

Monday 20 June 2022

Dear Fathers, Deacons, my sisters and brothers of the Diocese of Broken Bay,

Through my term as Bishop, I have been provided with insight into the character and potential of our local Church. We have developed a range of initiatives and projects over this time. At the heart of the Diocese, however, is our Cathedral, the most important symbol of our identity. It is here that our whole local Church is brought together under the unity of the Bishop, together with my clergy, and the entire people of God entrusted to my care. It is the first church amongst others, the one from which the life of the Diocese radiates and returns.

The Church of Our Lady of the Rosary in the Parish of Hornsby was created the Cathedral of our Diocese on 10 February 2008. As you appreciate, our current Cathedral was translated from the Parish of St Ives which had been designated as the Cathedral Parish by my predecessor, Bishop Patrick Murphy upon the establishment of the Diocese in 1986.

After multiple conversations and suggestions from both the laity and the clergy, I have thought that now is the time to envisage how we might best develop our identity as the Cathedral Parish in the years to come. This will take time: it will involve consideration of our Cathedral parish community and its pastoral life, our Cathedral church and its suitability, the precinct and its potential. Yet, through our journey together I am confident that we might develop an opportunity both for the Cathedral parish community itself and also for our entire Diocese. Through this I wish to develop our Cathedral as a genuine and living statement of our identity and mission.

To begin this journey, I am to spend time in the coming weeks attending to the experience of the Cathedral parish community itself, listening to its history and its hopes. In due time, I wish to broaden the discussion to include our clergy and all our communities of faith that comprise our Diocese and for whom the Cathedral church has such significance.

I ask that you pray that this endeavor as it unfolds in various stages over the coming weeks and months will be the source of new blessing for our Diocese.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Anthony Nandat