

# Vox Populi

26 August 2026

On Thursday, 3 September, the second Bishop of Broken Bay, Bishop David Walker, will celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his episcopal consecration. He was consecrated Bishop of Broken Bay on 3 September 1996 at Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood and served in the role for 17 years.

As Bishop, he consolidated the Diocese of Broken Bay, creating the three deaneries and amalgamating several parishes to extend the quality of pastoral care to all parishioners.

He also founded BBNews, the Broken Bay Institute and brought all the ministries of the Diocese under one roof at the Caroline Chisholm Centre, Pennant Hills.

He moved the Cathedral from Corpus Christi, St Ives to Our Lady of the Rosary, Waitara. He was a strong promoter of the permanent diaconate too, ordaining eight men as deacons during his time in charge of the Diocese.

He retired on Wednesday, 13 November 2013, when the Holy Father, Pope Francis, accepted his resignation upon his 75th birthday. Since retirement, he has continued to lead adult spiritual formation and education, one of his passions throughout his presbyteral and episcopal ministry.

He still records a weekly video for the Centre for Christian Spirituality reflecting on the Gospel of the following Sunday, to help people better engage with the Mass and its readings. He also said during retirement, he would enter into a ministry of prayer for the Diocese.

Bishop Walker will celebrate Mass on Thursday, 3 September at Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood for his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Mass will coincide with the arrival of the major relic of Saint Carlo Acutis into the Diocese. The relic will be welcomed into Our Lady of Dolours Church prior to Mass.

The relic, a section of St Carlo's pericardium, has been on a nationwide tour, covering 19 dioceses and 53 cities. The pericardium is the fibro-serous, fluid-filled sack filled with fluid that encloses and protects the heart and greater vessels, holding them in place and protecting the body's most important organ. The relic, therefore, is of major importance physiologically.