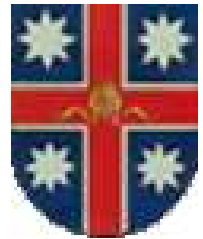




Diocese of North
Queensland



Anglican Church
of Australia

AD CLERUM – SEPTEMBER 2008

18th September, 2008.

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

Thank you:

Robin and I have been overwhelmed by the number of people who have welcomed us home. It is good to be back. Our time at Lambeth was just fabulous and I have certainly come back inspired and challenged. Several people have asked, "What is the one thing that stands out for you?" The message for me is, if we have our mission fully focussed, the ministry falls into place. So often we start with ministry and head towards mission.

As promised I am including a page on an aspect of Lambeth. I will continue to do this for the next ten weeks or so. I hope you find it helpful and if you want further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

We had a wonderful holiday. Our tour of Ireland was fantastic, the time in London was full of new experiences and we certainly enjoyed our travelling and catching up with relatives.

On the way home I was sitting in my seat on the plane and in front of me was a gentleman from Dubai who turned around and asked me, "Are you a Christian?" I was not wearing anything that identified me as a bishop or a Christian. We had a fascinating discussion and we are still in regular SMS contact about certain aspects of the faith. I was reminded that as a Christian I must be open to the unexpected.

Welcome:

On behalf of the Diocese I welcome Ms Maya Reddy as the new Diocesan Accountant. Maya has made an excellent start and we look forward to her contribution the life of the Diocese.

Welcome Back:

Welcome back to the Reverend Trevor Saggars and Sue after their long service leave. It is great to have them back and I pray they not only had a great time but are refreshed for ongoing ministry.

In Trevor's absence the locum was the Reverend Bob Mirrington. There have been many positive comments about Bob's caring and loving ministry. On behalf of the Diocese I thank Bob for his ministry and pray for Bob and Diana as they return home.

Apology:

I was taught that you should not start a letter with an apology. I did say I would forward an Ad Clerum last week. Unfortunately my computer and email have been playing up

and I only came back "on the air" on Tuesday afternoon. There are over 500 emails to read and I am sure many of them will require a response. I pray that I will catch up over this coming weekend.

Cursillo:

I have heard exciting and positive reports about both Cursillos that were held in July. I thank Mr. Guido Poggioli and the team of Mens 11 and Mrs Jacqui Gallo and the team of Womens 11 for their leadership.

I look forward to the Ultreya to be held at St. James Cathedral on Saturday commencing with morning tea at 9.30 a.m. It is my understanding that the Ultreya commences at 10.30. Luncheon arrangements are "bring and share".

Ordinations:

Last Saturday evening Anne St. Martin from St. Peter's Marlin Coast was made deacon and The Reverend Elisabeth Daniels was ordained priest. It was a marvellous act of worship. I was delighted with the number of people who attended and I thank the clergy for their support.

We assure both Elisabeth and Anne of our love and prayers.

This Sunday evening at 6 p.m. I am ordaining Patricia Courtenay to the priesthood. The service is at St. Peter's West End and the liturgical colour is red. We will be celebrating St. Matthew. Please pray not only for Patricia and family, but also for the Parish of St. Peter's West End in Townsville.

On Saturday the 4th October I am ordaining Annette Woods, Craig Kingsley and Martin Christensen as deacons at Good Shepherd Cairns. Please pray for all these people and their families and for the Parish of the Good Shepherd.

Prayers:

As a Diocese we give thanks for the life and ministry of **Mr. Everard Tamakahu (Tama) Thompson**. Tama was a devoted quiet Christian person who served his Lord in various ways including teaching and being a Lay Canon of the Cathedral for many years. There will be a celebration of Tama's life on Saturday at 3.00 p.m.

Please pray for **Fr. Bill Patching** as he gives thanks to God for the life of his dear wife Dot. Dot's funeral was earlier today. Fr. Bill lives at the residential care facility, Carinya, in Atherton.

Since arriving back, I have heard of a number of families within the Diocese who have recently celebrated the earthly life of their loved one. Please be assured of my continuing prayers.

Please continue to pray for Chaplain Joe Bove at this time as he awaits the outcome of his treatment.

Please pray for the Bishop Sebastian Bakare the Bishop of Harare in Zimbabwe. Bishop Sebastian and I were in the same Indaba Group, along with Bishop Godfrey (of Rockhampton) Bishop Doug Stevens (of the Riverina) and Bishop Len Eacott (Bishop to the Defence Forces). While the Australian bishops are safe and secure, Bishop Sebastian's life is in danger. The Magabe regime has made life very difficult for the Bishop and his people. Please keep the people of Zimbabwe in your prayers.

Please pray for the Parishes of Holy Trinity Mackay, The Ascension Townsville, St. Alban's Innisfail, Mossman/Port Douglas as they discern who God is calling to these parishes.

A Discernment Committee will be meeting on Saturday 27th in Townsville. Please pray for the three candidates, their families and those on the panel.


Good Heart:

On Wednesday the monthly Area Deans telephone hook up was held. It was a great delight to hear so many positive comments about ministry within the Diocese. Yes, there are concerns that require addressing, but there are many more blessings. Let us rejoice in the glass that is more than half full and thank the Lord for all his goodness.

Social Justice Sunday:

This year Social Justice Sunday is 28th September. The NCCA have forwarded to the Diocese a publication containing four special stories titled "Faces of Poverty" which you are encouraged to reflect and maybe act upon. These resources will be mailed out to the parishes today.

God Bless

+ Bill, N.Q.


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

Appendix: Report One from Lambeth:

The overall theme of the Lambeth Conference was Equipping Bishops for Mission and strengthening Anglican Identity.

As mentioned in previous Ad Clera, the Bishops commenced with a retreat led by the Archbishop of Canterbury. He was inspirational.

Each day commenced with the Eucharist, followed by breakfast, then Bible Study and Indaba Group. There were eight people to a Bible Study group and then five Bible Study groups joined to become an Indaba group. Indaba is a Zulu word that describes the process of purposeful discussion on the common concerns of shared life. It is a method of engagement where we listen to one another. (As an aside it became easier over the time, and I certainly learnt the importance of listening and seeking a common resolve.) An Indaba acknowledges first and foremost that there are issues that need to be effectively addressed to foster ongoing communal living.

Each week I will share with you some of the issues that we addressed as we listened, shared ideas and came to a consensus.

This week: Mission and Evangelism

As Bishops we discussed and reflected on the agreed five marks of Mission. (You will recall I referred to them in my Presidential Address this year.)

- to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God
- to teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- to respond to human need by loving service
- to seek to transform unjust structures of society; and
- to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the earth

Mission and Evangelism requires:

- ***the making of disciples and assisting people to grow spiritually.*** These two points are mutually exclusive. It is important that we continue to grow in our faith and in our relationship with Christ. It is the role of the Church to bring people to a living faith in Jesus Christ. Evangelism has been described as the cutting edge of mission. We are not all gifted the same way, but we can use the gifts God has blessed us with to bring people to faith.
- ***that we minister to the whole community including the young and old.*** There was much discussion that the Anglican Church in some places has not made the investment of time and energy into assisting young people to grow in faith. Also many of our older people move to other accommodation and are often cut off from the Church after they have left their home. One of the marks of Anglicanism is pastoral care and it is important that we care for all people of all ages.
- ***that Good News of Jesus Christ is addressed to the poor and outcasts and those who are dispossessed and on the fringe.*** This is a real challenge. From my discussions on the plane, I was convinced once again that people are loved

into the kingdom of God and not argued. My friend on the plane wanted me to establish the argument for being Christian, but I had to say Christianity is knowing Christ and living according to the way of Christ.

- ***that the Good News should be proclaimed in all circumstances in the joy of the Lord.*** At Lambeth we heard from Dioceses where people face persecution daily. Others face constant starvation or dispossession. What really struck me was the joy in the Lord that many of the bishops exhibited despite their circumstances. We need to remember the words from Philippians 4, "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice". Christians are joyful people and we are called to share the joy of the Lord.
- ***that proclamation of the Gospel is the proclamation of the whole way of life, a vocation to personal holiness.*** As a society we enjoy the advantages of modern technology. So much so we have become a global village. However, the accompanying social change has led to individualism within many of our Western societies. In Romans 12:2 Paul reminds us: "*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God*".
- ***that the Church is called to be faithful in the exercise of its mission in the context within which it is located with due regard to the culture.*** As bishops we discussed the many differences that exist in various cultures. It was acknowledged that what works in one place may not work in another. Yet, the guiding principle in all mission remains the proclamation of the Gospel. This is the starting point. "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work". (2 Timothy 3:16)