

Celebrating the Gift of the Eucharist

People from the Diocese of Wollongong are hoping that Catholics from around Australia will join with them in reflection upon and celebration of the gift of Jesus' Eucharistic presence during its Eucharistic Congress being held in June this year.

The Eucharistic Congress with the theme "Bread for New Life" is an official National Jubilee Celebration approved by the Bishops' Conference and will take place in the Diocese of Wollongong from 11-25 June 2000.

"This Congress has been chosen as the highlight of our Jubilee Celebrations because the Eucharist is crucial to the life and growth of our Church," said the Most Rev Philip Wilson, Bishop of Wollongong. "The Holy Father has described the Jubilee Year 'as an intensely Eucharistic Year' and we wanted to celebrate that."

The celebrations over the two weeks will include seminars; reflections; liturgical ceremonies and functions with top-class presenters from Australia and overseas. The Congress sessions will also be taking place in regional areas of the Diocese including Port Kembla, Bowral, Nowra, Campbelltown and Thirroul.

"I am hoping that through participation in our Eucharistic Congress we can all learn to love the Eucharist more and live our lives more fully, filled with the gifts that flow from accepting this Blessed Sacrament into our lives," said Bishop Wilson.

The Congress in Wollongong will coincide with the International Eucharistic Congress being held in Rome. The Holy Father will send a message to the Congress, which will be read out during the Mass being celebrated at Wollongong Entertainment Centre on Trinity Sunday, 18 June 2000.