

W E L C O M E

VISION *The Wyong Catholic Parish is a welcoming, caring dynamic community*

MISSION STATEMENT *We will live and proclaim the message of the Gospel :
Engage, Participate, Reach out and Transform*

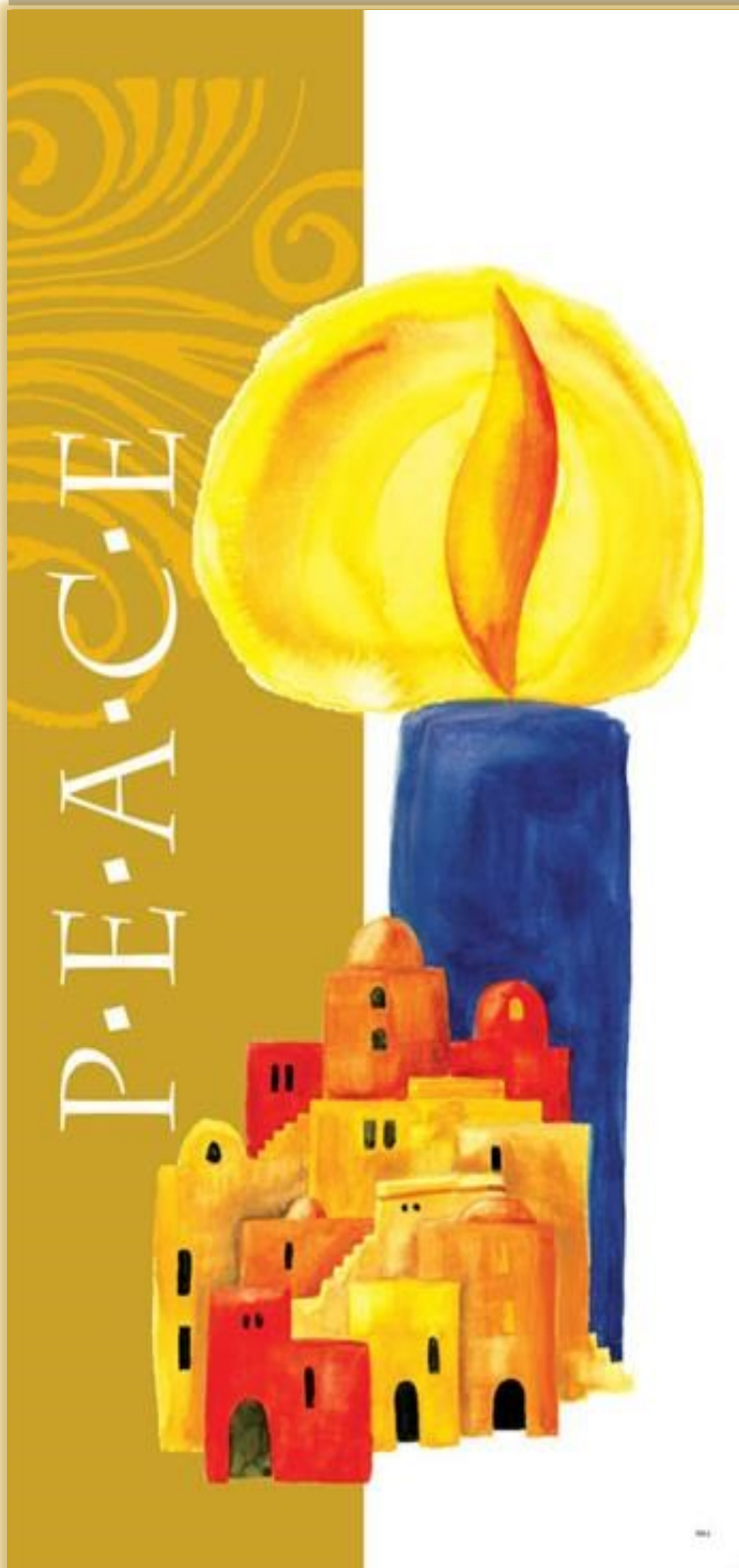
10TH DECEMBER 2023 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

WYONG CATHOLIC PARISH

ST CECILIA'S CHURCH, ST JOHN FISHER MASS CTR & ST PETER'S CHAPEL

Under the Pastoral Care of the

Society of Our Lady of The Most Holy Trinity (SOLT)



Reflection 10.12.2023

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

Reproduced from God's Word 2023: Daily Reflections, published by St Pauls Publications, Strathfield

The Second Sunday of Advent marks the appearance of John, the son of the Priest Zechariah, in the wilderness, proclaiming a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He then leads people to the Jordan river where there is plenty of water for the ritual of 'immersion' or Baptism.

The people ask John the Baptist if he is the Messiah, the One who is to come. His reply is emphatic: he is not the Messiah. Rather, he is 'a voice (that) cries in the wilderness'. The desert of Judea, the historical setting of John's ministry, happily lends to the oracle of Isaiah (40:3). 'A voice in the wilderness' is part of an oracle of comfort, referring to the return of the exiled community in Babylon around 538 BC. As the Lord led the enslaved Hebrews by way of the desert into the Promised Land in the Exodus story, so the Lord is leading his people out of Babylonian exile back to Jerusalem where they can rebuild the Temple and their lives.

Mark now describes John the Baptist as the 'voice in the wilderness' who prepares the way for Jesus, the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Indeed he is Kyrios – the Lord himself.

Pope Francis refers to the three-fold vocation of John the Baptist: 'First-to prepare the way of the Messiah. John did not give in to temptation to believe that he was important. He said that he was preparing the way of the Lord, preparing the hearts of the people for the encounter with the Lord. Second —to discern who the Lord was. The spirit revealed this to him and he had the courage to say: "This is the one. This is the Lamb of God, he who takes away the sins of the world." Third-to diminish himself so that others would follow Jesus. For John to say, "He must increase, I must decrease", was the more difficult stage for John, because Jesus had a style that he had not imagined.'

ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO BECOME A CATHOLIC?

Dear Parishioners,

This is Clint Warren-Davey, Religious Education teacher at St. Peter's Catholic College. With the support of Fr Raul, Fr Alex, Fr Teody and Jo Helm (Parent Engagement Coordinator), I will be running **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)** through Wyong Parish in 2023-24. This is for people who are curious about becoming Catholic, or lapsed Catholics who want to re-examine their Faith.

I will be explaining the core doctrines of Catholicism along with rational arguments for why we believe them. If you have any questions about the Faith, this is the place to ask them!

The program will run from November 2023 to March 2024, with a one-hour session every second **Saturday at 3pm at St. Cecilia's Church, Wyong.**

The next session will be **3pm, Saturday 9th December.** If anyone is curious about this, please contact myself or Joanne Helm.

Clint: clint.warrendavey@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Joanne: joanne.helm@dbb.catholic.edu.au



**ALL WELCOME
PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Celebrate the End of Year with Us

When Friday 15th December 2023
Where St John Fisher Hall Hicks Lane
Tumbi Umbi

Time 6pm
Cost Donation
RSVP Friday 8th December

*Please join us for
Dinner and Christmas Carols*

All parishioners and family members are invited and are most welcome.
The Christmas dinner will commence at 6pm with a meal (barbecue, meats, salads and sweets) followed by Christmas carols. For catering purposes, it is essential you phone and register your attendance by Friday 8th December to:
Margaret Vandenberg 4352 1011
Kerry Bugden 4388 2938

Parish Finance update for the year ending 30 June 2023

Total income for the year is \$116,308 (\$103,287 last year). This is down on last year as approximately \$20,000 of this income came from the estate of a late parishioner and another \$12,000 was in the form of a Government grant for the repair of the stained glass windows.

Total Expenses for the year have increased significantly to \$161,220 (from \$128,260 last year). Some of the increase in expenses relate to inflation as well as other notable items such as;

- increases in employment costs,
- some much needed technology upgrades and a huge 39% increase in insurance costs.

This left our Parish with **a shortfall of approximately \$44,000** for the year. These funds will need to come from a reserve which was set aside for future building maintenance work. As you would expect we cannot continue to absorb losses. We will need to make some challenging financial decisions in the future and these will be done in consultation with the Parish Community. As we work towards maintaining a balanced financial position, we will let you know of any opportunities that may be put forward. One option is that we may be in the position to sell the carpark in Byron Street. We have had some interest shown from 'Catholic Care'. In the weeks to come they will be doing some investigative work to determine if this site is suitable for their needs. Please be aware no decision has been made and it would only proceed in consultation with our Parishioners.

As always, we encourage our Parishioners to utilise the planned giving programme. We welcome new Parishioners and encourage you to join our planned giving programme. Please contact the Parish office for more information.

On a related note, our data shows that weekly attendance numbers are half of what they were ten years ago and also indicates that less than one in ten Catholics in our Parish attend mass (based on census statistics).

Thank you for your continued support of our Parish.
Joe Cesca
Chairman of the Parish Finance Committee

250 Club Update

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT

250 NUMBERS SOLD

Weekly Prizes are \$50 – 1st & \$20 – 2nd
Monthly Prizes are \$200 – 1st & \$50 – 2nd
and will be last weekend of the month.

DATE	Type	1 ST		2 ND	
9th/10th December	Weekly	152	Noela Ahearn	112	Veronica O'Brien

365 Pacific Highway
North Wyong NSW 2259
PO Box 786
Wyong NSW 2259



Ph: 02 4351 8004
Ph: 02 4392 8777

BOWDEN FAMILY FUNERALS

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anitabowden@cci.net.au



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it is an irish honour.*



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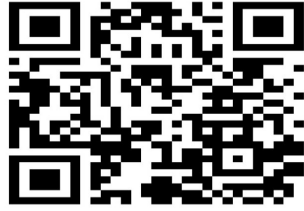
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Parish Vocations Volunteer

The Broken Bay Vocations Team is seeking your help to nurture a culture of vocations in our local Church. As a Parish Vocations Volunteer, you could play a vital role in promoting vocations awareness, encouraging prayer, and supporting local events in your parish. If you feel called to this rewarding service, your involvement would be greatly valued. To express your interest, simply scan the QR code provided and follow the prompts. In Christ, Fr Sam.



ST VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This weekend we are holding our annual Christmas Appeal. Once again this has been a most difficult year for everyone. Many families and individuals in our community are doing it tough. We are hoping to provide food hampers to as many as possible. So once again, we are calling on your generosity to help our Tumbi/Wyong team, to provide these hampers. Envelopes are available on the seats and in the foyer for card & cash donations. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Alternatively, donations may be placed in the poor box. The Christmas tree for food donations is also in the foyer for donations of non-perishable items, such as tinned hams, tinned fruit, cakes, puddings, drinks etc. which can be left anytime up to **17th December**. We thank you for your continued support of the disadvantaged in our parish.

Christmas Cards & Calendars

Christmas cards and calendars are now available at the back of the church before and after Mass. Cards are \$10 for a pack of 10 & calendars are \$10 each. Proceeds go to the **St Vincent de Paul Society**.

THANK YOU

To all our parishioners, a big thank you to all who have donated and a special thanks to Rae Bof & Marie Dyer

Wyong Christmas Stall-\$816.00

Mini Stall-\$120.00

Donated items sold on the Internet-\$560

Total \$ 1496.00

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

1st form of the Rite of Reconciliation:

St John Fisher Mass Ctr

Saturday 16th Dec

Following 5pm Mass and Sunday

17th Dec

following 5pm Mass

2nd form of the Rite of Reconciliation:

St Cecilia's Church

Wednesday 20th Dec 6pm

FR RAUL & FR ALEX –

We thank you for your prayers and blessings while we were away for our 25th Ordination Anniversary



ST CECILIA'S MASS & MORNING TEA

The special St Cecilia Mass and Morning Tea was very successful and enjoyed by all!



Property Transfer Professionals

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MASS TIMES

ST CECILIA'S CHURCH

23 Byron St Wyong

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Mass Times

Sat Vigil 5.00pm Sun 7.30am & 9.30am

Weekday Mass

Mon-Sat: 8.00am, Monday 9.15am (School Term)

Reconciliation/Confession Saturday morning after the 8am Mass & Saturday at 4.30pm

ST JOHN FISHER MASS CENTRE

Hicks Lane Tumbi Umbi

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Mass Times

Sat Vigil 5.00 pm Sun: 8.30am & 5pm

Weekday Mass

Mon, Wed, Thurs 8:00am Tue & Fri: 9.15am

Reconciliation/Confession Saturday at 4.30pm

EMERGENCY PRIEST CONTACT

Fr Raul ph: 0450 115 099

Fr Alex ph: 0432 947 245

Fr Teody ph: 0414 494 823

PARISH OFFICE 23 Byron Street Wyong

Phone: 02 4352 1011 Po Box 385 Wyong 2259

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am to 2.30pm

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest **Fr Raul Balute, SOLT** ph:0450 115 099

email: raul.balute@bbcatholic.org.au

Assistant Priest **Fr Alex Barnedo, SOLT** ph: 0432 947 245

Assistant Priest **Fr Teody Medina, SOLT** ph: 0414 494 823

Parish Secretary **Margaret Vandenberg** ph: 02 4352 1011

Youth Co-Ordinator **Gabbi Scherer:**

Email: gabbi.scherer@bbcatholic.org.au

PARISH EMAIL: wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au

PARISH WEBSITE: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/wyong/>

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/wyongcatholicparish

Children's Liturgy at the following Masses

St Cecilia's 5pm Mass Saturday

St Cecilia's 9.30am Mass Sunday

St John Fisher 5pm Mass Sunday

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

Mass St Barnabas, Yarramalong

1st Sun of month 11.15am

Filipino Mass St Cecilia's Church

3rd Sun of the month 12pm

Anointing of the Sick

First Friday of the Month

St Cecilia's During 8.00am & 11.30am Mass

St John Fisher During 9.15am Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

St Cecilia's Daily 7am-8am

St John Fisher 1st Fri 8.45 - 9.15am

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sat St Cecilia's & Wed St John Fisher (after the 8am Mass)

Devotion to the Divine Mercy

St Cecilia's Fri after the 8am Mass

St John Fisher Fri after the 9:15am Mass

Prayer groups

St Cecilia's Rosary Group Tues after 8am mass followed by Divine Mercy

St Cecilia's Legion of Mary 9am Wed

Meetings

St Cecilia's Choir practice every Tues

KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS

Prayer: The most valuable gift you can give someone.

SICK: Harriet Powell, Danae Roe, Peter Ford, Harry Hall, Michael Briggs, Christine Heffernan, Jennese Thompson, Leeann Hazelton, Bernadette Kiely, Steve Durnford, Ann Durnford, Maureen Mulheron, Angela Watts, Terence (Ted) Dafter, Finn McConnon, Christine, Jacqui Stacey, Josie Campbell, Dave, Rodney, Gwen Dwyer, Helen Waters, Rod & Pauline Cornwell, Marie Rheinberger, Hannah Hopwood, Joan Mabbutt, Irene Dainty, Eoin, Paula, Peter Meury, Jai Coleman, Danielle, Frank Farrugia, Betty McDermott, Marc Sabat, David Myers, Adam Smith, Darcy,

RECENTLY DECEASED: Richard Mahinay, Carol Dafter, Raymond (Ray) Baker, Fay King (Regina Preston's Aunt), Moira Grace, Maureen Murphy

ANNIVERSARY DECEMBER: Bill Martin, Larry George Hooley, John Taylor, James Bastic, Rove Varman, Claire Baxter, John Taylor

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Safeguarding Message

Wyong parish is committed to safeguarding. All children, young persons and vulnerable adults have a right to feel safe and be safe. If you have a concern about the safety of anyone in the parish, please raise your concern with Fr Raul, Fr Alex or Fr Teody. The contact details are on the back to the Bulletin.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Installation Process for the St Cecilia Reliquary



Timeline

<u>1 May 2023</u>	Father Raul approached Bishop Anthony to determine the authenticity of the relic.
<u>17 May 2023</u>	Bishop Anthony decreed the relic is authentic and would be installed.
<u>September 2023</u>	A committee was formed to begin the liturgical processes required
<u>October 2023</u>	The committee determined the date for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the official launch, • preparation of banner and • prayer cards.
<i>OFFICIAL LAUNCH</i>	9:30 am Mass on Sunday, 26 November 2023 , followed by a celebratory morning tea.
<u>December 2023</u>	Committee will visit the Shrine of St John Paul at Gosford. Father Skulski will provide information on the process for the development of our Shrine and many other considerations.
<u>2024</u>	Throughout 2024, the committee will investigate and determine the best ways to meet all liturgical and other requirements. These include Safety, Presentation (incl memorabilia), Location and Security Measures for the relic itself, as well as infrastructure and policy changes necessary to ensure these can be met.
<u>November 2024</u>	INSTALLATION OF THE RELIC
<u>Ongoing Activities</u>	Pastoral Activities e.g., Pilgrimages, Faith Formation, Workshops Shrine Activities e.g., Special Masses, Healing Evenings.

15 November 2023, Volume 18

ST PETER'S NEWS

CHALLENGING OUR STUDENTS THROUGH A FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE



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TRANSFORMING EDUCATION: THE VISION BEHIND EILEEN O'CONNOR SCHOOL

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Students

Our Bishop, Most Rev Anthony Randazzo, has been committed to ensuring that Catholic Schools Broken Bay provides an inclusive model of education which caters for all students with a disability. In response to this commitment Catholic Schools Broken Bay is transforming inclusive education by establishing a new school, Eileen O'Connor School.

Eileen O'Connor School (EOS) will provide a flexible and responsive model of education for students with disability through the structure of a Base School and a network of Support Classes in local parish schools. Transition between the Base School and Support Classes, or Support Classes and local parish school enrolment is facilitated.

The Eileen O'Connor school base school will be constructed on our site here at Tuggerah. The base school will be a K – 12 school where educators and allied health professional work collaboratively to provide resources and service that will help our children with disabilities flourish. The base school will have capacity for up to 200 students and will feature small adult to student ratios. It will have 20 general Learning areas catering for 2 streams of primary school classes and a single stream of secondary. The site will host flexible workspaces for Kitchen, technologies and Visual Arts as well as a state of the art library. Sensory indoor and outdoor play spaces and complimentary learning spaces will provide the support best needed to cater for the needs of the students who attend the school.

Building works are scheduled to begin on our site in 2025 with the first enrolments of the base school commencing in 2027 with Year 1, Year 2 and Year 7 students.

This is an exciting project for our system and will provide quality learning for students with a disability as well as supporting our families in an inclusive model that will enable the participation and success of all learnings.

If you would like more information about the Eileen O'Conner school please use the QR code or the CSBB website <https://csbb.catholic.edu.au/our-strategy/eileenconnor/>

Tim Hildebrandt
Principal



Eileen O'Connor School
represents a key
NSW education
initiative.



THE NEED

WE KNOW...

- Raising a child with a disability can significantly impact many aspects of family life.
- Searching for the ideal school for a child with a disability can leave parents feeling overwhelmed.
- Parents deserve the right to choose the most appropriate educational setting for their child.
- 1 in 12 school-aged children have a disability.
- Disability diagnoses among school students is increasing.
- 60,000 more children will be attending schools in NSW over the next decade.
- Demand for disability support is growing at 4 times the rate of enrolment.
- Successful transition between support and mainstream classrooms is reliant on building teacher capacity in specialised and inclusive education.

WE BELIEVE...

- All children have the right to quality education regardless of financial means.
- Children must be at the centre of decision-making.
- Education systems have a moral imperative to provide disability supports within an **inclusive model of education to enable the participation and success of all learners.**
- Large school systems should not continue outsourcing this responsibility to small scale providers.
- Effective and respectful partnerships between schools, parents and carers, and allied health professionals best supports students' engagement in an inclusive environment and curriculum.
- Streamlining education and therapy support and services places the child at the centre.

TRANSFORMING THE APPROACH

Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) is transforming quality, inclusive education for students with a disability by:

- **Building staff capacity** across the region to meet the needs of students with disability in mainstream classrooms.
- **Establishing a network of Eileen O'Connor Support Classes** across the region in existing CSBB Primary and Secondary schools, offering:
 - Small class sizes with skilled teacher and teaching assistant teams, typically 1:3 and no more than 1:4 ratio.
 - Opportunities for students to generalise their learnt skills in mainstream environments.
 - Opportunities for students to participate in school events and activities with their age-peers.
- **Building a K-12 Eileen O'Connor Base School** using land located within St Peter's Tuggerah - in the Central Coast region of the Diocese of Broken Bay, where educators and allied health professionals work collaboratively to provide resources and services that will help our children with disabilities flourish.

Eileen O'Connor School will provide an **inclusive model of education in action** - in purpose-built facilities - focusing on student strengths and high expectations for learning growth. Learning will be tailored to individual differences through systematic delivery of contemporary innovative curriculum to meet the needs of students with disability.

The establishment of Eileen O'Connor Base School and Support Classes will broaden

CSBB facilities and support for students with disability, affording parents with enrolment options tailored to the specific needs of their children.

Creating a **flexible and responsive model of education for students with disability** through the structure of the Eileen O'Connor School as a Base School and network of Support Classes in mainstream setting will:

- Provide appropriate resources and opportunities throughout a child's school journey.
- Provide opportunities for transition between Base and Support Classes, or Support Classes and mainstream classes.
- Allow greater accessibility to specialist services provided by the Base School for students across the region.
- Promote dissemination of pedagogy, staff expertise and curriculum delivery strategies developed by the Eileen O'Connor Base School across a broader teaching community in CSBB schools.
- Offer tailored adult: student ratios allowing for individualised instruction at students' point of need.
- Create smaller class sizes to provide safe, responsive learning environments.

Eileen O'Connor School will promote inclusive practices according to the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) and the Disability Standards for Education (2005). Placement in Eileen O'Connor Base School and Support Classes will be based on set criterion that will allow for flexibility to target the functional impact of the disability.



**Where education and therapy
come together to ensure positive
student growth**

EILEEN O'CONNOR BASE SCHOOL

A concept design and fly-through for Eileen O'Connor Base School has been created by Stanton Dahl Architects and includes:

- Capacity for 200 students.
- Small adult : student ratios (specialist teacher and teaching assistant teams).
- 20 General Learning Areas catering for 2 streams of Kindergarten - Year 6 and a single stream Years 7-12.
- Flexible workspaces for Kitchen, TAS/STEAM, Visual Arts.
- State of the art Library.
- Sensory indoor and outdoor play spaces.
- Complimentary learning spaces to
- support collaboration with allied health professionals for tailored interventions and in-class support.
- Amenities, storerooms and staffroom.
- Co-located on CSBB owned land alongside St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah.

Subject to funding, the Eileen O'Connor Base School will be constructed in 2 stages across 3 years.

- First enrolments will begin in 2027 with Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 7 students.
- The school will be at capacity by 2032.

Eileen
O'Connor
School

WHY DO WE NEED A PURPOSE-BUILT FACILITY?

60,000



more children will be in NSW schools over the next decade.

1 in 12



school-aged children have a disability.

4 x



demand for disability support is growing at four times the rate of enrolment.

EILEEN O'CONNOR SCHOOL

Learner diversity matters



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Broken Bay



csbb.catholic.edu.au/eileenconnor

SAFEGUARDING is everyone's responsibility



Everyone must practice **A DUTY OF CARE**. We are called to step up and speak out.

Need to be listening & watching to understand if there are any concerns and take them seriously



Tell one of our designated persons in authority

- Fr Raúl 0450 115 099
- Maureen Roast 0435 245 849
- Anne Hooley 0428 149 793

Contact will be made with Diocesan Safeguarding Office



Our Community is **SAFE**