

Ordination to the Diaconate of Brett O'Neill SJ



Brett O'Neill, a former parishioner of St Joseph's East Maitland and a product of local Catholic Schools, was ordained a Deacon in Boston United States, on 18th September 2021.

Brett felt drawn to the priesthood from his teenage years, but his journey towards ordination has been a long one. For some years he worked in Canberra, in government policy. He was particularly interested in Catholic Social Teaching, notably in matters relating to refugee and migration policy. He was drawn to The Society of Jesus because of the Jesuit work with refugees particularly through Jesuit Refugee Services. He was also attracted by Ignatian Spirituality and the emphasis on finding God in all things, in everyday experiences and in interactions and relationships.

It will be a few years before we see Brett back with his family in Maitland, as he is currently studying for a PHD in theological ethics, focussing on migration ethics.

The Chisholm community congratulates Brett and looks forward to hearing about the final stage of his journey, his ordination as priest. We will continue to pray for him.