



## Ad Clerum – January 2008

### **Christmas Services:**

As Bishop it has been heartening to hear the positive comments from parishes about their Christmas services.

I tried to phone every clergy person before the Christmas services to wish them well and assure the parishes of my love and prayers at this time. I know I did not speak with each clergy person. I did try and leave messages. Some telephone numbers in our directory are incorrect. Also we have numbers that are no longer in service. In one or two cases I left the wrong message for the wrong place. I sincerely apologise. Early February (after everyone is back) we will make sure our telephone numbers are up to date.

### **Holidays:**

For all who have been on holiday I pray that you have returned refreshed and invigorated for ministry during 2008.

### **Clergy Conference and Retreat:**

There will be no clergy conference this year due to Lambeth and other commitments. It is my understanding that Diocesan clergy retreats have not been well attended in the recent past.

I believe a retreat each year is essential for clergy to recharge their spiritual batteries. Bishop Godfrey Fryar of Rockhampton has invited the clergy from this Diocese to attend their retreat this year. I am pleased we can minister together as a Province and I thank Bishop Godfrey for his generosity.

The details are:

- Venue:** The Haven Emu Park (near Yeppoon)  
(Bishop Godfrey assures me the Haven has been revamped from my days in the Diocese and it is now much improved!)
- Cost:** \$92 per day plus GST (for the week \$341 plus GST)
- Date:** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 23 May
- Conductor:** Brother Bruce Paul SSF.
- Closing date:** 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008.
- Registration:** [dawn@anglicanrock.org.au](mailto:dawn@anglicanrock.org.au) or 4922 6755 and ask for Dawn.

If you require any assistance to attend the retreat please do not hesitate to contact me.

**New Principal – St. Mark’s College:**

I am pleased to report that the Council of St. Mark’s has appointed The Reverend Dr. Drew Hanlon B.Ed., B.Th., M.A., Ed.D., Dip. Ed., M.A.C.E., as the new principal.

Fr. Drew brings many skills and talents to this position. He has a big task before him and we assure him and his wife Naomi of our love and prayers as they settle into the Diocese.

Fr. Drew commences his ministry on 4<sup>th</sup> February. The date of the commissioning service is still to be announced.

**Area Dean – Townsville Region:**

It is with pleasure that I announce that Fr. John Candy has been appointed Area Dean of the Townsville Region.

I thank the clergy for forwarding their suggestions and taking the time to respond. We assure Fr. John of our prayers as he takes up this new ministry.

**Australian Anglican Diaconal Association meeting – August, 2008:**

This year the biennial conference of the Australian Anglican Diaconal Association will be held in Melbourne. We are looking forward to next August, when the Diocese of Melbourne will host this event at “Amberley” in Templestowe. Planning is already well on the way and the full pamphlet and registration invitation will be going out early in the new year.

Please mark it in your diary if you are interested in attending. The conference will take place August 25-28 2008. The theme is “Living Micah 6.8 – Being a Deacon Today” and there will be interesting keynote speakers picking up the main theme, as well as workshops and visits to areas of ministry and, of course, time to relax and enjoy each other’s company.

For further details please contact:

The Reverend Anne Wakeling (03) 9725 9805 or [anne.wakleing@easternhealth.org.au](mailto:anne.wakleing@easternhealth.org.au)

**Communication:**

Each month I have a telephone hook-up with the Area Deans to share ideas and update people about ministry and other activities within the life of the Diocese. These have taken place on the Thursday of the Executive meeting. However, the date did not prove ideal, so we are moving to Wednesday evening at 4.00pm of the week **after** each monthly Executive Meeting.

**Diary Dates:**

My P.A., Ms Julie Keys has worked very hard to accommodate requests for episcopal visits this year. It has not been easy as I am away for two Sundays this month, the National Bishop’s Conference after Easter, Synod, the Lambeth Conference and holidays.

However, the Diocese is blessed with episcopal assistance and for that I am most grateful.

I have visited about 90% of the worship centres within the Diocese. I still have a few to visit and will make sure I visit this coming year.

My main dairy dates on are on the web after feedback has been received form parishes.

**New Canon:**

As the Reverend Canon Barbara Oudt has left the Diocese there is a vacancy for the St. Mark's Canonry. This is a Bishop's appointment and I hope to announce the new Canon at the start of next month.

**Intercessions:**

Every so often I receive comments from parishioners that their loved one was not prayed for at a particular service. Thus there has been hurt, and in some cases deep hurt.

Prayer and intercession are a vital part of the Church's ministry and worship and intercessions need to be handled with care.

There have been times when people have asked me to pray for a certain person. I am more than happy to honour the request, but being new I need to write down the name so that I get the name(s) correct. I suspect this is an excellent practice for us all to implement. By the time the intercessor gets to read the prayers they may have forgotten the name. We have had the readings and the sermon, and the intercessor may have been moved by what they have heard!

Some parishes have an intercession book. People write the names of loved ones in the book and the person leading the intercessions uses this book to pray for those who are sick and in need, as well as give thanks for loved ones who's anniversary of death occurs at this time.

**Induction:**

The induction of the Reverend Barbara Blackford as Priest in Charge of Ingham will take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March, commencing at 6.30 p.m.

We welcome Barbara to the Diocese and look froward to her ministry.

**Bishop's "Puppy School":**

I will be away from Thursday 17 January to the 28<sup>th</sup> attending the training school for new bishops. The venue is the University of Kent in England. While I am away any enquires can be directed to Archdeacon Christ Wright. His telephone number is (07) 4093 8735 and his email is [wrightc@iig.com.au](mailto:wrightc@iig.com.au)

**Torres Strait Island Clergy Conference:**

This conference will be held in Cairns from Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2008. I ask for your prayers for this time together as there are several issues we need to address.

**Cursillo:**

I remind the Diocese of the dates for the 2008 Cursillos are:

Mens 11	July 17 to July 20
Womens 11	July 24 to July 27


Please note the prayer concerns listed below.

**Prayer concerns:**

- Mrs. Lala Leftwich as we await surgery.
- Mr Colin Deeley and family and the Whitsunday Anglican School Community. (Colin has undergone surgery and is now receiving further treatment.)
- Bishop Ron and Mrs Katie Williams as they offer a locum ministry at Proserpine.
- The Revered Barbara Blackford and her husband Darrel as they prepare to move to the Parish of Ingham.
- Jacqui Gallo Lay Director of Womens 11 as she forms her team and Guido Poggioli Lay Director of Mens 11 as he forms his team. Please pray for both teams as they commence their training.
- Prayer to discern candidates for both Cursillos (now is the time to start praying for candidates not a few weeks before.)

Wishing you every blessing in your ministry and for 2008.

Yours in Christ

+ Bill, N.Q.  


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