

PASTORAL LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF BROKEN BAY

As we move closer to the celebration of Christmas, I want to speak with you about a number of changes occurring within the Diocese.

Firstly, you may be aware, that a significant number of our Priests will be moving to a new Parish at the beginning of February 2008.

These moves are, in part, the result of changes to the number of available Priests and will no doubt cause some anxiety and concern for both the Priests and the communities which they are leaving. I well understand that special bond which develops during the time a Priest spends with his community.

These changes are not made lightly and are the result of much discernment and prayerful consideration.

To our Priests who are relocating and taking on new leadership positions, I would like to thank you for your ongoing contribution to the pastoral care of our people.

To those communities who are experiencing a change of Priest, I would ask that you acknowledge appropriately the contribution of the Priest who is leaving, and welcome joyfully the new Priest to your community.

I believe that the changes being implemented at this time will provide a strong base to continue our striving to provide the best possible pastoral care of our people. 2008 will be a particularly important year for all of us.

The preparation for and participation in World Youth Day will be a highlight. I would encourage everyone, young and old, to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to renew and invigorate our Church in Australia. 2008 will also be a year in which we in Broken Bay will develop and promote further the role of lay people in various ministries within the Church, starting with the roles of Minister of the Word, Liturgy and Welcome, and we will gradually develop the areas in which full lay participation is encouraged.

I would encourage you all to consider becoming more active in these ministries in the future

In closing, I would like to thank you all for the care and prayers which you show to me every day. I pray that together we can continue to spread the Good News to all those we come into contact with.

I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas and a wonderful 2008.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

David L Walker
BISHOP OF BROKEN BAY