

# Journeying together

IN FAITH & MISSION



News and events from the Diocese of Wollongong

VOL. 1 NO. 1 • MAY 2026

## Let hope lead you

Dear Brothers and Sisters

This Easter, more adults joined the Catholic faith in our diocese than ever before. I feel great joy and hope because of this. The Holy Spirit still moves in people's hearts, drawing them to Christ and welcoming them home.

When we welcome others into the Church, we share in what Pope Leo XIV called: "[The] sweet and comforting joy of evangelising."

But we also know that joy can fade quickly. The signs of Easter are already gone from our shops, and sometimes we move on too fast in our own lives. In our daily routines and struggles, it is easy to feel far from God. Pope Leo reminds us, "There is an obstacle that often prevents us from recognising Christ's presence in our daily lives: the assumption that joy must be free from suffering."

If we think this way, we might miss Christ in the very places he promised to be. The Christian path is not about avoiding suffering, but about finding Christ within it.



The Church, in her wisdom, gives us an Easter season that lasts longer than Lent. This shows us that hope has the final word. Hope is not just a feeling that changes—it is a choice. Even in dark times, we trust that Christ is with us and working in our lives. As Pope Leo teaches, Christian hope is not about avoiding reality, but about making a choice. So we hold on to the promise: "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5).

When I shared *Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes* with you, it came from this belief. Hope is stronger than fear. God is still working in and through us.

Because of this belief, I am looking forward to the *Renewed and Sent: Parish Renewal Summit* that we will be hosting in our diocese on 1–3 October 2026 at St Gregory's College, Campbelltown. Many others from across the world will join us. It will be a time to renew our spirits, encourage each other, learn, listen, and prepare for the mission ahead.

You will hear more in the coming months. For now, stay open, hopeful, and bold. Let us not be overwhelmed by fear, but guided by hope.

Yours in Christ

*Brian Mascord*

**Most Rev Brian G Mascord**  
Bishop of Wollongong



**RENEWED & SENT** | PARISH RENEWAL SUMMIT 2026 | 1-3 OCTOBER 2026 CAMPBELLTOWN

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renewedandsent.com.au

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dow.org.au

# Eucharist28: this is my Body, given for you LK 22:19

The Australian Church has set out on its journey towards the *54th International Eucharistic Congress*, to be held in Sydney, 2028.

*Eucharist28* has been strongly endorsed by the Australian bishops and excitement is rightly growing, as this opportunity has the capacity to spark curiosity, build faith and nurture discipleship.

As Bishop Brian often reminds me, the fruits of *Eucharist28* could be immense—if embraced with the right disposition. Such is the power of an encounter with the Presence and Love of Jesus. In this respect, the aims of *Eucharist28* align profoundly with the *Vision for Parishes* that Bishop Brian articulates so beautifully in *Come & See, Go & Make*.

As we prepare to join with Pope Leo and Catholics from around the world in October 2028, I encourage you to embrace a journey of formation and rediscovery: that the Eucharist is a mystery to be encountered, celebrated and lived, and so, be drawn into deeper worship and eagerness for mission.

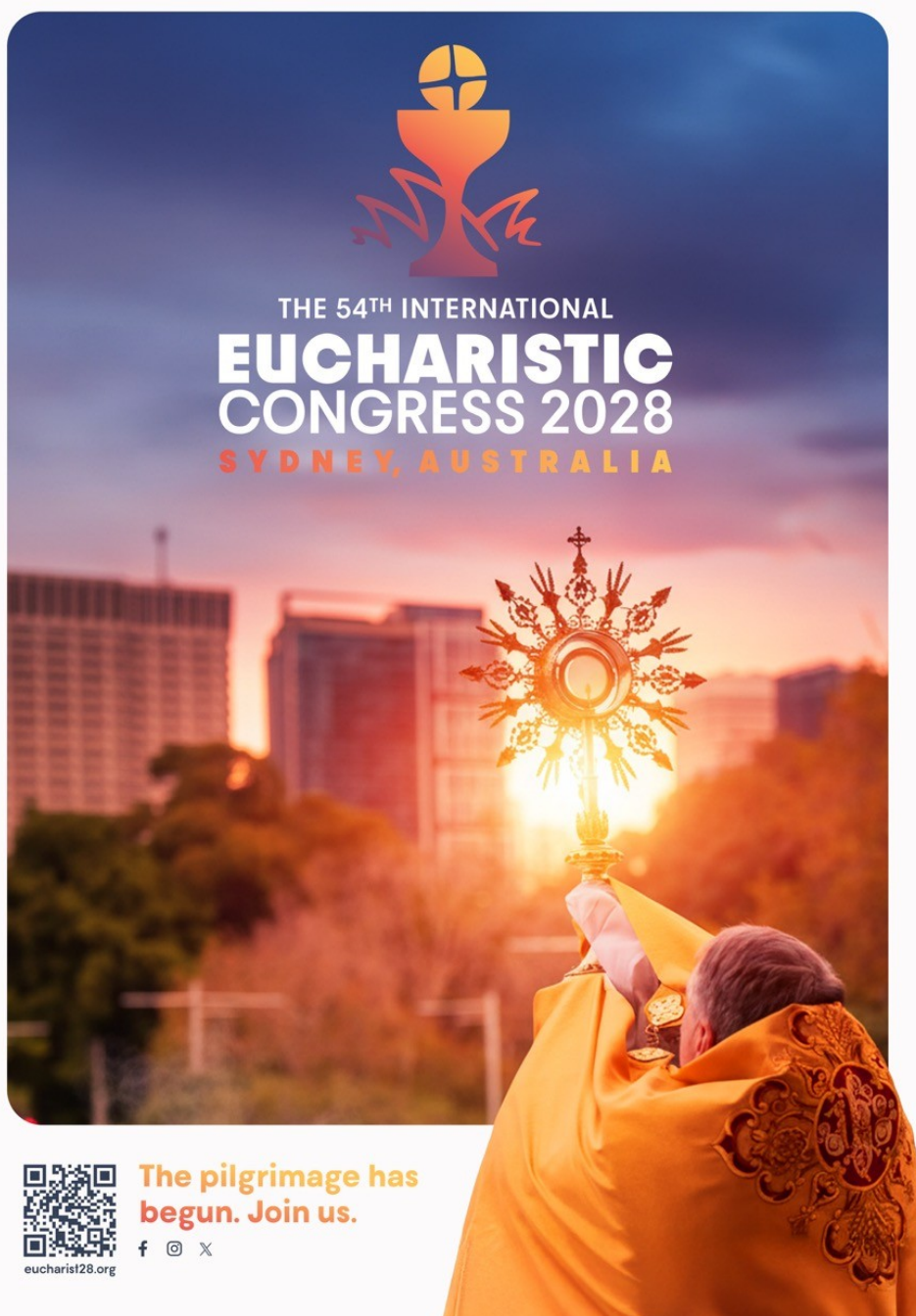
As you hopefully note from many of the events listed in this publication, there will be ongoing opportunities to engage with formation, worship, mission and outreach in our *journeying together* to *Eucharist28* and beyond.

I am excited that the of Relics of St Carlo Acutis, will travel around our Diocese from 14–21 September, giving us the chance to learn from his deep love for the mass, to hear about the eucharistic miracles he used to evangelise others, and to simply come together to pray in the presence of Jesus.


## Mr Jude Hennessy

Director—Office of Renewal  
and Evangelisation

For more info: [eucharist28.org](http://eucharist28.org)



THE 54<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
**EUCCHARISTIC  
CONGRESS 2028**  
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

 **The pilgrimage has begun. Join us.**  
f @ X  
[eucharist28.org](http://eucharist28.org)



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SUMMIT**

*Regular Eucharistic  
Adoration nights  
for young adults 18+  
(followed by dinner)*

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**[dow.org.au/events](http://dow.org.au/events)**



**Bishop Brian's  
prayer intentions**

**Please remember these  
intentions in your prayer:**

- For peace in our world.
- For our journey to the *Eucharistic Congress 2028*.
- For our new Catholics.
- For Christian unity.
- For grandparents and the elderly.
- For vibrant marriages that witness to God's love.



## Youth & young adults update

There is much to be grateful for as we witness growing momentum among young people across the diocese.

Following a fruitful 2025 where new young adult initiatives were established, we are now seeing a steady rise in parish-based youth groups. Communities are actively gathering in West Wollongong, Helensburgh, Rosemeadow, Eagle Vale, Varroville, Oran Park, Ingleburn, and Warrawong/Berkeley—creating spaces of belonging, faith and authentic connection.

In 2026, we have also reintroduced *Twilight Sessions* in our Catholic high schools, offering students meaningful conversations around life and faith, while connecting them with parish youth groups and ongoing opportunities beyond school.

Young adult groups continue to grow in West Wollongong, Lake Heights (Maronite), Corrimal, Campbelltown, Oran Park, and Ingleburn. Alongside this, diocesan initiatives such as *Sanctus* (Adoration nights), *Summit Nights*, and *Vocaris* are drawing many into deeper prayer, formation and community.

Please continue to pray for our young people and leaders. There is great hope in what is unfolding. For more information, follow the links to upcoming events listed on this page or check out the diocesan website at [dow.org.au/cymw](http://dow.org.au/cymw)

**Arnie Hurdoyal**

Diocesan Youth & Young Adults  
Coordinator

## Around the diocese

Date	Event	Location / Notes
May	● National Mass Attendance Count	Parishes
May	● Catechist Level 2 Training	Wollongong / Rosemeadow
5 & 6 May	● Formation Pathway: Leading People Well	Campbelltown / Wollongong
15–17 May	● Compass: Catholic Family Camping Weekend	Wooglemai / Oakdale
16 May	● Vocaris: Young Adult Night (18+) Building a Prayer Life	Wilton
20 May	● Sanctus Summit: Young Adults Holy Hour and Meal	Unanderra
22 May	● Men's Prayer Breakfast: Ben Galea on Eucharistic Congress	Wollongong
22–23 May	● Walk for Life: Prayer Pilgrimage	Kiama to Culburra
24 May	● WYD Korea: Diocesan Launch Event	Online launch
26 May, 2, 9, 16 June	● Rediscover the Real Presence: Zoom Series on the Mass	Online
2 & 3 June	● Formation Pathway: Meaningful Community	Campbelltown / Wollongong
5–6 June	● Young Adults Mission Mindset Retreat	Douglas Park
17 June	● Sanctus Summit: Young Adults Holy Hour and Meal	Rosemeadow
27 June	● Summit Night: Who is the Man on the Shroud of Turin? (Francine Pirola)	Wollongong
9–12 July	● Ignite: Youth and Young Adult Conference	Sydney
15 July	● Sanctus Summit: Young Adults Holy Hour and Meal	Unanderra
1–3 October	● Renewed and Sent: Parish Renewal Summit:	St Gregory's College, Campbelltown

### KEY

- Parish Renewal
- Sacramental / Liturgical
- Formation
- Major Diocesan Events
- Prayer / Spiritual Life
- Online Events
- Youth & Young Adults
- Family
- Men's Ministry
- Retreats
- Parish Life
- Catechists
- Community

[dow.org.au/events](http://dow.org.au/events)

**MORE INFO**

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IGNITE CONFERENCE 26

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BRING A GROUP  
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BRING A FRIEND

HOSTED IN AND SUPPORTED BY THE DIOCESE OF DARWIN  
**DARWIN**  
19-21 JUNE 2026

HOSTED IN AND SUPPORTED BY THE DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY  
**SYDNEY**  
9-12 JULY 2026

HOSTED IN AND SUPPORTED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE  
**BRISBANE**  
24-27 SEPTEMBER 2026

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**compass**

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DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

Join us for a relaxed, faith-filled family camping weekend. Time to unplug, connect, and share life together through meals, activities, prayer, and Mass.

15-17 MAY  
16-18 OCTOBER

Guntawang Catholic Youth Centre Oakdale  
[dow.sh/familycamping26](http://dow.sh/familycamping26)



**RENEWED & SENT** | PARISH RENEWAL SUMMIT 2026

1-3 OCTOBER 2026  
ST GREGORY'S COLLEGE  
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW  
[renewedandsent.com.au](http://renewedandsent.com.au)

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DIVINE RENOVATION

