



Ad Clerum December 2007

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

The Reverend Barbara Blackford.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that The Reverend Barbara Blackford will be the new Rector of Ingham. We welcome Barbara and her husband Darrel to the Diocese. The induction will be held on Friday 14th March at 6.30 p.m. I know it will be Lent, but the liturgical colour will be white.

The Right Reverend Ron Williams:

Bishop Ron and Katie will provide a locum ministry at Proserpine early next year. Bishop Ron brings a range of experience and I am sure the Parish will be blessed.

The Reverend Tim Morris:

On Thursday evening last, The Reverend Tim Morris was commissioned as Priest in Charge in the Parish of Mossman/Port Douglas. We welcome Tim and Jo to this ministry.

The Reverend Maggie Kirby:

Friday 30th November, (St. Mary Magdalene's) evening was a wonderful evening when Maggie was ordained priest in the Church of God. I thank the Reverend Jan Deaves for leading the retreat and preaching. We assure Maggie and Mike of our love and prayers.

Fr. Paul Bland:

Fr Paul concludes his ministry as Principal of Trinity Anglican School at the end of the year. Fr. Paul has assisted with many parishes in the Cairns region and his ministry has been greatly valued. On behalf of the Diocese we wish Fr. Paul and Christine every blessing for their move to Brisbane, their new lifestyle and the future.

The Reverend Canon Dr. Barbara Oudt:

Canon Barbara is currently on annual leave and will conclude her term as Principal of St. Mark's at the end of the month. We thank Canon Barbara for her ministry within the Diocese and assure her of our prayers as she discerns the will of God for the future.

Principal of St. Mark's College:

I ask for your prayers as the Council appoints a new Principal. The interviews are planned for Monday evening, 10th December. I will forward another Ad Clerum mid next week informing you of the decision.

Mr. Chris Nelson – our New General Manager and Registrar:

Chris has made an excellent start in his new position. We assure Chris of our prayers as he settles into the position. Please also remember Jan in your prayers.

Those who have been unwell:

I ask for your prayers for Fr. Kevin Perrett. In recent times Kevin has not had an ideal run with his health.

Also Deacon Eric Pitt has been in hospital and we rejoice he is now improving and on the road to full recovery.

At present, Fr. George Knack is in the Atherton hospital undergoing tests.

Fr. Clive Brook has had a spell in hospital and is waiting on test results.

Please pray for these gentlemen and their loved ones.

Vale – Fr. Arthur Chauntler:

Fr. Arthur died on Friday 30th November. We celebrated his earthly life on Tuesday 4th December. It was a great celebration of a faithful life well lived. I thank Fr. Chris Yule for his ministry to Fr. Arthur and for his work in organising the funeral service as well as leading our worship.

Calendars – Holy Trinity:

Parishes would have received information about their calendars. They are excellent value. I urge you to support this creative venture. To contact the parish please phone 07 4957 3341 or email htanglican@ozemail.com.au

Lenten Studies 2008:

There are number of studies available. As mentioned I have written one titled, "Easter Journey, On the Road to Calvary: What do you seek?" It is available from www.grassroots.com.au

I was one of the forty bishops invited to write a study for a particular day in preparation for the Lambeth Conference. The title of that study is "Let Thy Kingdom Come, Let Thy Will be Done."

Anniversaries:

We congratulate The Canon John Hoog on the fortieth anniversary of his ordination as a priest on the Third Sunday of Advent. I ask for your prayers both for Fr. John and Diana. The Reverend Dallas Simonson celebrated the twenty first anniversary of his priesting on St. Andrew's Day.

Aftermath of the Cyclone in Popondota:

I invite you to remind your parishes that ABM has an appeal to support the people of PNG following the Cyclone.

Bishop Hall-Matthews is giving two weeks of his time to assist people in getting their lives back together again. Please pray for the Bishop and all involved. Fr Patrick and Mrs Adele Doulin are very relieved parents as their family were able to leave Popondota after the cyclone. However, they left with heavy hearts for the people they loved.

Area Deans:

At present I am inviting the clergy to suggest names to me for Area Dean of the Cairns and the Townsville Deaneries.

Cathedral Restoration:

Several people have enquired as to whether donations to the Cathedral restoration are tax deductible. The answer is yes. All monies will be paid into the "St. James Cathedral Conservation Appeal" account. The ABN Number is 85 836 591 016.

Donations can be forwarded to the Diocesan Registry. Receipts will be posted out.

Work will commence on the bell tower early in 2008, as it is the most unsafe aspect of the building.

The restoration appeal will be launched at 12 noon on Saturday 16th February. Bishop Adrian Charles, one time Dean of the Cathedral, will celebrate, preach and launch the appeal.

During this service I will commission our New General Manager.

Townsville Christmas Lights:

The Migrant Resource Centre in Townsville is hosting a bus tour of the Christmas lights on Wednesday 19th December at 5.00 p.m. There will be a pick up at Stockland's at 6.00 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per adult.

I ask the clergy to advertise this venture. The Migrant Resource Centre provides a valuable service in the community.

Advent:

The season of Advent has several themes. One of them is waiting. It is my prayer that we use this season to wait on God and discern the will of God both in our parishes and the diocese. It is so easy to get caught up with the rush of life leading up to Christmas, then the new calendar year and before we know it, its Lent. It has been my experience that some parishes leave their planning until the New Year and when Lent is early they find that we do not get around to it until after Easter. The reality is that one quarter of the year has gone without intentional planning!

New Mobile Phone Numbers:

Please make a note that we have had a change of mobile telephone numbers for myself and Chris Nelson, the numbers now are:

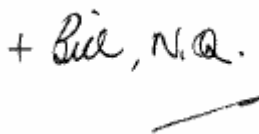
Bishop Bill 0429 489 935
Chris Nelson 0418 713 506

The Cathedral School – Scholarships:

Please find attached a media release in relation to 'New Scholarships for Drought Affected Communities' at The Cathedral School. Please pass this information on to anyone you feel may be interested in learning more about this wonderful opportunity.

Wishing you a holy and blessed Advent.

Yours in the Service of Christ,

+ Bill, N.Q.


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