



# Diocese of Broken Bay

Catholic Communications

## Media Statement

Monday 19 March 2007

**Most Rev Patrick Laurence Murphy DD**

**28 October 1920 – 18 March 2007**

***Auxiliary Bishop Archdiocese of Sydney 1977 – 1986  
First Bishop of the Diocese of Broken Bay 1986 - 1996***

The former Catholic Bishop of Broken Bay, Most Rev Patrick Laurence Murphy DD, has died after a long illness, aged 86.

After spending 42 years serving the Archdiocese of Sydney including Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney (1977 – 1986), Bishop Murphy was ordained the first Bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Broken Bay in 1986.

He retired in 1996, when he was succeeded by current Bishop, Most Rev David Louis Walker DD.

Bishop Walker described his predecessor as “one of the most dedicated churchman I have ever met.”

“His personal faith life was exemplary, his loyalty to the Church was outstanding, and his concern for those whom he served was admirable.

“His ministry was always characterised by a deep commitment, hard work, and patient perseverance. At times, he met opposition in his ministry, but was respected by those who opposed him. He made an important contribution to the formation of seminarians, to the teaching of theology, and to the celebration of the Church’s liturgy.

“Before ecumenism came of age in the Church, he was already involved in it in a significant way. He will be remembered as a loyal and dedicated churchman.”

Bishop Murphy was the eldest of seven children and is survived by his sister, Kathleen Scott, and family.

A Vigil Mass will be held for Bishop Murphy at Corpus Christi Cathedral, St Ives, on Monday 26 March 2007, commencing at 7.30pm

His Funeral Mass will be held at 11am on the following day Tuesday 27 March, at Corpus Christi Cathedral, St Ives.

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**\*\*To access Bishop Murphy’s biographical details and photos for publication please visit:  
[www.brokenbay.catholic.org.au](http://www.brokenbay.catholic.org.au)**