

Vox Populi – The Voice of the People

28 April 2022

Our Diocese has had a great deal on which to reflect and celebrate this past week – and there is more to come.

At the start of the week, Divine Mercy Sunday, Bishop Anthony Randazzo announced the establishment of two Diocesan Shrines for the veneration of the relics of Saint Pope John Paul II and Saint Faustina Kowalska.

The Diocese has also obtained two first-class relics of these two Saints.

A relic of St Faustina's bone was been installed at the Divine Retreat Centre, Somersby on Sunday and the Bishop has decreed that with the establishment of this Shrine, those who visit on St Faustina's Feast Day which occurs annually on 5 October, may obtain a partial indulgence.

The Diocese has also obtained a relic of Saint Pope John Paul II's hair and it is the Bishop's intention to be present at St Patrick's Church, East Gosford for the installation of this relic on his Feast Day, Saturday 22 October. The Faithful who visit this Shrine on his Feast Day, may also obtain a partial indulgence. A pastoral centre at Gosford Parish will be established in honour of St John Paul II.

Bishop Anthony thanked both Fr Grzegorz Skulski SDS and Fr Roni George VC, along with their communities for their positive cooperation in the establishment of these Shrines.

"This is of significant spiritual benefit for all the faithful of the Diocese, and everyone is encouraged to participate in pilgrimages to these Shrines in the months and years ahead," Bishop Randazzo said .

"However it will also be of great benefit to all the faithful of Sydney and indeed pilgrims from right around Australia."

Monday or ANZAC Day was also a day of reflection and celebration.

Reflection when we remembered the men and women who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom - be it in theatres of war or on peacekeeping operations – and

also for those serving today.

In his homily during the ANZAC Mass of Remembrance at our Cathedral on Monday, Bishop Randazzo said the day is not to glorify war but offers us an opportunity to recognise in our brothers and sisters, the high ideals of companionship, integrity, and the peace that they sought to uphold and protect, so that the world might be a better place.

The Bishop spoke of infantryman Sergeant Stan Arneil, one of many thousands who marched into World War II.

Imprisoned at Changi under atrocious conditions along with about 15,000 other Australian POWs, Stan was fortunate to make it home.

Of the mates he left behind he said: "No one ever died alone – they were surrounded by love and prayers."

Stan was also surrounded by love and prayers when he passed away in 1992.

Friday evening will also be a day of celebration in the Diocese. Catholic Youth Broken Bay will celebrate the first Praisefest of the year and Bishop Anthony will launch DBB World Youth Day 2023 Pilgrimage.

Delayed due to the pandemic it is now all systems go for WYD23 in Lisbon, Portugal!

Our young people will be invited to travel with Bishop Anthony on a pilgrimage in Italy before joining up with millions of other young people from around the world and the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

From August 1-6 they will experience the universal Church, active evangelisation and a celebration of faith under the theme "Mary arose and left with haste".

After WYD Bishop Anthony will lead our young pilgrims on a visit and retreat to Fatima in Portugal where the Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children in 1917. From a small village Fatima is now the site of a Catholic shrine venerated and visited by millions every year.

More on the Diocese of Broken Bay WYD23 launch and pilgrimage next week.