Brisbane, Bunbury, Hobart, Melbourne, Newcastle, Perth, Sydney and Wagga Wagga were also illuminated red in solidarity.

ACN is a global charity which supports 5,000 Catholic projects every year, delivering close to \$200 million in aid annually to those facing persecution for their faith.

In addition to providing direct support to promote religious freedom within countries, ACN also provides support to refugees fleeing persecution.

"An important part of our work is listening to those communities, being in dialogue with the local Church, understanding their needs and how that fits into the work we do," Regina Lynch, Director of Projects for ACN International told *Broken Bay News*.

"By nature, we're a pastoral organisation but our first priority is helping those churches where Christians are persecuted or discriminated against. In some areas, we're assisting with emergency aid and humanitarian needs in order to help the Christians survive or stay in their countries."

ACN is an advocate for persecuted Christians across the globe, connecting donors to projects that will not only support the local Church, but improve the lives of many in the community.

"We like to say we're a bridge of

love between the donors and the beneficiaries," said Ms Lynch.

"We encourage the donors to pray for the beneficiaries and the beneficiaries to pray for the donors. Very often a priest or sister will ask what they can give in return for the support, and we say, they can give us their prayers for people in donor countries."

Bishop Anthony said it was important to bring the work of Aid to the Church in Need to the attention of every Catholic so they could support and pray for those facing persecution.

"More than 200 million Christians cannot freely exercise their faith," he said.

"Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation dedicated to the pastoral and spiritual care of those who suffer persecution and



Bishop Randazzo celebrates Mass on Red Wednesday.

oppression for their love of Christ in more than 140 countries.

"Their work now extends to emergency help and humanitarian aid. Red Wednesday and the illumination of Our Lady of Dolours façade, in the colour of martyrdom, highlights the support of our Diocese and shines a light on religious persecution."

Ms Lynch said she hoped the witness and stories from people facing persecution for their faith would also inspire a re-evangelisation of Catholics in Australia.

"For me, it's important to talk about those witnesses of faith and challenge all of us in these countries with freedom of religion to think about how far we're willing to go to live and defend that faith," she said.

"It's a message for us, that thanks to faith, we can do things that humanly speaking, seem impossible."



Bishop Randazzo with Archbishop Haigazoun Najarian (left) and Fr Avetis Hambarzumyan (far left) Nishan Basmajian, Chancellor for the Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Australia and New Zealand (right).

Youth get a taste of pilgrimage ahead of WYD 2023

Families, youth groups and young adults from across the Diocese gathered to join the celebration of local World Youth Day, hosted on the eve of the Feast of Christ the King of the Universe – November 19. The event focused on the participation of young people in the church and provided an opportunity for school students and young adults to connect with other young Catholics.

The day centred around the theme of pilgrimage in preparation for WYD 2023. The pilgrimage commenced with a walk from St Agatha's in Pennant Hills, to Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral in Waitara. Pilgrims carried the WYD cross as a reminder that Christ calls everyone to "take up their cross and follow [him]" (Mark 8:34). Pilgrims prayed a decade of the rosary in Headen Park for the intentions of those gathered.

Upon arriving at the Cathedral, the young people listened to the testimony of Jaeden Vila – a youth leader at the Cathedral. Jaeden shared his experience of attending WYD Panama in 2019 and gave



Some youth carry the WYD Cross during pilgrimage walk.

words of encouragement for those present. This was followed by a time of Adoration when the young people came face-to-face with Christ.

A vigil Mass was celebrated by Most Reverend Anthony Randazzo DD JCL, Bishop of Broken Bay, and focused on the theme of Christ's Kingship. During

the Mass, ministries were led by young people from various schools and youth groups, reflecting their contribution to our faith community.

Following the Mass, those present gathered for an outdoor festival which featured live music from Youth for Christ, Don Vila (Youth Leader) and Aaliyah Torres (Mackillop College). A highlight was a impromptu performance of *Faith and I'm a Believer* by Father Brendan Lee (Cathedral Moderator) and Deacon Adrian Gomez (CYBB Chaplain).

The music and dancing were complimented by games led by youth leaders from around the Diocese and an array of stalls including WYD2023, CYBB and Vocations Broken Bay.

The event provided an opportunity for young people to celebrate their love of Christ while building anticipation ahead of the WYD pilgrimage to Lisbon, Portugal in August 2023.



Fr Brendan Lee joined the youth performers for an impromptu performance.





Lisbon's famous Praça do Comércio.

Broken Bay gets early glimpse at WYD 2023 in Lisbon

In just over seven months' time, hundreds of pilgrims from the Diocese of Broken Bay will travel to Lisbon, Portugal for World Youth Day 2023.

Students from across Catholic Schools Broken Bay and young adults from across the parishes will all join together to spend a week in Lisbon, uniting with other young Catholics from across the world.

The group of Broken Bay pilgrims will be joined by Most Reverend Anthony Randazzo, Bishop of Broken Bay, as he embarks on his first ever World Youth Day pilgrimage.

In mid-September, Broken Bay's World Youth Day pilgrimage coordinators Kelly Paget and Simon Hyland both travelled to Portugal to prepare for the trip.

While in Lisbon, the pair, along with 24 coordinators from other Dioceses and groups, visited several of the city's great sites, tasted the local cuisines and experienced the beauty of the city where millions of pilgrims will visit next year.

"The World Youth Day familiarisation tour is an important step in preparations leading up to world youth day, 2023," said Kelly, who is also the Chancellor for the Diocese of Broken Bay. "The main purpose of the trip is to allow coordinators the opportunity to become familiar with the sites in the host city. "We're also able to visit accommodation venues and conduct all important risk assessments to ensure that all safety measures are in place for our young people."

The coordinators met with



WYD coordinators from across Australia went on the fam. trip.



WYD coordinator Kelly Paget overlooking the 25 de Abril Bridge.

to attend Mass celebrated by the Holy Father on the final day of the week-long festival.

“Although still a few months away from the main event, the vigil site is already taking shape, with the foundations of the main stage being built and many other essential services being arranged, including pathways, water access, and storage facilities,” said Kelly.

Broken Bay will fill four coaches on the trip, with 170 pilgrims, including clergy, leaders and seminarians.

“This is a really unique opportunity to come together with Christ’s Church, to celebrate in this beautiful European city,” said Kelly.

Australian embassy staff to discuss the support they will be able to provide to the nearly 2,000 Australian pilgrims set to descend on Lisbon in 2023. They also visited the World Youth Day head office and met the coordinating team, including Bishop Americo Aguiar, who is the president of the Lisbon World Youth Day committee.

Kelly and Simon visited Parque Eduardo VII (Eduardo VII Park), the site of the opening Mass, where Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, Manuel Clemente, will celebrate Mass.

They visited a number of other key sites in the city including Jerónimos Monastery, a 15th century monastery in the west of the city, and the Church of Saint Anthony of Lisbon, the birthplace of St Anthony of Padua, where the pilgrims will visit along with Bishop Randazzo.

They also visited the site of the final Mass, in a large park by the waterside

in the Parque das Nações area of the city, which is currently being redeveloped. The coordinators also walked part of the journey pilgrims will make from the centre of Lisbon to the vigil site.

Millions of young people are expected

Registrations for pilgrims under the age of 18 have now closed but pilgrims above the age of 18 still have a chance to register.

To register your interest for World Youth Day 2023, head to
www.bbwyd.org.au



Kelly and Simon visit the site of the final Mass.



Advent – a time for reflection and preparation

Every year, in preparation for the Nativity of Christ, the Church enters the season of Advent.

It encompasses the four weeks prior to Christmas and is a time of reflection, anticipation, and preparation, with the faithful committing to acts of penance.

Advent, which begins the liturgical year, comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” and during these weeks we direct our minds to Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time, and the anniversary of His birth.

The exact origin of the celebration is not known, although it was being practiced as early as the 5th century.

Saint Gregory of Tours wrote about his predecessor Saint Perpetuus decreeing a fast three times a

week from the feast of Saint Martin (November 11) until Christmas. It is unclear whether this was a new custom or the reinforcement of an existing custom.

The custom began to spread beyond the Diocese of Tours and soon, all of France was observing three days of fasting each week between the feast of Saint Martin and Christmas. The practice of fasting went beyond France too, and many chose to fast every day of the Advent season, not just the three days prescribed.

Saint Gregory fixed the form of the Office for the Advent season, which originally included five Sundays.

By the 13th century, the fast of Advent was not commonly practiced, and so it was reformed, shortening it to a four-week cycle.

Advent, which begins the liturgical year, comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” and during these weeks we direct our minds to Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time, and the anniversary of His birth.

The liturgical season of Advent is now spread over four Sundays, with the readings and teachings focused on the preparation for the Second Coming and the Last Judgement.

There is great purpose and symbolism of the Advent wreath and

candles, once again a longstanding Catholic tradition.

The circle of the wreath, with no beginning or end, signifies continuous life, the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, one candle is lit each Sunday.

Three of the candles are purple or violet, a liturgical colour signifying a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

The third candle, rose or pink, is also a liturgical colour and represents joy.



The first candle of Advent symbolises HOPE and is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The circle of the wreath, with no beginning or end, signifies continuous life, the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.



The second candle, also purple, represents FAITH. It is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.



The third candle is rose or pink and symbolises JOY. It is called the “Shepherd’s Candle”. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.



On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. This final candle, the “Angel’s Candle,” symbolises PEACE. It reminds us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”



The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the “Christ Candle” and represents the life of Christ. The colour white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Saviour.

A new Diocesan Advent resource is available on the Diocese of Broken Bay website which offers reflections based on the Gifts of Christmas represented by the Advent candles of Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace. Written by the Vicar General, Dr Fr David Ranson, the resource is suitable for individuals or small groups and can be accessed at <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/evangelisation/advent-2022>

A Word from the Director of Schools

2022 Reflection – a year of Green Shoots



2022 has marked our second year on the journey of Towards 2025, a journey to provide authentic, professional Catholic education, delivered with care and compassion, and a journey to inspire hearts and minds to know Christ, to love learning and to be the very best we can be.

After the challenges of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, this year became the year of growth and renewal and we focused on enhancing the quality of Catholic education through our *Learning Improvement Program*. A new RE curriculum was launched, we introduced collaborative coaching and many other initiatives targeted at enhancing learning growth.

While the *Learning Improvement Program* defined much of what we deployed this year, we continued to place emphasis on projects enhancing other key areas of importance including our people, processes and facilities. I am delighted to see the seeds of our hard work growing into green shoots.

For this final edition of *Broken Bay News* for the year, we share with you a snapshot of some of our student sporting and academic successes of the year gone by and hope that these talented individuals inspire all to be the best they can be.

We also share a story of hope for one of our young students who is on a journey to overcome grave illness surrounded by the strength and warmth of her school community. I am humbled to see our values of compassion and courage being lived every day.

Earlier this term I was honoured to attend two very special events at CSBB. It was a privilege to adjudicate for the Catholic Schools Broken Bay 2022 Public Speaking Grand Final. I was amazed by the incredible courage and talent of the finalists and grateful for the staff who organised this wonderful annual event. We celebrate the finalists in this edition of *Broken Bay News* and look forward to next year's competition.

The second, and spectacular event was our inaugural 2022 Religious Creative Arts Competition Showcase Night in October. It was an absolute pleasure to acknowledge the winners from hundreds of entries on the night but most significantly, I was delighted to see our students demonstrate through the arts, their understanding of and connection to the theme of COURAGE. *'Be strong and courageous..., for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'* (Joshua 1:9) – one of CSBB core values.

I hope you enjoy this final edition for 2022 of *Broken Bay News* across our schools and on behalf of all at CSBB, I wish everyone a peaceful and joyous season of Advent.

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If you have any news you would like to share with the CSBB Community, please email comms@dbb.catholic.edu.au

We would love to hear from you.



2022 Public Speaking Grand Final

Having competed at their school and cluster level, 12 student finalists from across the Dioceses were invited to deliver their winning speeches at the Catholic Schools Broken Bay 2022 Public Speaking Grand Final. 3 adjudicators, our very own Director of Schools, Danny Casey; Nathan Tilbury, Deputy Mayor, Hornsby Shire and Taylor Denny, Senior Media Adviser, Minister for Environment and Heritage, had the unenviable job of discerning the overall winners from a very tough field of competitors.

Taylor, an alumni student of CSBB, was also a competitor in this very competition during her primary school years.

The speakers were very well prepared and presented their ready speeches with confidence and poise. Speakers were also required to deliver a creative and meaningful impromptu speech within a 10-minute time limit.

The speeches were of high quality and the deliberation was lengthy. After careful consideration, Tommy Stitt from St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, East Gosford was declared the winner. He presented a fabulously



The winners alongside the three esteemed judges.

entertaining speech on *Endings and Beginnings* and an impromptu speech on *I lost it*. Kiara Weekes from St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, Lake Munmorah won silver with her inspirational speech based on the famous Albert Einstein quote – "*Never give up on what you really want to do. The person with big dreams is more powerful than one with all the facts*" and an impromptu speech also on *I lost it*. Third place was awarded to Charlotte Lockwood from Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Pymble with her persuasive speech on Screen Time vs Green Time and her very cleverly written impromptu on the topic favourite, *I lost it*.

The audience was entertained throughout the night by students and music teacher, Tegan Bateman, from the host school, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Asquith.

The event was a huge success and a wonderful opportunity to come to together to celebrate the talent across our students in our diocese and the achievement of the winning students. Well done to all who participated in the Public Speaking Competition at each level.



The finalists prepare to give their speeches.



2022 Religious Creative Arts Competition Showcase Night – 18 October 2022

Our inaugural 2022 Religious Creative Arts Prize Showcase Night kicked off Tuesday, 18 October in an evening of Hollywood glam, canapes and a gallery of student work exhibited for our families, staff, clergy, and professional judges.

The theme for the competition was *COURAGE*. *‘Be strong and courageous..., for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.’ (Joshua 1:9)*. Open to all Catholic Schools Broken Bay students from Kindy to Year 10, students were asked to submit their entry in one or more of the categories of Music, Dance, Drama, Visual Art and Short Film. Finalists were exhibited on the night. After hundreds of entries,

127 finalists were selected with 43 winners announced on the night.

Student awards were presented by Bishop Anthony Randazzo and Danny Casey, Director of Schools for Visual Arts and Short film categories. Our invited special guest judges and theatre performers Scott Irwin (*Beauty and the Beast*, *Hairspray* and *Mamma Mia!*) and Danielle Barnes (*Fangirls*, *The Boy from Oz*, *Beauty and the Beast*), performed some wonderful songs on the night and announced awards from Music, Dance and Drama categories. Danielle and Scott are also parents from Mater Maria where their daughter attends school.



Rhoden and his family were thrilled with his win.

The Religious Creative Arts Competition will be back in 2023. We cannot wait to see more incredible creativity on display, enriching our faith experience and that of each and every student who enters.

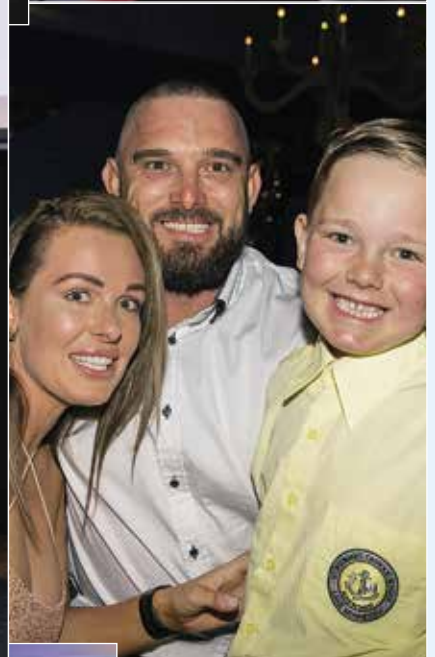


Our grand prize winner, Bishop's Choice went to Kindergarten student, Rhoden Myers of St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, Lake Munmorah. Bishop Anthony said of the work "Rhoden has captured the simple 'icon-ic' dimensions of St Mary of the Cross – as a sister of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart. The fine detail in her face, with a modern twist, shows a beautiful woman whose eyes look deeply inward and outward. This is beautifully simple, yet profound. Excellent work!! Thank you."

A delicious light supper was provided and served by Food Technology students from St Leo's College, Wahroonga. Well done to these students for displaying their culinary talents while gaining valuable industry experience. Very professional indeed.

To see the night as it unfolded, scan the QR code below.





Bryanthe – A miracle story

Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. – Mark 11:24

Brain arteriovenous malformations (AVM) are a tangle of blood vessels in the brain that diverts vital blood supply away from the brain and occur in less than 1% of the population. On Wednesday, 25 May 2022, Year 1 student, Bryanthe at MacKillop Catholic College, suffered a serious medical episode while at school. After being rushed to hospital by ambulance, then flown to the Sydney Children's Hospital, it was discovered that Bryanthe had been living with an AVM.

Bryanthe's Mum, Lecelle, a single mum who also cares for her own mother, had to immediately stop work to be there for what was an unknown and possibly, lengthy recovery.

MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale gathered their community and raised significant funds through school and wider community activities to support Bryanthe and her mum during this stressful time. Even the local childcare centre helped. The community responded practically and prayerfully while Bryanthe began her recovery.

Miraculously, Bryanthe returned to school in Week 2 of Term 3. Lecelle described her experience saying, "doctors told me that if she survives the emergency craniio, they couldn't tell when she would wake up... and IF she would wake up given the extent of the stroke. They couldn't guarantee how much of my little girl would come back.



The local childcare centre was one of many organisations which helped.

They said the first signs of progress will be, give or take, 6 months. They said there is a chance she won't walk or talk again. They said there are likely to be cognitive challenges. And yet here she is, visiting her classmates less than two months later and preparing to go back to school".

Lecelle said, "God's love is more powerful than any brain bleed. Bryanthe's recovery is a sheer testimony of the power of prayer and living proof that faith can move mountains."

As a community of Catholic schools, we are proud of how our community responded, we welcome back Bryanthe and continue to pray for her full recovery.



Bryanthe and her mum Lecelle.



A walking miracle.

Alexander Gothard, trainee in Digital Enablement

Trainee in Digital Enablement, Alexander Gothard sat down to talk about his experience in CSBB and what he has learnt so far!

Q. What school did you attend and how was your interest in information technology (IT) fostered?

A. I attended St Patrick's College Sutherland, and my interest was fostered by wanting to fulfil a sense of curiosity for new experiences and knowledge. I wanted to expand my horizon of possibilities and develop my technical understanding.

Q. What made you decide to train in information technology?

A. The opportunity to be a trainee in IT – I knew it would allow me to grow and provide me with various opportunities and new paths. It was also enticing as it allowed me to gain knowledge with the experience of working in the Digital Enablement team and studying at TAFE, while still being able to support myself financially.

Q. What's your experience been like?

A. My experience in the Digital Enablement team (DE) has been overall positive and very eye opening into what the industry has to offer. It has allowed me to see the intricacies of infrastructure processes and methodology, and how my input can impact different workflows. The inclusivity and support received during my time in DE has been amazing as everyone is very keen to assist and is willing to share their knowledge.

Q. What have you learnt?

A. I have learnt that to prosper it is imperative that you have both technical and interpersonal skills in order to succeed.

Q. What or who inspires you?

A. Curiosity and the unknown inspire and motivate me to pursue different areas in my life which trickles into my work. Also the main influences have come from psychologists and their varying ideologies from

different areas around the world and everyday people as interactions with people from various walks of life allow me to see that every single person is unique, but that we all have similar goals or motivations in life.

Q. What advice would you give to other trainees wishing to follow the same path as you?

A. The main advice I would give to other trainees would be to embrace opportunities. Even if you are not 100% sure about an opportunity you should probably take it. There will always be different opportunities throughout one's lifetime, but they will usually never be the same.

Q. Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years time?

A. In 5 or more years, I would like to experience various parts of the world as it would allow me to gain more perspectives and experiences, whilst pursuing my path in the area of IT. I would hope that I am still like a sponge absorbing information and using it to better myself those around me, and that I remain curious.



Alexander Gothard

**Netball Grand Finalists
– St John Fisher, Tumbi Umbi**

Congratulations to St John Fisher Tumbi Umbi Netball Team, coached by teacher Jenny Dickson announced as grand finalists on 1st November at Netball NSW Primary Schools State Championships held at Homebush – well done!



**Mitch, Baseball
– St Agatha's Catholic Primary School, Pennant Hills**

Congratulations to Mitch from St Agatha's who was selected this year to play Baseball at State and National Level.

Zach, Soccer – Mackillop Catholic College, Warnervale

Zach completed his HSC exams while also training with the Central Coast Mariners, a professional soccer club touring in Japan. His final HSC exam of PDHPE was completed at the British Council in Tokyo.

The Mariners hosted an international camp in Kashima, Ibaraki where Zach played J1 League – the top level of the Japan Professional Football League system!



**Cricket Winners Waratah Shield
– St John Fisher, Tumbi Umbi**

Congratulations to our Stage 3 cricket team, winners of the Central Coast Waratah Shield. Well done team and Mr Pobjie!

Destiny, Netball and Shotput – Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood (proud Kamilaroi woman)

Year 6 student Destiny of Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood represented Catholic Schools Broken Bay in netball at Bathurst (where she also gave the

Acknowledgement of Country for the carnival!). Destiny also represented Polding at the NSWPSSA athletics for shotput. Well done, Destiny.

Eliza 12yrs & Sienna 15yrs – Touch Champions!

Eliza Williams (St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Manly) and Sienna Thomas (St Brigid's Catholic College, Lake Munmorah) were selected to represent NSW PSSA and NSW All Schools respectively at the national competition held in Wagga Wagga. Both girls were finalists in their age divisions with Eliza winning a silver medal in the 12yrs competition and Sienna a gold medal in the 15yrs competition. Sienna's talent and outstanding performance were recognised as she was named in the Australian Schools Merit Team.



Savelio from St Paul's Catholic College, Manly

Savelio has had an outstanding season in Rugby. He was a member of the NSWCCC Open Boys Rugby Union Team, selected into the Gen Blues Rugby squad, selected in the Waratahs 1 team and also in the Australian Schools Rugby Union team. Savelio is a committed student who plans to study engineering at university after his HSC.

The NESA WriteOn Gold Award Winners

Congratulations to Stage 1 students Avi Marchino from Sacred Heart, Pymble and Poppy James from St Thomas' Catholic Primary School, Willoughby for achieving a Gold Award in the NESA WriteOn competition that provides students with the opportunity to become published authors and showcase their writing creativity.



Lailani Montgomery (proud Kamilaroi woman) from St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah

Congratulations to Lailani member of the NSWCCC Open girls touch team who gained selection into the first-ever

NSW Schoolgirls U18 Rugby League Team and was selected into the NSW All Schools Rugby 7s Team!

Accelerated learners Evelyn and Andrew

Evelyn and Andrew of Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, St Ives, are both engaging in accelerated work in Year 1. High-ability students, they are exploring their

passion for science and sharing their learnings with others, just like real-world scientists. We are proud of our passionate learners!

'The North Challenge,' winners from St Peter's Catholic College.

An initiative run by North Construction & Building, gathered Year 10 students from across the Central Coast region to use their entrepreneurial skills to address the housing shortage crisis on the Central Coast.

Congratulations to Kayli, Krish, Nathan, Luke and Rohan of St Peter's Catholic College who were named the overall winner of the challenge with an innovative and well-presented business case.



Thirty years a priest is firstly, a celebration of community

The Vicar General of the Diocese of Broken Bay, Dr Fr David Ranson celebrated his 30th Anniversary of Ordination recently – an occasion his Chatswood parishioners, friends and

fellow priests were not going to let pass quietly.

The Mass at Fr David's parish church, Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood,

reflected the multi-culturalism of the community and the creativity and generosity of the parishioners. Celebrated by Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL, Bishop of Broken Bay, Fr David was also joined by many who knew him when he was ordained in Victoria.

Fr David made his First Profession as a Trappist Monk of the Order of Cistercians 40 years ago. His duties included dairy farm manager.

Since then, Fr David's appointments have continued to be wide and varied – chaplain, academic and Parish Priest in Broken Bay at Wahroonga, Epping-Carlingford and Chatswood. In 2015 he was appointed Vicar General and for 16 months prior to Bishop's Anthony's installation as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese, Fr David was the Diocesan Administrator.



Hundreds of parishioners gathered for the Mass.

"I have gone from my monastic duties of dairy farming through a range of extraordinary appointments now to be the Parish Priest of one of the most dynamic of urban parishes in the metropolis of Sydney," he said later at a celebratory dinner.

"To follow the call of the Spirit is certainly to make one not a little dizzy at the mystery of life's unfolding.

"Each parish community in which I have served has deepened my understanding of priesthood and the Church which it is solely directed to embody and enliven."

When the Chatswood parish and Assistant Priests Fr Joey Frez and Fr Marek Woldan wanted to celebrate Fr David's ordination anniversary he agreed only if it was also a catalyst for celebrating and strengthening the bonds of community life within the parish.

"A priestly anniversary must be a celebration of the community first and foremost, for priesthood only finds its meaning in and through the community of faith. This evening has been such a celebration because of the sheer generosity of so many people.



Fr David thanks guests at his celebratory dinner.

"I thank especially Bishop Anthony for your appointment to this great community of faith. I think you for your friendship and trust. It is a privilege to serve you as your Vicar General.

"I want to thank profoundly Fr Joey who has engaged this opportunity with such love and flair, and for the support of Fr Marek. I was sharing with them the other day that I believed we were quite the team for our parish: each so different but blending our differences in a way that

could respond to the nature of our community in such an integrated way."

Fr David also expressed his thanks to all the volunteers and musicians who contributed so much to the celebration, and to all who shared the evening with him.

"Your presence this evening means so much to me. And may that friendship continue to grow and strengthen in the years ahead as I commit my life anew to be for you, priest."



Bishop Randazzo with members of Chancery staff.



Fr David and Fr Joey with parishioners at the dinner.

Hannah and her family finally have stability

In March 2021, life for Hannah and her two children could not have been worse. For 20 years, Hannah had experienced significant domestic family violence from her children's father, and it was a reality that her children grew to know as normal. Hannah and her 14-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son lived in constant fear of verbal, financial, emotional, and physical abuse.

After intensive support through CatholicCare's Staying Home, Leaving Violence program, life has changed significantly for Hannah and her family. "The family finally have stability and an intensive support service, so our case plan goals have been achieved," says Maddy who works as a Senior Caseworker in Domestic and Family Violence. "This happened as a result of the outstanding and consistent casework we provided to the family."

When the team at CatholicCare first met Hannah, it was clear that her health had been significantly impacted by violence. "Hannah experienced strangulation and loss of consciousness after being pushed into walls and thrown down the stairs."

The subsequent spinal damage and exacerbation of Hannah's acquired brain injury meant that she needed to spend extended periods of time in hospital. To make matters worse, the children's father would abuse them whenever Hannah was in hospital. "He told the kids that if they told their mother what he did, they would be responsible for the stress that kills her," Maddy says.

On top of Hannah's physical health issues, she was in significant financial stress due to years of financial abuse. "The family lost their home due to mortgage arrears, utility and council rates debts of just under \$500,000," Maddy says. "Hannah needed support

in accessing legal advice, completing paperwork and undertaking basic tasks. Her CatholicCare Caseworker was able to help Hannah make progress with these tasks, which was often a challenge due to Hannah's health issues that affected her ability to concentrate. Often, she was unable to get out of bed, which reduced her ability to leave the home and attend appointments."

Hannah's son had been diagnosed with Tourettes Syndrome and had symptoms consistent with exposure to trauma, including nightmares and vigilance. Hannah's daughter presented with suicidal ideation, anxiety and eating disorders. Given the complexities and high support needs, two CatholicCare Caseworkers worked together to support this family. Some of the case plan goals included accessing an Immediate Needs Support Package and recognition payment, counselling for Hannah and the children, practical legal support, financial support (including waiving debts and financial planning), Centrelink support, housing support and assistance with accessing the NDIS. We also linked Hannah in with a financial counsellor who advocated for over \$8,000 in debt to be waived for gas and electricity bills.

CatholicCare have played a significant role in advocating for a statutory response to the father's ongoing violence. "Caseworkers made multiple Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH) reports and continued to advocate with the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)," Hannah says.

"We continued to file regular ROSH reports, ensuring that we were reporting adequate information and noting the family's needs. After ongoing ROSH reporting, DCJ undertook a safety and risk assessment. We were transparent with



Hannah about our interactions with DCJ, and she was very understanding and welcoming of the support."

DCJ have now been involved with the family for two months and have been working in collaboration with CatholicCare. DCJ also identified the need for more intensive support and have referred the family to the Permanency Support Program. This referral has recently been accepted and will provide Hannah and her family with intensive support for up to two years.

Just last month, Hannah and her children moved out of their family home with the support of CatholicCare Caseworkers, and DCJ have arranged temporary accommodation for the family. After CatholicCare advocated with the Department of Housing, the family have been approved for a property, and will move there shortly. Hannah's husband was charged with the physical assaults against Hannah and the children. "This was a very positive outcome for the children and validating for them," Maddy says.

It's been a long journey, but finally Hannah and her children have some semblance of stability. "We will be doing our final home visits within the next two weeks, Maddy says. "This is such a positive outcome for the family."

For more information about CatholicCare services call 1800 324 924 or visit www.catholiccaredbb.org.au.

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CatholicCare's Supported Independent Living (SIL) program supports people living with a disability. We provide 24/7 individualised support in an in-home setting, helping clients build their everyday life skills. We assist with personal care activities, help with the implementation of support plans, encourage community access, and provide supervision and personal safety. We are currently in urgent need of properties for our program.

We are seeking properties that are on a flat, level block with minimal stairs, and an open plan kitchen/living area. Properties that are accessible to local amenities ie. shopping centres, medical centres and public transport are well suited for this program.

We are searching for properties on the Northern Beaches, or in Pennant Hills, Hornsby and across the Central Coast. We are a reliable tenant with a proven track record of regular market rate payment of rent. We have staff supporting clients 24/7 within these properties. We cover the cost of lawn and/or yard maintenance.

You would be assisting CatholicCare in delivering vital supports to people living with disability. If you, or someone you know could help, please get in touch.

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CATHOLICCARE

Kevin explores the questions of life, death and faith in his final weeks

"My husband, in his prime, was a 6 ft 2, rugby playing, cricket playing sportsman," says Patricia reflecting on the life of her beloved husband, Kevin who passed away in May. "So, when Peter – a strong man of deep faith – accompanied Kevin in his final weeks, he was exactly what he needed."

Through CatholicCare's Hospital Chaplaincy program, Peter was able to talk to Kevin and pray with him during his final weeks of life at Gosford Hospital.

When Peter first visited Kevin three weeks before his death, "he was extremely ill, but wanting to connect," Peter says. Kevin was a 73 year old cancer patient, who was referred to Peter by the local Catholic Parish. "Kevin was wanting to connect with someone outside his inner circle of family and friends to explore the questions of life, death and faith that had been thrust upon him because of this horrible disease," Peter says.

Kevin's wife, Patricia visited him in

hospital every day, and in the last week slept beside him on a pull-out bed. "After Peter's first visit, Kevin told me that he had been, and his words were that Peter 'was a good man'," Patricia says. "Three days before Kevin died, Peter visited at a time that my daughter Sally and I were both there. Sally lives interstate and she was quite shocked to see her father so ill. She hadn't realised how much he had changed." Peter's visit was a great source of comfort and strength, not only for Kevin but for the family.

During this visit, Kevin was no longer speaking but he was able to hear and understand what was going on around him. Peter stood quietly at the end of the bed and listened to what Patricia and Sally were saying to Kevin. "At some point I told Kevin, 'Peter is here', and he looked straight ahead and saw Peter," Patricia says. "I motioned Peter forward, and he came forward and held Kevin's hand. What was so great was that he held Kevin's hand well and firmly. Kevin had deteriorated very much with the cancer, but in his prime

he was tall and built well. He really appreciated somebody like Peter who was strong and listened."

In Kevin's final hours, his Parish Priest was called to bring him Communion and to administer the Sacrament of Anointing. After his death, Peter was able to support Patricia with advice about Kevin's funeral arrangements. Peter also attended the funeral, which he describes as "a beautiful tribute to a wonderful life, well lived."

Peter describes it as "a particular privilege to accompany a patient, and their loved ones, on an 'end of life' journey." For Patricia, she also saw it as a privilege to have Peter accompany them through these precious days and weeks. "Peter was quiet, and never preached," Patricia says, "I valued his input greatly."

For more information about our Hospital Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care program call 1800 324 924 or visit www.catholiccaredbb.org.au.



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MEMORY INNOVATIONS CENTRE

NOTICING CHANGES TO YOUR MEMORY?

Our Memory Innovations Centre improves quality of life, wellbeing and helps support positive brain health for seniors in our community. Programs are designed to stimulate your mind and body to maintain our brain health as we age. We run programs in Waitara and on the Central Coast.

- **Brain Games** is designed to stimulate the brain and encourages you to engage in new and fun learning experiences including problem solving, riddles, quizzes and app-based learning.
- **Let's Get Moving** caters to all fitness and mobility levels with exercises designed to improve your cardiovascular fitness, strength and balance in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.
- **Arts Smarts** requires no prior art making experience just a willingness to have a go. A variety of art making materials are used to unleash your inner artist!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
11.00am – 12.00pm BRAIN GAMES Central Coast	11.00am-12.00pm LET'S GET MOVING Waitara	10.30am – 11.30am BRAIN GAMES Central Coast	11.00am – 12.00pm LET'S GET MOVING Waitara
11.00am – 12.30pm LET'S GET MOVING Central Coast	12.15pm – 1.15pm BRAIN GAMES Waitara	11.45am – 12.45pm LET'S GET MOVING Central Coast	12.15pm – 1.15pm BRAIN GAMES Waitara
	1.30pm – 2.30pm LET'S GET MOVING Waitara	1.00pm – 2.00pm BRAIN GAMES Central Coast	1.30pm – 2.30pm LET'S GET MOVING Waitara
	2.00pm – 4.00pm ARTS SMARTS Waitara	2.00pm – 4.00pm ART SMARTS Waitara	



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**SENIOR
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Diocese of Broken Bay

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop inspires CatholicCare's homelessness fundraiser

From mufti days to beach pilgrimages to collections at Mass, August was a huge month for Broken Bay schools and Parishes as they fundraised for CatholicCare's homelessness services. With over \$112,000 raised, the funds will go a long way to supporting the most vulnerable members of our community.

There is no place like home – but for many having a home is not a reality. The causes are the same – a loss of dignity and a sense of hopelessness. CatholicCare provides a women's refuge, transitional accommodation options, young parents homelessness services and street sleeping outreach supports. We also operate Dom's Place in Hornsby and Mary Mac's in Woy Woy where people who are homeless or transient can connect with others over a meal and access pathways to homelessness support services and assistance.

Inspired by the message of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop who urged us to "Never see a need without doing something about it," school students, teachers, parents and parishioners responded to the inaugural Diocesan



CatholicCare fundraiser with enthusiasm and creativity. The designated day for the fundraiser was Monday 8 August, which was the Feast Day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

To celebrate this special day and to fundraise for CatholicCare, students at St Joseph's Catholic College East Gosford participated in a beach pilgrimage from Magenta to Norah Head where they were invited to ponder the life and teachings of Australia's great saint. Before commencing the pilgrimage, all students made a gold coin donation towards CatholicCare's homelessness services, and as they journeyed along

the beach they had special passports stamped with Mary MacKillop quotes.

Meanwhile at Mercy Catholic College Chatswood, students were encouraged to "eat a donut for a good cause" as student leaders sold Krispy Kreme donuts at recess. At \$3.50 a donut, all profits were donated to CatholicCare.

25 Diocesan primary schools participated in the fundraiser by holding a mufti day. The sun was shining as students wore colourful clothes and learnt about the life of Australia's first saint who gave her life to the poor and marginalised.

On the weekend of 6 & 7 August, Parishes across the Diocese held a collection for CatholicCare's homelessness services and the response was extraordinary. Over \$86,000 was raised by our parishes, with three parishes raising over \$8,000 each. The funds raised will go a long way to ensuring that those most in need can access secure housing and turn their lives around.

A sincere thank you to parishioners, students, parents and teachers from our Diocese who have banded together to do something truly extraordinary for our community. May St Mary of the Cross MacKillop continue to bless this important ministry.

On Monday 7 November, the school captains at St John the Baptist Woy Woy (Anika, Tilly, Fernando & River) and school principal Nicole Davies visited Mary Mac's Place to officially hand over the funds raised by Catholic Schools



Broken Bay. The students presented a large cheque for \$17,609.85 to Mary Mac's Place Project Worker, Sally Baker who expressed her gratitude for the incredible effort made by school students from across the Diocese. General Manager Homelessness, Angela Whitby, Practice Manager, Sean MacKinnon and Mary Mac's Place volunteers also attended and thanked the students for their generosity.

For more information on how to donate to CatholicCare programs please visit <https://www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/donate/>

Broken Bay CCD staff honoured by Minister for Education

Alison Newell

Two CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) Broken Bay Regional Coordinators have been recognised for their contribution to Special Religious Education during the pandemic at the Celebration of SRE held at Parliament House on Monday, 28 November 2022.

Michael Tebbutt, Regional Coordinator Central Coast Deanery, was awarded for outstanding service to SRE and student wellbeing during the pandemic. He developed multi-media learning-from-home lessons that were accessed by children and their parents across NSW via the Department of Education portal for SRE providers. Lessons were provided during both COVID-19 lockdown periods in 2020 and 2021.

Kristy Komadina, Regional Coordinator North Shore Deanery, was awarded for outstanding service to SRE and student wellbeing during the pandemic. She developed a multi-media Advent and Christmas resource which was shared with families of Catholic students in public schools across NSW, via local parish and public-school newsletters, the



Kristy Komadina with Sarah Mitchell, Minister for Education.

purpose being to connect families with their parish community following the long second COVID lockdown in 2021 and to wish families every blessing for the Advent/Christmas season.

Special Religious Education in public schools is enshrined in the *NSW Education Act* and is supported by both major political parties as a choice for parents/carers so that their children can be educated in the faith tradition of their families. Every week, SRE catechists from Catholic parishes and volunteers from other faith traditions provide religious education to children and young people in public schools whose parents make that choice.

For the past 10 years, the ministry of SRE has been celebrated biennially at Parliament House in Sydney and awards of excellence have been presented to SRE catechists and coordinators for their role in this vital work in our schools.

The past three years have been challenging for the education sector. Schools have been locked down due to COVID and disruptions to schooling due to illness have created further difficulties for teachers, families, and volunteers alike.

However, these disruptions led to innovative new ways to spread the Good News to Catholic students who attend the public schools of our parishes.

The parish-based ministry of SRE is a vital one in the evangelising mission of the Church and aligns with all six Mission Priorities of Bishop Anthony Randazzo in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of God in Broken Bay. We thank Michael and Kristy for their innovative work in the service of Catholic students who attend public schools and their families.



Michael Tebbutt with Sarah Mitchell.

PASTORAL WORKS Broken Bay

Thank You!

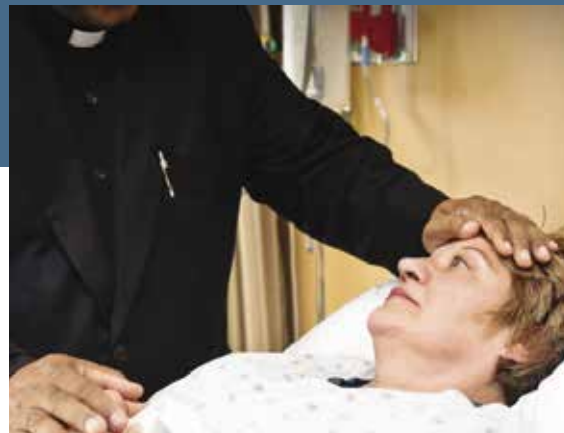
Your generosity during our recent Pastoral Works appeal has helped us reach further and wider in helping our community of Broken Bay, and more deeply connect us to the mission of Jesus. I am deeply grateful for your support.

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL
Bishop of Broken Bay



Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD)

supporting Catechists who take
the Gospel to state school
students



Pastoral Care and Hospital Chaplaincy

helping those who are vulnerable,
experiencing loneliness or sick
in hospital

Pastoral Works Broken Bay also supports:

St Lucy's School

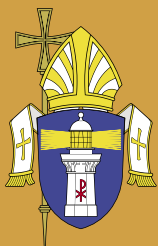
K-6 students with disabilities

St Edmund's College

7-12 students with disabilities

Ephpheta Centre

Catholic Deaf Community



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Three men take next step towards ordination

Three men are a step closer to ordination after being conferred to the Ministries of Lector and Acolyte during a ceremony at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral.

On Saturday, October 15, Most Reverend Anthony Randazzo, Bishop of Broken Bay conferred second year seminarian Matthew French to the Ministry of Lector, while third year seminarian Tân Nguyen was conferred to the Ministry of Acolyte. Matthew and Tân are on the journey towards priesthood and are studying at Good Shepherd Seminary.

Kevin McGregor, an aspirant in the Diaconate Formation Programme, was conferred to the Ministry of Acolyte.

A lector is a lay minister appointed to read the word of

God during the Mass. They read the lesson from Sacred Scripture (except the Gospel), recite the psalms between readings in the absence of a cantor, and present the intentions for general intercessions when the deacon or cantor is absent.

An acolyte serves at the altar during the Mass and assists priests in carrying out their ministry.

Both ministries are an important stepping stone on the way to receiving Holy Orders, which all three men endeavor to receive.

Fellow Broken Bay seminarians Shayne D'Cunha, Paul Cunningham, Hien Vu, Huy Tran and Rosan Mathew were also in attendance at the ceremony.

Around the Parishes



Arcadia

On Sunday, 9 October, Arcadia Parish celebrated the most wonderful Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima. The festivities commenced at 12:30pm with a short play about the story of Fatima. The Rosary was then recited in five languages, followed by a procession in the parish grounds.

Bishop Anthony Randazzo celebrated Mass in St Benedict's Church, with Father Alberic, Father Hilarion and Father Shansana concelebrating.

Mass was followed by afternoon tea. There were just over 200 parishioners in attendance, and they said it was a beautiful and spiritual day.



Chatswood

On Saturday, 15 October, parishioners from Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood Parish and others from parishes around the Diocese made a Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Mercy at Penrose Park in Sutton Forest, in the Southern Highlands of NSW.

Following a spirited coach ride to Penrose Park, the pilgrims enjoyed a quick morning tea. There was then an opportunity for Confession, followed by a gathering in the Church. A solemn Rosary Procession to the Grotto with the Blessed Sacrament led by Father Marek followed. Veneration of the Blessed Sacrament was then held at the outdoor altar at the Grotto of our Blessed Mother.

During lunch, there was time for a private visitation of the International Chapels around the shrine.

In the afternoon, the pilgrims experienced praying the Stations of the Cross in scenic bushland. It was the first time many had experienced the Stations of the Cross in such a setting.

Later, everyone gathered back at the Church to listen to a talk from Father Marek about the Blessed Mother, and how she interceded for the bridal party at the Wedding at Cana. The talk was followed by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Holy Mass where everyone's prayers were offered at the altar with an Act of Entrustment to Mary.

The bus ride home was quieter than the trip there, but still filled with some personal and thoughtful reflections on the pilgrimage.



North Harbour

The Catholic Community of North Harbour celebrated 70 years since St Kieran's, Manly Vale, was proclaimed a Parish, separated from the larger Parish of Manly. The official opening of St Kieran's Church – a church and school at the time – by Cardinal Norman Gilroy, was on 12 October 1952

The Parish's celebrations took place on the first weekend of November, beginning on the Saturday evening with Bingo in the Parish Centre – for old time's sake! That was followed by Sunday Mass where Parish Priest Fr Dave Austin OSA presided with concelebrants Fr Paul Maloney OSA and past parishioner Fr David King CP, and Fr Senan Ward OSA, and former Pastoral Associate Sr Josie Mabini OSA in attendance.

Music group members from various parish groups combined under the leadership of Kevin Mascarenhas. They lifted the spirits of those present with familiar favourites. In addition, Kevin penned additional verses to a couple of familiar parish hymns to mark the occasion.

The liturgy included a commemorative video, prepared by parishioners Ed Coney and Jacky Worthington, which included a congratulatory message from Augustinian Provincial Fr Peter Jones, himself a parishioner of Manly Vale from birth, historical film footage along with interviews with current parishioners.

Morning tea followed where displays of historical photos and artifacts engaged those present – including the original Mass notices book from 1952.



Frenchs Forest

The Frenchs Forest Parish has celebrated the 60th anniversary of St Anthony in the Fields, Terrey Hills. St Anthony's was built and had its first Mass in 1962. The church was the birthplace of the Passionist Family Groups Movement which spread across the world. Many of the family groups still exist today and the sense of community at Terrey Hills is as strong as ever.

Many parishioners from years gone by, from near and far, came to attend the Mass celebrated by Father Satheesh Antony OSH and celebrate with the community. Many people were invited to the microphone to share their stories, reflect and talk about what the St Anthony's community means to them.

In 1962 the Parish Priest at the time decided to name the church St Anthony's as he "thought it was very appropriate. St Anthony is the patron of lost items, and the church did look a bit lost, out there in the middle of nowhere". It is no longer in the middle of nowhere after 60 years of development in the area but it still sits on very large grounds.

The event was just one of many large events the parish has hosted in the past few weeks. More than 350 parishioners attended St Martin de Porres, Davidson for the annual patronal feast day celebration with multicultural food stalls and dancing.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Forestville hosted a Timeless Sacred Music Concert, with parishioners playing music from as far back as the 16th century in English, Italian and Latin.



Pymble

On Sunday, the 18 September, the Pymble Parish community gathered together with their pets at the Sacred Heart School Oval in celebration of the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

It was a glorious Sunday and lots of families brought along their pets for a special blessing from Fr Irek. Following the Mass and Blessing, the Parish enjoyed coffee, a sausage sizzle, and some Polish donuts.



Toukley/Lake Munmorah

On Thursday, 20 October, a group of parishioners along with Fr Tomy, Fr Baby, Sr Josie and Sr Jennifer boarded our parish bus for a pilgrimage to the Schoenstatt Shrine at Mulgoa.

The group enjoyed lively conversation on the bus, refreshments on arrival, time allocated for the Rosary, personal reflection, Adoration & Reconciliation, Mass, and then lunch, before returning to Toukley.

Bishop's Breakfast marks beginning of new period of collaboration in Diocese

Most Reverend Anthony Randazzo, Bishop of Broken Bay, has called upon faith and secular leaders to unite and work more in collaboration, during his inaugural Bishop's Breakfast event in early September.

Uniting people from the business world, academia, politics, education, social services, health care and aged care, parishes and clergy, the event was aimed at encouraging dialogue with those both within and outside the Diocesan community.

Despite an early start, the room at The Epping Club was bustling, as Bishop Anthony outlined the achievements of the Diocese, even through two years of COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions.

He said he considered the Breakfast, entitled *Communities in Collaboration*, a time to reset, and an opportunity for connections to be made that would allow the Diocese to flourish and contribute to community development, both structurally and culturally.

"If we are going to do the best we can for our communities, we need



Bishop Randazzo addresses the inaugural Bishop's Breakfast.

to collaborate with those who have knowledge, skills, data and expertise in areas we don't," Bishop Anthony said.

"We need to identify common ground with commercial and business professionals, meet with our political representatives, evaluate our differences but also recognise the positive features, and our unique capabilities we can bring to the table to work collaboratively.

"Building a culture of collaboration

in our Church and your work can be incredibly rewarding for all stakeholders. Not only does collaboration assist in finding creative solutions, it can help drive organisational goals forward."

Bishop Anthony spoke of the redevelopment project at Our Lady Help of Christians, Epping as one of the exciting opportunities the Diocese had undertaken, in collaboration with Levande (formerly Stockland Retirement Living), and aged care operator Opal Healthcare.



Bishop Randazzo with Dr Michael Casey, Director of the PM Glynn Institute at ACU.



Bishop Randazzo with Sarkis Nassif, founder and managing director of Holdmark Property Group.

The collaborative project will redevelop the school and church facilities while retaining the historic church. The \$200 million development will also deliver a 29-storey retirement living tower, creating a multigenerational site which will create new revenue streams for the parish and new facilities for the community.

Bishop Anthony also praised the incredible community-based work being undertaken by CatholicCare, some of which is completely unfunded by government.

He encouraged those in the room to think about ways they could work more collaboratively to address the problems being faced within the Diocese.



“We don’t have to look far to see the need for outreach and care in our community,” he said.

“But by combining our expertise, exchanging knowledge and ideas we

can come up with comprehensive, long-term solutions.”

Around 100 people attended the breakfast. Following its success, another two are planned for 2023.

The connections made in the room have already begun to bear fruits, with some parishes now engaging with politicians and business leaders to discuss opportunities for greater community engagement.



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*"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"*

Luke 2: 14