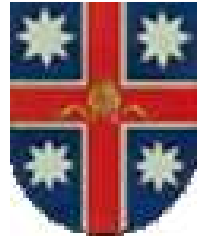


**The Right Reverend William James Ray  
Bishop of North Queensland**



Diocese of North  
Queensland

20th May 2008



Anglican Church  
of Australia

## **Ad Clerum – May 2008**

Dear Colleagues in Ministry

### **Appointments:**

#### **Proserpine:**

Fr. Chris Yule has accepted my invitation to be the Rector of the Parish of Proserpine. We assure Fr. Chris of our prayers. There are some exciting ministry possibilities, such as sailing ministry out of Arlie Beach, and building plans for the Parish. Fr. Chris will remain the Area Dean of the Southern Region. The tentative date for his Induction is Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **Fr. Trevor Adams:**

Fr. Trevor has accepted the Archbishop of Brisbane's invitation to be the Rector of St. Barnabas Sunnybank. His last Sunday in the Diocese will be the 22 June, 2008.

We give thanks to God for Fr. Trevor, Sharon and their family and for the contribution they have made to the Diocese. We assure them of our prayers as they prepare to move.

#### **Cursillo:**

The training of the teams for the Cursillos in July is now well underway. We give thanks for the teams and assure them of our prayers. I have written to various people asking them to pray for a person who would benefit from the Cursillo experience. If you know of anyone please contact your Parish Cursillo representative. The three day weekend is faith enriching and a great experience of Christian community.

#### **Finance:**

I congratulate and thank Ms Ann Gledhill and her team for their hard work in getting the diocesan accounts ready for audit. The audit has been completed and signed off. The auditors have said we are so far ahead on last year, it is just wonderful news.

Last week, Mr. Bill Shields from the General Synod Finance Advisory Group, was with us reviewing our finances. I am expecting the report shortly, but he was pleased that we are making good progress in terms of financial management.

#### **Review of my ministry:**

I thank all who were involved and contributed to the process. There were generous comments concerning my ministry. Also there are several issues I need to address and I am now in the process of addressing them one at a time.

With so much happening at the moment, I realize that I am a little behind in my office work. Next week is "catch up" week.

**Australian College of Theology Ltd (ACT):**

Yesterday I was in Sydney attending the Board meeting of the ACT. I was elected to the College at General Synod and appointed a Director of the Board at a recent meeting of the ACT. The meeting was exciting as we explored a number of aspects of theological education. It was good to hear what is happening in a number of places. I am confident that the Diocese will benefit from my membership of the Board. We meet about six times a year and the ACT meets my travel expenses.

**Mr. Norm Reid:**

I learnt on Saturday of Mr. Reid's death. I have written to Mrs. Reid and the family. Norm was the Registrar of the Diocese of Brisbane and Provincial Registrar. He was a very insightful person and made a considerable contribution to the National Church as well as to the Diocese of Brisbane and the Province.

**This coming week:**

I ask for your prayers for the many ministry activities this coming week:

- For the clergy who are attending the Clergy Retreat in the Diocese of Rockhampton this week.
- For all who gathered at St. Paul's on Moa Island to give thanks for the life of Florence Buchanan and her ministry in the Torres Strait.
- I will be at Trinity Anglican School on Wednesday.
- On Thursday, the bishops, the MDO and others are meeting to discuss the process for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait people who seek to be ordained.
- Friday I am at Djarragun College
- On the weekend Diocesan Council will be held.
- The Anglicare AGM was held last evening.
- There are a number of interviews. The topics and issues are diverse.

Life within the Diocese is busy at the moment and there is much for which we can give thanks to God.

**Ordinations:**

Dates will be set in the next two to three week for ordinations to take place when I return from Lambeth.

**Prayers:**

Please keep praying for the peoples of both Myanmar and China and those seeking to bring relief to the people who are suffering. Please see the email attached from The

Most Reverend Stephen Than Myint, Archbishop of the Church of the Province of Myanmar.

**Synod:**

Preparation for Synod is well underway. I ask for your prayers for those involved with the preparation. I have mentioned before that I am breaking with tradition and I will be forwarding a copy of my Presidential Address about two weeks before Synod. If you are not a member of Synod and would like a copy please forward your email or postal address to my PA.

Some people have asked will I be speaking to my Address. The answer is yes. I will refer to some of the points raised, but I will use the time to expand on three or four issues as I see them impacting on the Diocese.

I thank you for your valuable ministry.

Be assured of my prayers.

God bless

+ Bill, N.O.



+Bill

Archbishop of Myanmar Issues Statement

Posted On : May 19, 2008 4:44 PM | Posted By : Admin ACO  
Related Categories: Myanmar

ACNS: <http://www.aco.org/acns/news.cfm/2008/5/19/ACNS4406>

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

On Saturday 17 May 2008, it was Day 14 after Cyclone Nargis first struck Myanmar. Its winds, which reached up to a maximum of 190km/h, first hit the low-lying Delta region (Ayeyawardy Division) of south-western Myanmar adjoining the Bay of Bengal on Friday 2 May 2008 and then ploughed through the hinterland during the course of Saturday 3 May 2008 in a north-easterly direction until it reached Yangon (Yangon Division), and then turned north-north-easterly, dissipating as it reached the Myanmar-Thailand border.

At the time of writing, the official death toll from Cyclone Nargis stands at 78,000, with over 56,000 people still missing. Approximately 1 million people are reported by the Myanmar Government to be homeless. In Yangon, even after 14 days, many parts remain without electricity supply. Those who are able have resorted to generators; those who cannot have to rely on candlelight in the night. While most major roads have been cleared, debris and detritus have yet to be completely removed. The work is tedious and labour-intensive. Without electricity supply, piped water supply has been disrupted. Telecommunications have also yet to be fully restored.

In response, the Church of the Province of Myanmar formed a relief committee on Wednesday 7 April 2008 and immediately sent out 4 teams to survey the affected areas. 3 of these teams returned, reporting general damage but little loss of life. The full extent of the damage in the Delta region, however, is still emerging. The team that was sent to what appears to be the worst affected area has confirmed widespread damage and extensive loss of life. In some places, entire villages have been devastated, with few if any survivors. In other places, survivors have huddled together in makeshift shelters awaiting aid. Travel in that area is very difficult, and villages are often in very isolated and remote areas, accessible only by boat. We have already sent a medical team to some parts of the most affected area, meeting both medical needs and distributing relief supplies. We plan to send a second one in the next few days.

The overall situation is still relatively fluid, with government policy shifting in response to new developments. It continues to be inadvisable for our overseas friends to travel to the most affected area. We

continue to receive reports and accounts, and these will contribute to our assessment of the scale of the human tragedy and how best to meet the immediate needs of survivors made homeless, injured and/or otherwise affected in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis. We are also assessing the extent of damage to church buildings and property both in the Delta region and in and around Yangon.

We appreciate the support shown by our sisters and brothers within the Anglican Communion thus far. A small fact-finding team from the Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia has spent the last 6 days with us. They have brought an initial instalment of medicines and medical supplies, blankets, candles, clothing, food and other sundry items, as well as some financial assistance. Their advice and encouragement has been invaluable. Emergency funds have also been received from the Province of the Anglican Church in South East Asia through the Diocese of Singapore, from the Australian Anglican Board of Mission, and from the Myanmar Anglican fellowship in Singapore.

Once more comprehensive reports have been received, the Relief Committee will identify what specific assistance is needed and the items which may be provided to the Church of the Province of Myanmar. Immediately we have already identified the need to cleanse whatever water supply is available. As it is now the rainy season,

canvas sheets are important. Also, there is a need for trauma counsellors to work with the survivors of this tragedy. We hope you will work with us on plans and options for medium-term resettlement and rehabilitation efforts, even as we address the short-term concerns for survivors.

An inter-denominational memorial service was held at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Yangon on Wednesday 14 May 2008 for the victims of Cyclone Nargis. This was organised by the Myanmar Council of Churches. The Minister for Religious Affairs attended. We covet your prayers and seek whatever financial support you can give for the suffering people of the delta region of Myanmar. For practical reasons, we would appreciate it if you would kindly direct your donations through the Anglican Diocese of Singapore (<http://www.anglican.org.sg/>), which will in turn forward them to our Provincial Office.

May the peace of God be and remain with us always.

The Most Revd Stephen Than Myint Oo  
Archbishop of the Church of the Province of Myanmar