



Diocese of North  
Queensland



Anglican Church  
of Australia

20<sup>th</sup> July, 2008.

## **AD CLERUM – LAMBETH 2008**

Dear Colleagues in Ministry in N.Q.,

### **Start of Lambeth:**

I write from Kent University where the Lambeth Conference is being held. It started last Thursday. The bishops commenced their time together in a retreat lead by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop provided some very insightful comments. I certainly feel blessed and count myself very fortunate to hear him once again.

The Spouses Conference has been addressing Christian family life.

The daily Bible Studies are based on the Gospel of John. I have found them thought provoking and very relevant. It is good to meet with other bishops and learn of the challenges they face in presenting the Gospel.

To date, the time has been one of meeting many new friends and catching up with the Australian bishops and the bishops that attended the "Puppy School" early this year at Canterbury.

The Opening Eucharist will be held in Canterbury Cathedral later this morning.

The Conference work commences this afternoon with the Archbishop of Canterbury giving a Presidential Address. Please pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury and all involved with the Conference.

### **Cheshire Diocese:**

Prior to the Lambeth Conference Robin and I spent five days in the Diocese of Cheshire. It was a wonderful time. We dined with the Bishop of the Diocese and the Bishops of Melanesia; attended the Chester Plays - an outdoor presentation of the Creation and the birth of Christ; participated in an ordination, as well as preaching in a Parish Church. It is good to hear how people are addressing ministry issues in other places. As a result of our visit I have been encouraged to reflect on how we exercise our ministry within the Diocese of N.Q. I will be returning with a range of possibilities to explore.

### **Canterbury Cathedral:**

I was interested to read that Canterbury Cathedral is hoping to raise £50 million to restore the fabric and promote ministry. At the moment the restoration work involves replacing cement mortar that was used about century ago. They are removing the mortar that has caused damage and replacing it with limed putty, sand and stone dust mortar. This is what the medieval stonemasons used when the Cathedral was built.

So St. James' Cathedral is not the only Cathedral within the Anglican Communion having to address cement mortar issues at this time! I found knowing this some comfort, but it doesn't make our work any cheaper!!

The Dean shared with us that the Mission Statement of the Cathedral is "To make Jesus known". It is biblical, concise and easy to remember. One of the benefits of being here in January is that the Dean is prepared to share with me how the Cathedral congregation lives out the Mission Statement.

**Partner Diocese:**

It has been good to catch up with Bishop Andrew and his assistant Bishop Benjamin from the Diocese of the Arctic.

Both bishops are Eskimos. I had not realised that the Dioceses of the Arctic and North Queensland twinned because of our common focus in terms of indigenous ministry issues. Both Bishop Andrew and I have agreed to renew our partnership and keep exploring issues relating to indigenous ministry. (Some of you may have known this, but it was a new knowledge for me.) After some discussion we acknowledge that our climate varies considerably, but in terms of ministry issues we have much in common. I will keep you informed on this important development.

**Prayers:**

From my point of view the Anglican Communion is delicately poised at this time. I ask for your prayers for the remainder of the Conference as we seek to move forward in our unity with Christ.

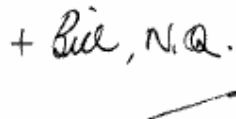
I will forward another Ad Clerum at the close of the Lambeth Conference.

In the meantime be assured of my daily prayers for each clergy person and parish. I said at Synod I usually start at Sarina. I don't know if it is because I am in the Northern Hemisphere, but I have been starting in the Torres Strait the last couple of days and moving south!

The Team from the Diocese of NQ send their love and assure you of our prayers.

One again I thank Archdeacon Wright for his ministry and I assure him of my prayers.

Yours in Christ

+ Bill, N.Q.  


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