



Thursday 18 May 2023

Dear Fathers, Deacons, my brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are about to commemorate the great Feast of Pentecost which celebrates the outpouring of the Spirit, bringing new life to the Church. The Spirit continues to call us into new and deepening discipleship, raising men and women in service of the community of the faith.

It, therefore, gives me joy to announce that, after consultation and discernment, I have called Mr Richard Houwing to the Order of Deacons. Richard's Ordination as a Permanent Deacon will take place on Tuesday 6 June 2023 at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara at 7.30pm.

Richard was born in 1958 in Vlaardingen, The Netherlands, migrating to Australia in his youth and living for some time in the area of Rockhampton, Queensland. In December 1980 he married his wife, Teresa in Cairns, and they have a son and a daughter, along with two grandchildren. Richard has a Bachelor of Economics and Masters of Business Administration (MBA). In the 1980s Richard's family moved to NSW. They have lived in the Diocese of Broken Bay for more than 30 years having brought their first home in Epping. For many years, Richard has been very active in the Parish of Pennant Hills being a Reader, Parish Council Member and involved with RCIA, Lenten groups coordination, adult faith formation, manager of the Parish website and Plenary Council Animator.

Richard has been in the Diaconate Formation Team since the commencement of 2019, and has recently completed his Masters in Theological Studies. He currently enjoys the professional role of Parish Facilities and Operations Coordinator in the Parish of Epping and Carlingford.

The Ordination of Richard to the Diaconate is an occasion of blessing for our Diocese, and I express my gratitude to Richard's wife, Teresa, their family and all those who have supported Richard on his journey of faith and vocation, especially our diocesan Diaconate Formation Team – Fr Jim McKeon, Deacon Peter McCulloch, and Ms Gail Gill.

I invite our clergy and our faithful to join with me at the Cathedral on 6 June 2023 for this auspicious occasion. Further details on the liturgy will be forthcoming.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

MOST REVEREND ANTHONY RANDAZZO BISHOP OF BROKEN BAY

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