"We can walk confidently together into the future when we know our past. By way of marking this anniversary, I would like for us to focus in a particular way on our mission as a community of disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ." **Bishop Anthony Randazzo** 



# 35 years of the Diocese of Broken Bay

Anniversaries are important milestones in the life of individuals, families, and communities. This year in Broken Bay we commemorate the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of our Diocese (BB35). Thirty-five years is a short time in the history of the Church, but significant for us and the life of our Diocese today. We look back and remember with hearts of gratitude, so that we might look forward to the future in hope.

> The Diocese of Broken Bay is a dynamic community of communities that constitute the People of God. The story of how we came to be and how we have grown is the story of God's faithfulness to his people, and a witness of the Holy Spirit working in our world.

# 35 years of the Diocese of Broken Bay

## A Year for St Joseph and the Family

The 35th year of the Diocese of Broken Bay, coincides with other significant themes in the Universal Church. On 8 December 2020, Pope Francis announced that 2021 would be a year dedicated to Saint Joseph, husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus. He also declared it a special time of reflecting upon and giving witness to family love, beginning on 19 March 2021, the Solemnity of St Joseph.

The themes of St Joseph and the family are important in our diocesan context. St Joseph is a loving father and a model for an ordinary person, going about his work and vocation with devotion and faithfulness. The family is the locus for the domestic church. Marking our 35th year through these two lenses gives importance to each person's baptismal vocation and places the family at the heart of the Church.

With the intercession of St Joseph and the commitment to support families, BB35 will be a wonderful time of remembrance, prayer, thanksgiving and looking forward with great hope and expectation.

A few key events in 2021 will help our community of the Church mark the milestone of BB35 in the Diocese of Broken Bay:

## 19 March

Statue of St Joseph blessed and placed in the Cathedral

### 8 April

Celebration of the 35th Diocesan Anniversary Mass at Cathedral Launch of historical display in foyer of Caroline Chisholm Centre, Pennant Hills

#### **10 December**

Advent Mass and End of Year Diocesan celebration Award ceremony with commemorative medal presentation Launch of commissioned Mass setting composed for the occasion

Other events to help our local communities celebrate the life of our Diocese and take up our mission as disciples of Jesus Christ



