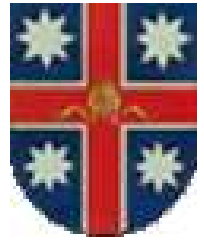




Diocese of North
Queensland



Anglican Church
of Australia

AD CLERUM – JULY 2008

7th July 2008

My dear Colleagues in Ministry within the Diocese of North Queensland.

Synod:

I was delighted to see many of you over the Synod weekend. Synods are important and as President of the Synod I came away with a very positive feel about life in the Diocese. As I said at the close of Synod, as a Diocese we are still on a steep learning curve. We have learnt from the past and it is important that we wait on God as we seek to move forward. In his sermon on Friday night and his presentation on Saturday afternoon, Mr Wayne Brighton gave us much to think about concerning how we can share and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our day and age. For those who were not at Synod his presentations are on the Diocesan web site.

This year's Synod had a very full business paper. I thank the members of Synod for their co-operation and their contributions to the debate and discussions.

My Presidential Address and PowerPoint presentation relating to the Presidential Address are on the web site as well. There is a four part Stewardship Study attached to the Presidential address. As a Christian Educator, I am conscious that when you write a study you aim for "what you consider the audience to be". Thus, there is an element of hit and miss. I pray the studies are helpful and I welcome any feedback.

As an aside, I was heartened to hear people say they were helped by my last Lenten Book, "The Easter Journey". When I wrote the study my mind was in another direction, but it never ceases to amaze me how God can take what you do and use it in so many ways. I am sure this will be the case with the Stewardship Study.

The Lambeth Conference:

On Tuesday, Robin and I leave for Lambeth. We go to the Diocese of Chester first as a part of the pre Lambeth hospitality programme. I look forward to the visit. I am sure I will learn a great deal. On Sunday 12th I am involved with the ordination of deacons and then preaching at Chester Cathedral on Sunday evening on the topic of "Christianity is a faith shaped by hope". As a Diocese that has "A Future with Hope" as a basis of ministry, I look forward to sharing how we are moving forward in hope and what it means to be a Christian whose faith is one of hope, with the people of Chester.

The Lambeth Conference commences on Wednesday 16th and concludes on the 4th August. Robin is one of the Bible Study leaders at the Spouses Conference.

I will forward an Ad Clerum via my PA Julie, during the Conference and at the conclusion of the Lambeth Conference. I am sure some of the matters discussed will have implications for us as a Diocesan family.

Robin and I will then take leave to early September. I am looking forward to the break. Since becoming Bishop I have learnt a lot and it has also been very busy. I was asked at Synod about taking a day off each week and I thank the Diocese for their concern. I must say I am more than ready for a decent break. I certainly pray I will return to the Diocese refreshed and energised for the next twelve months.

Bishop Michael Putney has asked the people of the Diocese of Townsville to pray for the Lambeth Conference each day.

I assured the Bishop of our prayers for World Youth Day.

The Uniting Church of Australia has sent their regards and assure the Diocese of their prayers.

I have written to both Churches to thank them.

Administrator of the Diocese:

During my absence, Archdeacon Chris Wright will administer the Diocese. His telephone number is (07) 4093 8735. I thank the Archdeacon for his willingness to change his plans to accommodate Lambeth and my holidays.

Forthcoming Ordinations:

Saturday 13 September, 2008:

God willing I propose to ordain The Reverend Elisabeth Daniels a priest and make Mrs Anne St. Martin a deacon in the Church of God, in the Church of St. John's Cairns.

Sunday 21st September 2008:

God willing I propose to ordain The Reverend Patricia Courtenay a priest in the Church of God, in St. Peter's West End.

Saturday 4th October, 2008:

God willing I proposed to make

Ms Annette Woods

Mr Martin Christensen

Mr Craig Kingsley

deacons in the Church of God at the Church of the Good Shepherd Edge Hill Cairns.

I am still waiting to hear from another parish concerning the discernment process of another one of our formation candidates. I have a date pencilled in for an ordination later in the year.

National Deacon's Conference:

Please find attached information in regard to the National Deacons Conference. If any deacon would like to attend please let me know as soon as possible.

Several years ago I was the keynote speaker at this Conference. My topic was, "Deacon as boundary rider". I still think that paper has something to offer and when I return from Lambeth I will forward it to parishes. I pray that as a Diocese we can recapture the ministry of a deacon more fully.

The Reverend Ann Wakeling, the coordinator of the Deacon's conference, is a great distinctive deacon. She is a hospital Chaplain and had connections with my last parish.

Cooktown:

Bishop Hall Matthews has offered himself as Bishop-in-Charge of the Cooktown area. I have accepted Bishop's offer. We assure him of our prayers as he ministers to the good folk of that area.

The Ascension Heatley:

Fr. Clive Brook is the locum of the Parish for the next four weeks. Fr. Clive and Beth then travel overseas and we wish them every blessing. I hope to make an announcement in regard to ministry before I leave.

Vacancies:

Please pray for the following parishes as they seek a priest:

- The Ascension in Townsville.
- St. Albans Innisfail.
- Holy Trinity Mackay.

Upon my return from Lambeth, I plan to send a confidential letter to the clergy of the diocese every two months.

As I have said before, when I am away I undertake a prayer trip around the Diocese each day. You will be very much in my thoughts and prayers.

God bless,

Yours in Christ

+ Bill, N.Q.



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