

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



**AD CLERUM – HOLY WEEK 2008**

18<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Dear Colleagues in Ministry within the Diocese,

**Holy Week and Easter:**

I assure you all of my prayers as you journey through Holy Week to Good Friday. I also pray that your Easter worship is a great time of celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On Ash Wednesday, I said to the Cathedral congregation I knew a priest that used to say, “If you are not tired at Easter you may not have worked hard enough during Lent.” It is an interesting thought. However, I hope you have had a meaningful Lent.

I have enjoyed a meaningful Lent. I undertook several disciplines. Most have been very positive, but the one that really stimulated me, has been the revising of my Greek, so that I can read the New Testament readings in Greek when I say the daily office by myself. It has really sharpened my appreciation of the New Testament text and I am so glad I “bit the bullet”, even though I wondered if I was being a little ambitious when I started. As an aside I am surprised how quickly the grammar and syntax came back. It is like riding a bike or milking a cow, you don’t seem to forget!

**Chrism Eucharist:**

A Chrism Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Ron Williams in Mackay today and I will celebrate one in Townsville this evening. Bishop James will celebrate a Chrism Eucharist for the Northern Region at the end of the month. The Torres Strait Clergy renewed their vows at their recent conference and Clergy for the Cape Region will do so at their conference following Easter. I will celebrate in the Western Region after Easter.

At this Eucharist the holy oils are blessed. Also clergy renew their ordination vows. I hope all clergy are able to renew their vows this year. I want to stress it is not “just a clergy only” worship. I know timing does not permit at times, but it is wonderful if the laity could be present to witness the clergy renew their vows. I invite the laity to pray for the clergy as they renew their vows and to pray for themselves as they minister together with the clergy.

**Welcome – The Reverend Barbara Blackford:**

I thought the induction on Friday evening was a joyous occasion and we welcome Barbara and Darrel to the Diocese. We pray for them as they settle in to the Parish of Ingham.

**Commissioning of Fr. Drew Hanlon:**

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March, Fr Drew was commissioned and he and Naomi were welcomed to the College and the Diocese. It was another great evening.

It was wonderful to see the clergy and laity support at both St. Mark's and Ingham. Thank you very much indeed for being so caring and supportive.

**Delfina Trail:**

I will be making Delfina a Deacon in the Church of God on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 11.30 a.m. at St. Helen's Home Hill.

Much of Delfina's formation has been in St. Helen's. Delfina and her family have moved to Rockhampton and she will be licensed by the Bishop of Rockhampton.

**New Canon of St. James Cathedral:**

I am delighted to announce that The Reverend Sharon Hayston has accepted my invitation to be a Canon of St. James' Cathedral. Sharon will fill the vacancy created when The Reverend Barbara Oudt left the Diocese. The Canonry is the St. Mark's Canonry and it is a Bishop's appointment. Sharon brings a range of experience to the Cathedral.

**Review of the Former Diocese of Carpentaria:**

As you are aware, a review of ministry and property in the former Diocese of Carpentaria was undertaken during 2007. It was set up before I arrived and it was my responsibility for forwarding it to General Synod.

The review was to explore five options:

- Re-establish the former Diocese of Carpentaria
- Re-establish the former Diocese of Carpentaria with Cairns
- Re-establish the former Diocese of Carpentaria with Cairns and the Tablelands (and possibly Innisfail).
- Make the Torres Strait a Diocese in its own right.
- Keep things as they are and make them work better.

I have not received a formal notification at this stage but the Primate has informed me that the Standing Committee of General Synod has recommended the status quo remain and we continue to improve ministry within the geographical area of the former Diocese of Carpentaria. This will be discussed at length at our next Diocesan Council meeting.

I would like to add that it is important that as a Diocese we seek to address ministry issues so that the Gospel is proclaimed.

**Next Ad Clerum:**

I will forward another Ad Clerum on Thursday 27 March.

**For your prayers:**

- Please continue your prayers for Mrs Betty Gooch and Fr. Bob. It has been a long eight weeks. Betty is still in hospital and quite weak.
- The Reverend Ann Fishwick and The Reverend Ray Fishwick. Ann underwent surgery last Wednesday. She was in Intensive Care until Sunday. She is making very good progress and has gone home to Innisfail today.
- The Reverend Canon Ernie Lemmon who is still in hospital, but allowed out at various times. He has been able to go home to see his little dog and on Sunday able to worship at St. Andrew's.


- The staff of the Registry. The two Julies are undergoing surgery after Easter. I ask that you please respect their privacy and pray for them as they recover.
- For the many people who are still re-establishing themselves following the floods of last month and those who are helping out and assisting.
- For Anglicare and its ministry.

**Thank you:**

Easter Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> March is the first anniversary of my consecration as bishop and the installation as Bishop of North Queensland. I thank you all for your support and encouragement. I have learnt a great deal and I know I still have much to learn. I give thanks to God for the past year and many blessings and I look forward to another exciting year in ministry together.

Robin and James join me in wishing you a holy and blessed Easter.

Yours in Christ,

+ Bill, N.Q.  


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