



Pope's speech marked

Alex Rozier

OUR Lady of Dolours Church in Chatswood is holding a ceremony this Sunday to celebrate a new forecourt as well as the 30th anniversary of an important speech made by Pope John Paul II.

The forecourt, which was paved to provide more seating and gathering space outside the 96-year-old church, will open on Sunday with the

help of Willoughby Mayor Gail Giles-Gibney.

The Pope's 1986 speech addressed the need for more inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics.

Elder and education officer of the Aborigine Heritage Council Karen Smith will join the mayor in opening the forecourt.

A mass will take place beforehand with a blessing from the reverend Peter Co-

mensoli of Broken Bay Diocese and Rev Michael Thomas of the Willoughby Uniting Church.

In light of the Pope's speech, a plaque will also be unveiled honouring the original owners of the church's land, the Cammeraygal and Wallamedegal peoples.

The mass starts at 5.30pm and the ceremony begins at 6.30pm.

The gathering is open to the public.