



Date 31 August 2023
To Joseph Higgins, Journalist
The Catholic Leader
From Vanessa Ramswarup, Community Engagement Manager
Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton
Subject 'LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS' – ST JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL ROCKHAMPTON

The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton is delighted to announce the return of the highly anticipated 'Lights of Christmas' light display that will once again grace St Joseph's Cathedral with its enchanting glow. It will be the first time the event has been held since 2019 due to Covid. *"Following the pause during Covid, it is a great joy to once again offer this event as a gift to our people in Rockhampton,"* Bishop Michael McCarthy said.

A highly successful community event, 'The Lights of Christmas 2023', will use St Joseph's Cathedral Rockhampton as a canvas to display approximately 20 minutes of animation and Christmas cheer. The previous shows ('The Nutcracker,' 'A Christmas Carol' and 'The Night Before Christmas') have been revitalised to form a rotating 25-minute show including several Christmas-themed slides.

The light show will play approximately six times per night from Sunday 17th December until Saturday 23rd December. It is a free event for all to attend thanks to the generous support of a number of local sponsors. Bishop Michael said, *"It is a great joy because it is for the people of Rockhampton and beyond, and it's amazing the number of people who come along. People drive in from the north, south, west, and of course the Capricorn Coast to enjoy the lights of Christmas."* It is estimated more than 25000 people will view the show in 2023.

The Lights of Christmas is comparable to light shows in capital cities around Australia. The company engaged to produce the show has been involved in similar shows in Sydney such as the Vivid Festival and St Mary's Cathedral as well as Brisbane City Hall, to name a few.

Bishop Michael emphasised *"We welcome everyone to come, be present and be a part of the Lights of Christmas. We often have people singing along with the Christmas carols, enjoying the night because it really is about Christmas, and the essential message of Christmas, that Jesus Christ was born."*

Get ready to experience the magic from 7:30-9:30pm every evening from 17th to 23rd December 2023 at St Joseph's Cathedral located on the corner William & West Street, Rockhampton, it's a spectacle you won't want to miss!