



Media Release

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All invited to take part in National E-Conference on the Year of St Paul

The Catholic Church in Australia is to embark on its first ever national e-conference this year, with parishes and Church groups encouraged to gather on Tuesday, June 30 to take part in the innovative conference on St Paul.

Registrations have now opened for the Year of St Paul National E-Conference, entitled, "Paul – The Man, the Mission and Message for Today: igniting his purpose and passion".

The E-conference is an initiative of the Broken Bay Institute and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

It will be hosted by television identity Mike Bailey and will feature sessions from world renowned Scripture scholars, Brendan Byrne SJ, Michele Connolly RSJ and film, media and communication scholar, Richard Leonard SJ.

These sessions will be web-cast live to sites across the nation, and will be interspersed with opportunities for local gatherings to discuss the sessions with the guidance of a trained facilitator.

Bishop David Walker, a member of the Bishops Commission for Mission and Faith Formation, said the format of the day would be a first for the Church in Australia.

"Every parish in Australia will have the opportunity to get involved, either by hosting a web-cast site themselves or by joining with another group nearby," Bishop Walker said.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for people from Broome to Broken Bay to be able to join in this very exciting program of world class speakers. It is a fitting way to mark the end of the Year of St Paul in the Church and we feel it is an initiative of which St Paul, the great Gospel communicator would surely have been proud."

The Director of the Broken Bay Institute, Dr Gerard Goldman said it was easy for parishes and groups to get involved.

"Essentially, all that is needed for local communities to get involved is a broadband Internet connection, a projector and a screen," he said. There will be no cost to those who take part in the E-Conference."

To register your parish or Church group to take part in the Year of St Paul National E-Conference on Tuesday, June 30, simply follow the link to Year of St Paul on the Broken Bay Institute homepage: www.bbi.catholic.edu.au.

To register for facilitator training, to be held at Mary Mackillop Place, North Sydney on May 4 and 5, simply follow the link to Year of St Paul on the Broken Bay Institute homepage: www.bbi.catholic.edu.au and download the forms.

For more information on the E-Conference, contact Virginia Ryan at the Broken Bay Institute by emailing Virginia.ryan@dbb.edu.au or phoning 02 9847 0556.