

*The Right Reverend William James Ray  
Bishop of North Queensland*



## **Ad Clerum – Christmas 2007**

### **Christmas:**

Robin and James join me along with my Episcopal colleagues, Bishops Jim and Saibo in wishing you a holy and blessed Christmas. Please be assured of my prayers as you prepare worship for the various communities of faith.

I recall a former Bishop of Gippsland, David Garnsey, who said to the clergy of Gippsland, that at Christmas and Easter you may be preaching for the fourth time on Christmas or Easter Day but it is the first time for the fourth congregation.

For all those travelling and taking a holiday, I pray that your holiday will be refreshing, relaxing, enjoyable and safe.

### **Fr. David and Mrs Daphne Philp:**

Fr. David and Daphne have been overwhelmed by the number of telephone calls, cards and other messages of good wishes. As there are too many to answer, I promised to pass on their thanks via the Ad Clerum. Fr. David and Daphne also wish everyone in the Diocese a holy and blessed Christmas.

I have assured Fr. David and Daphne of our continued love and prayers at this time.

### **Others in need of prayer:**

#### **Cairns Region Area Dean:**

I am pleased to announce that The Reverend Trevor Saggars has agreed to be the Area Dean and The Reverend Jonathan Whereat the Associate Area Dean.

On behalf of the Diocese I assure both gentlemen of our prayers, along with the people of the Northern Region Deanery.

I take this opportunity to thank Archdeacon Chris Wright for his ministry as Area Dean over the past five or more years.

#### **New Principal of St. Mark's College:**

I am pleased to announce that the position is on offer. I will forward an email as soon as I have a letter of acceptance. It is my understanding that the new Principal will commence his ministry on or about the 4<sup>th</sup> February next year.

**2008:**

I have mentioned at the Regional Consultations that I pray we will go forward in 2008 in “faith and hope and love”.

I have asked each parish to consider four ministry areas as they move into 2008 – worship – pastoral care – nurture or Christian education and outreach.

Some parishes have asked how to go about this task.

Three questions to assist:

First, what are we doing well? Then ask yourselves why is this ministry activity proceeding well? (It is important to ask this question. There are times when ministry is going well and we take everything for granted. Then things can start to decline without us realising it. The end result is people then ask what went wrong.)

What areas do we need to address and why?

In terms of addressing issues, “Who will do what, when and with what resources?”

**2008 – Challenge:**

People often make New Years resolutions. I challenge the clergy and laity to pray and seek to bring at least one person to faith in Christ this coming year. I have three people I am praying for at the moment. I know Fr. Ian is doing likewise.

To the clergy I encourage you to read one Biblical commentary this coming year. I will be re-reading my commentaries on Matthew, 2008 being Year A or the Year of Matthew.

**The Mistake:**

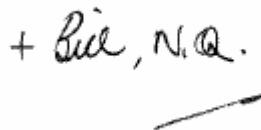
In the last Ad Clerum I made a mistake. The account for the restoration of St. James Cathedral is “St. James Cathedral Conservation Appeal” account. (I had written “conversation”.) As there were no cheques written out incorrectly, I have not had to have a conversation!

**Christmas Surprise:**

Earlier this week, Bishop Michael Putney of the Catholic Diocese of North Queensland presented the Diocese with a cheque to roll the Restoration Appeal along. It was most generous and very kind of them. The Restoration Appeal will be launched on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon at the Cathedral.

Robin and I thank you for your love and support and we pray that you enjoy a holy and blessed Christmas. Every blessing for 2008.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Bill, N.Q." with a horizontal line underneath.

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