



## *Speaking the truth in love*

*Eph 4:15*

### MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

To my brothers and sisters from the Polish Community,

I offer my warmest congratulations on this occasion of the centenary of Poland's Regained Independence. Freedom is an extraordinary gift from God: it is self-creative, for by our choices we make ourselves into a new creation. Freedom is the opportunity, the wisdom and the will to do that which is most good and true and beautiful and in the process to recreate ourselves, to become new persons, a new nation.

Since Poland regained this freedom a hundred years ago, there have been several attempts to curb it – indeed, at times it may have seemed like all hope was lost. During that time and in the years since, Australia has welcomed many of you to its shores, and we are the richer for it. But with faith and determination God-given independence won out, and so you gather today in celebration not just for independence gained a century ago, but for the independence of every Polish boy and girl today.

Anniversaries are often times for reflection. To look back on the milestone events and on the quiet beats of every day gives a new perspective on the past and renews our fervour for the future. In the hundred years since Poland first regained its independence you have braved new challenges, and overcome adversity, but it is my hope that you have also experienced unimaginable joys, and through this journey you have found alongside you many friends with whom you have shared so much, and who celebrate with you today.

We give thanks for all those who have contributed so much to the growth and spirit of independence, and draw on their inspiration for the future.

Our Lady of Czestochowa, pray for us.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, DD BA LIB BTheol DPhil  
Archbishop of Sydney

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