



Ad Clerum – July 2007

Dear Colleagues in Ministry

The Past Three Weeks:

The past month has been a busy but exciting month. There have been many blessings and we give thanks to God for the joy of being a part of this Diocese.

Synod:

I thank everyone for their support and contribution to our Annual Synod. Being my first Synod in his Diocese, I was pleased that the debate was robust and that there was much love and care shown. I left Synod heartened. I believe there was a real desire to move forward in terms of ministry and mission. Yes we may not know all the answers, I but I sensed a willingness to continue the journey in faith.

General Manager/Registrar:

At the close of my Presidential Address I announced that our General Manager and Registrar will resign her position on the 1st August to take up a new position as Business Manager at St. Mary's School in Cairns.

On behalf of the Diocese I thank Nancy for her leadership, wisdom and insight. Under Nancy's leadership, there have been some exciting developments. We will miss Nancy, but we wish her well and every blessing for the future.

At Synod a motion of appreciation to Nancy was carried with acclamation. This showed the strength of Nancy's ministry within the Diocese.

Clergy Conference:

I thought the week was one of fellowship, inspiring worship, thoughtful and challenging Bible Studies, as well as sessions that equipped and caused us to think and re-think our ministries. I thank everyone for their contribution. For me, the week revealed the depth of skill and talent we have in the Diocese. As with Synod, St. Mark's proved to be an excellent venue and I thank Canon Barbara and her staff.

Early next month I will be forwarding a response sheet to clergy in regard to the Clergy Conference. I am keen to hear from clergy about what they believe are their training needs as well as issues such as timing. I was conscious that the conference coincided with NAIDOC Week.

Also I thank Fr. Ian McAlister for his organisation and leadership of the Conference.

I will be writing to parishes at the start of next month with ideas and suggestions that tie in with *A Future With Hope*. I look forward to your responses.

Financial Reporting:

At Synod the timetable proposed for the distribution of the audited financial statements and then to allow time for people to comment was modified to allow everyone in the Diocese time to comment or ask questions if they wish to do so.

The new timetable is:

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| 9 th August | Diocesan Executive meets to approve the financial reports. The Treasurer and I will sign off on them |
| 10 th August | Audited Financial Statements will be posted out. |
| 5 th September | Questions or comments to be received by this date. |
| 8 th September | Diocesan Council Meeting (Starts at 11.30 a.m. Will not go into the Sunday.) |

Also I take this opportunity to thank the Treasurer for his ministry. As announced Mr. Peter Towers is stepping down as Treasurer. We thank Peter for his leadership and skill and wish Lynn and Peter every blessing for the future.

MU Conference:

This past week the Diocesan MU has been meeting at James Cook University. It was an excellent conference and I congratulate all for the success of the week.

Cathedral Chapter:

The Cathedral Chapter has met. As a result the Chapter has agreed to move forward with repairs. At present an updated report is being received before we proceed. The Diocese will be kept informed.

This has been some of the business of the last three weeks.

Next Week:

This weekend I am in Cairns. Robin and I will fly from Cairns to Victoria. On Monday I am conducting the funeral of my 98 year old uncle.

On Wednesday there is the consecration of the Venerable Geoff Smith and the Very Reverend John Parkes as bishops in Brisbane. Please pray for these two men and their families.

On Thursday, the Bishops of the Province are meeting. Robin and I fly home on Thursday evening.

The next weekend I will be in Mount Isa.

Appointments:

Fr. Wayne Connolly is the new Priest in Charge at Kowanyama. I hope to announce the date of Fr. Wayne's commissioning shortly. We wish Fr. Wayne, Valmai and the family every blessing for their new ministry and we assure them of our prayers.

Also I have reappointed Fr. Wayne as Canon of St. James Cathedral.

The next Ad Clerum will be forwarded during the first week of August.

Be assured of my love and prayers in your various ministries.

God bless

+ Bill, N.Q.

A handwritten flourish consisting of a single, slightly curved horizontal line.

The Right Reverend William (Bill) Ray
Bishop of North Queensland