

NEW STRUCTURES FOR MISSION

Our parish communities are central to the growth and sharing of faith throughout our Diocese and beyond. Many of our parish boundaries and buildings, however, go back fifty or a hundred years or more. It is important that our parishes are best positioned to respond to population growth, demographic change and emerging needs, both now and into the future. The goal is to ensure that all parishioners continue to have access to Mass, other sacraments of the Church and the best pastoral support possible to live their baptismal mission, that our priests are able to serve in areas of greatest need, and that our parishes are viable into the future.

By reviewing our parishes, resources and commitments from time to time we act as good stewards of the gifts that God has given, ensuring the vitality of our diocesan community as a whole. The following actions are recommended within the Diocese to strengthen our common mission:

- The Holy Spirit Seminary to be expanded and relocated to the Kenilworth site at Harris Park (2013-2015), including contemporary accommodation and facilities for the formation of priests and potentially for the formation of permanent deacons as well;
- The parishes of St Patrick's Parish, Blacktown, and St Michael's Parish, Blacktown South, to be twinned and ultimately amalgamated to form the 'Parish of Blacktown'. In due course, the church of St Patrick might be replaced with a church of sufficient size for parish and diocesan celebrations, on the same or a new site;
- The parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Baulkham Hills South, to be divided into the parishes of St Michael's Parish, Baulkham Hills, St Monica's Parish, Parramatta North, and St Paul the Apostle Parish, Winston Hills;
- A new parish to be planned for Box Hill;
- Marsden Park to be considered a site of land purchase for a future church and school development by the Diocese;
- A Mass Centre to be located at Chisholm Catholic Primary School, Bligh Park, for the foreseeable future;
- A Mass Centre, in conjunction with a Catholic bookshop, to be established within the Parramatta CBD in the light of rapid development, pedestrian traffic and population growth (2013);
- The potential for other Mass Centres and bookshops to be explored in shopping areas with high populations (e.g. Rouse Hill, Castle Hill, Blacktown, Penrith);
- The Diocese to continue to monitor any potential areas of growing pastoral need (e.g. in the North West and South West Growth Areas, in Parramatta CBD);
- Migrant chaplaincies to consider sharing existing facilities with other chaplaincies and rationalisation where appropriate;
- Parish boundaries across the Diocese to be reviewed over the next five years, taking into account demographic change, developments in transport infrastructure (e.g. roads, railway stations), land releases, institutions demanding pastoral care (e.g. schools, nursing homes, hospitals) as well as any natural or topographic features that are relevant to the boundaries and pastoral activities of parish communities.

*(Photo opposite page)
Bishop Anthony blessing
the foundation stone of Our
Lady of the Angels Parish,
Rouse Hill*