

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



BIOGRAPHY

Ian was born in Bathurst during the winter of 1944. Most of his primary education took place at the South Carlton Public School in Sydney which, if you have a quick eye, you can see in the background when St George-Illawarra play a home match at Jubilee Oval. He returned to Bathurst in 1956 and attended the local High School. He left those hallowed halls after he got his Intermediate Certificate.

He entered St Michael's House in the leafy Adelaide Hills to test his vocation to the priesthood with the Society of the Sacred Mission (SSM), graduating from there in 1969. His Th.L came in 1974.

Marriage and Ordination followed. His vocation has taken him just about everywhere: curacies in Holy Trinity Dubbo, Christchurch St Laurence, Sydney, Holy Trinity Mackay and St James' Cathedral Townsville, plus appointments as Rector of St Margaret's Cairns, Christ Church St George, Holy Trinity Wollongabba, St Mary's Bardon and Good Shepherd Mudgeeraba have kept him off the streets for years.

He took a breather after that and indulged himself with a degree in Creative Writing from SCU in Lismore while working part-time in two Gold Coast parishes. During all this he was encouraged by the words that appear many times in the Bible: "...and it came to pass ..." Whatever 'it' was – sickness, strife, trouble or whatever (and there was plenty) – it wasn't going to be permanent. It came to pass, it hasn't come to stay.

Lately he's been studying for a Grad Dip Theol from CSU while doing his wide-ranging work as the Diocesan Ministry Development Officer, based in Townsville.

His wife, Jill, is an absolute honey and keeps the home fires burning while their three children, Sara, Andrew and Kate, and nine grandchildren keep them on their toes just sending birthday and Christmas cards.

Ian rides a bike often and far, swims when he can find a pool long enough and is about to launch a moonlighting career as a flautist (that is, when he's done his practice and not before).

He listens to Garrison Keilor on Radio National; reads Janet Evanovich and Raymond Carver stories; watches on TV anything to do with a ball except golf and is on the roster of St Peter's West End, the parish that he and Jill worship in when he's at home.