



Friday 5 August 2022

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I am writing to provide you with some background information on a review I have undertaken regarding our annual Appeals in the Diocese.

You would be aware we have a number of Appeals throughout the year. Some are for the Pastoral Works of the Diocese, Peter's Pence, or donations that go directly to the Holy See and the upkeep of Holy Places.

Other Appeals are supported by the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference (**ACBC**) and include Catholic Mission, Project Compassion, Sea Sunday and NATSICC. And of course many parishes support their local St Vincent de Paul Society with the Vinnies Winter Appeal and the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

I am very aware everyone has been facing challenging times, be it health concerns, natural disasters, financial stress with rising fuel and grocery costs, and rising interest rates.

So while our Appeals Calendar has remained the same for several years, the social and welfare needs in our communities have changed considerably.

My intention is not to increase the number of Appeals but ensure your generosity is directed to where it will do the most good.

Homelessness, for example, can be found across all socio-economic groups including our own communities and parishes.

This is why I encouraged CatholicCare Broken Bay to support Homelessness Week with a fundraising campaign focusing on critical services for the vulnerable in our Diocese.

Justice and mercy place the poor and disadvantaged at the heart of the Church, and I have been fortunate to see many of CatholicCare's services in action and talk with the people for which they provide every day of the year.

MOST REVEREND ANTHONY RANDAZZO BISHOP OF BROKEN BAY

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This new annual campaign is in collaboration with Catholic Schools Broken Bay (**CSBB**) and will culminate on 8 August, the feast day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop who devoted her life to the poor, established schools and places of refuge for the working class and disadvantaged.

No income target is set for this Appeal, however I am encouraging all parishes and schools to participate and support this important initiative. All donations are tax deductible.

CatholicCare has distributed information kits and resources to all Parishes. The information will explain what services the donations will assist. Some of these services do not receive any government assistance, and for those that do, we know for every dollar raised, at least triple that amount is always needed.

Our Pastoral Works Broken Bay (**PWBB**) Appeals enable us to reach further and deeper into helping our local community, and that connects us directly to the mission of Jesus.

The Diocese PWBB Appeals are held in May, August and November. The November and May Appeals raise between 80-90% of the annual PWBB total.

Following the review, I have decided there will be a PWBB Appeal in November and May – but no public Diocesan appeal in August. This does not preclude parishes from continuing to hold a third PWBB Appeal should they wish to do so, and it will not affect any planned giving, online pledges or credit card donations where contributions are perhaps monthly, quarterly or annually.

Every year many parishes support their local St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal and the Christmas Appeal. I am grateful to the many volunteers who have dedicated time and effort to supporting this organisation and will who continue to do so. Our Office for Communications will assist with information dissemination for both of these Appeals.

There is often the need for specific initiatives in the Diocese which do not fall under our PWBB charitable services.

These may include other works of mercy, specific educational needs or scholarships, resources for the physically and intellectually challenged. It is for this reason I have decided in the latter half of next year, that the Diocese will launch an annual Bishop's Appeal.

This will not take the place of a PWBB Appeal, and it will be post 30 June 2023– possibly around September. Following further consultation, I will provide details in the coming months, however I do know as a compassionate and generous community, we will always look to care for the marginalised, the less fortunate, and ways and means to spread the Good News.



Parishes are encouraged to support the six Diocesan Appeals which comprise:

- Peter's Pence -July 2022
- Holy Places – April 2022
- CatholicCare Homelessness Week – August 2022
- Pastoral Works Broken Bay – November 2022
- Pastoral Works Broken Bay – May 2023
- Bishop's Appeal – latter half 2023

I am sure parishioners will continue to support other Catholic charities such as Catholic Mission, Project Compassion and Sea Sunday as they have always done during the year and we will always be prepared to assist in times of emergencies and natural disasters.

It is my hope this review will address the requests from parishioners for a better understanding of what I, as Bishop, would encourage as a commitment to charitable giving. The Calendar of Appeals will be shortly posted on our website.

Thank you again for your ongoing generosity and support for our Diocese.

My prayers are always with you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads '+ Anthony Randazzo'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL
Bishop of Broken Bay