



# Diocese of Broome W.A.

## Apostolic Administrator

17 January 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

Blessings for this New Year! A special welcome to you if you are new to the Kimberley. This is a place rich with culture, the beauty of creation and people who are strong in their faith.

It pains me to be regularly communicating with you regarding the ongoing investigation into Bishop Saunders, but it is important that I speak as directly and openly with you as I can.

Earlier this week, Western Australian Police conducted a search on a property in Broome. Bishop Saunders was also questioned by WA Police in relation to matters raised in the Catholic Church's Vos Estis Lux Mundi investigation.

The Diocese of Broome has and will continue to offer full transparency and cooperation with WA Police.

I can make no other comment at this time as this is an ongoing investigation by WA Police.

What I can say is that I continue to be humbled and inspired by your faith which has been tested in recent years. Along with you, I am praying that the Church process will come to a conclusion in a timely manner that ensures all involved are treated fairly and with compassion.

Thank you for your patience during this trying time. If you are feeling distressed or need support around these matters, please make contact with our Chancery through Mark Copland, Director of Pastoral Projects. I am always willing to sit and listen to members of our Diocesan family and Mark can offer support or help arrange a time for you to meet with me. Confidential support is also available.

My motto is "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5). This is not always an easy thing to do, but encouraged by each other and through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we can and shall work together to be the Church God wants us to be in the Kimberley.

Yours sincerely in Christ

The Most Rev. Michael H. Morrissey  
Apostolic Administrator