

Healing in a Broken World

□ Bishop Ian leads two-day retreat in Dubbo

From the parish

Through four two-hour sessions over the weekend of 16-18th May 23 people gathered at Holy Trinity Dubbo for a retreat entitled *Healing in a Broken World*.

In the midst of a very demanding life, Bishop Ian and Liz Palmer set aside time to lead pilgrims through a variety of steps to help understand issues of loss and to consider constructive steps along a path towards healing. Such an opportunity for stillness, reflection and sharing was greatly valued by all who took up the opportunity.

The entry point to the reflection was through the symbolism of placing a lighted candle to represent one's sense of the current position of life's journey. Four possibilities were on offer: the green of fertile and pleasant ground of a peaceful journey; the yellow of the dry sands of a harsh and taxing struggle; the blue of the rolling ocean, possibly very pleasant and refreshing, possibly turbulent and disturbing; the purple of a mountain range, possibly affording a wonderful view of things in prospect or possibly representing some challenging barrier ahead.

However, Liz Palmer pointed out that each of these 'localities' can have both positive and negative aspects to them: for example, the desert can be an attractive place to go for quiet, and spending time close to God; or the green can be a place where people take things for granted and exploit the gifts of creation.

Drawing on the research and writings of



UNDERSTANDING: Bishop Ian and Liz Palmer (centre) offered an opportunity for stillness, reflection and sharing in the two-day retreat to lead people into a deeper understanding of loss, grief and healing.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross and others, Bishop Ian mapped the various stages of grief and loss and explained the importance of acknowledging these stages as one experienced them. In particular, he highlighted anger and explained the need to progress through the initial (and sometimes unfocused) anger associated with grief, and move to a 'second anger' which could be a more constructive step on the journey to acceptance and healing.

The weekend workshop also included a contemplative exploration of the various images people might have of God, and how these images can limit our understanding of the nature of God's love for all people.

Dubbo was the second parish to take part in the workshop, with Bishop Ian and Liz having presented it in Kelso during Lent.

Holy Trinity Orange will be hosting a similar weekend retreat in July.

Matt Brain to speak at Diocesan Parish Camp

The Rev'd Dr Matt Brain, guest speaker at the annual Diocesan Parish Camp has chosen the Letter to the Colossians as the basis for his addresses.

Dr Brain, formerly Director of Synergy Youth and Children's Ministry in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn and now serving as Archdeacon for Chaplaincy, Youth, Student and Children's Ministry in the same diocese, will speak on the theme, *Living as the family of faith*.

The camp is being held at Ridgecrest, Burrendong Dam, from Friday evening, August 15 to Sunday afternoon, August 16.

A further feature of this year's Parish Camp will be the involvement of a youth ministry team from Soul Survivor, running programs for youth and children.

The Parish Camp will, as usual, offer a range of activities for all age groups, as well as allowing plenty of time for

fellowship, food and good fun. There will be opportunities for discussion of Matt Brain's talks, as well as encouraging worship, recreation time and a Saturday Night Spectacular: in other words, a great body-building weekend for the Body of Christ!

Registration forms are available from parish clergy or from Narromine priest Phil Howes (ntachurch@bigpond.com or (02) 6889 1046).

The Glory of God is ...

In all of the challenges over the financial situation of the Diocese I am frequently asked, "What is it that keeps you going each day?"

Very simply, I want my life and the life of our Diocese, its churches and people to bring glory to God.

That might sound vague. So what is the glory of God?

A great Christian teacher once put it like this, "The glory of God is a person who is fully alive." We might add, a church or a community that is fully alive; alive and life-giving.

If we think about it, that is what the gospel is about. After all, our Bible begins with God creating and giving life to all of nature, all creatures and all human beings. Then it continues by telling the story of how God redeems a damaged creation and a broken world. God is bringing life back to what is dead or dying; breathing his Spirit into dry bones.

Surely the climax of this is the resurrection of Jesus – God's new creation;

and in the gift of the transforming, life-giving and love-giving Holy Spirit.

Our financial circumstances have sapped energy, made people dis-spirited, wearied clergy and drained motivation from churches and people.

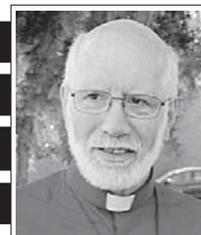
God is bringing life back to what is dead or dying; breathing his Spirit into dry bones.

So I offer two challenges that I hope will lift our vision and inspire us:

The first is to pray this prayer. It is one I'm encouraging people across our Diocese to pray this Pentecost:

"O Holy Spirit renew in our own days your miracles as of a new Pentecost; and grant that your Church, reunited in prayer and more fervent than before,

BY
BISHOP
IAN
PALMER



may extend the Kingdom of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; a kingdom of truth, justice love and peace. Amen."

It is based on a prayer used by Pope John XIII before the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

Secondly, let us ask ourselves this question, "How is our Church serving the community in which we worship?"

Or, more personally: "How am **I** serving my community? How can **I** do it in a life-giving way? How can **I**, how can we, how can our church bring glory to God?"

+ Ian.

... still on pilgrimage

Letters to the Editor

More on Archdeacon Frank's farewell

Dear Sir,

Firstly may I endorse all words of praise and thanksgiving for the ministry of Archdeacon Frank Hetherington (*Anglican e-News*, May).

I would like to comment on the size of Father Frank's farewell on Sunday 27th April. People came, not only from the parish of Holy Trinity but from areas of great distance away in NSW, which is a testimony of affection and gratitude for this devoted priest.

The farewell luncheon was not held in the Holy Trinity Church Hall (capacity of 80) but in the largest function room of the Orange Ex-Services Club. Even this room (capacity of 240) was not large enough, the Club being obliged to fold back doors into an adjacent function room to accommodate nearly 300.

When Father Frank concluded his reply to earlier luncheon speeches, a standing ovation was given, to this great disciple. This ovation said it all.

Earlier that day, the congregation at the service at Holy Trinity Church was tabled at 450. This farewell day for Father Frank is considered to be one of the largest farewells ever given in Orange.

I hope this letter may be published as a tribute to this remarkable priest.

Yours truly,

(Mrs) Kathie Mills

Chairperson

Farewell Luncheon Committee

Extending a welcome

This month, hundreds of Christians around Australia will open their homes and their hearts to refugees and asylum seekers as they participate in *Welcome to My Place* during Refugee Week, 15-21 June.

Welcome to My Place is a new opportunity for Christians to show their hospitality to refugees and asylum seekers by hosting a dinner in their home or church community.

It is hoped that by sharing a meal, Christians and refugees and asylum seekers will be able to share their experiences and cultures and develop new friendships.

Welcome to My Place Coordinator Visier Sanyu said that the initiative allows Christians and churches to be proactive in making refugees and asylum seekers feel included in their communities.

"Many asylum seekers and refugees who come to Australia often experience feelings of loneliness and isolation. Likewise, there are many Australians who would like to be able to reach out to refugees and asylums seekers in their community but are unsure of the best way to do so," Mr Sanyu said.

"Welcome to My Place is a way for Christians to heed Christ's message of reaching out to our fellow man and making them feel welcome," Mr Sanyu said.

One hundred and forty two churches from across Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth will invite refugees and asylum seekers into their church communities for dinner.

CLERGY MOVES & APPOINTMENTS

◆ The Reverend Ian Crooks is serving as Transitional Priest in the Parish of Holy Trinity, Orange.

NSW Governor officially opens Coolah's *Octagon* Auditorium

From Coolah Dunedoo Parish

The St Andrew's Church Coolah Community Cultural Centre Auditorium "The Octagon" was officially opened by the New South Wales State Governor, Her Excellency Professor, the Honourable Marie Bashir; and dedicated by Bishop Ian on Tuesday 6th May, 2014.

Over 200 guests, school children and public gather for the ceremony on a beautiful sunny Coolah day. During the ceremony several students of music teachers who use the cultural centre for classes, entertained the Governor by showcasing some of the talent encouraged at the Cultural Centre.

The Governor took time to greet many people after the opening before making a surprise visit to the Coolah School Kindergarten Class on her way to the Luncheon provided by the school. The Hospitality Students from Coolah Central School prepared, catered and served the finger food lunch for the Governor and guests in the school hall after the opening.



OPENING: Coolah-Dunedoo parish priest Robert Bowman with NSW Governor Marie Bashir at the opening ceremony.

Bridal display at Cathedral's Autumn Fair

❑ Vintage wedding dress display attracts strong interest in community

The congregation of All Saints' Cathedral gathered on Sunday morning (June 1) to give thanks for perfect weather on the weekend.

The annual Autumn Fair the previous day (May 31, the last day of Autumn) had experienced glorious sunshine, with a



AUTUMN FUN: For some of the young folk, a highlight of the last day of Autumn was playing in the leaves under the trees.

very welcome widespread rain developing overnight and Sunday morning.

A feature of the Autumn Fair was an amazing display of wedding gowns, some of which were up to a hundred years old and having been worn by several generations of brides.

It was very much a community event, with many people loaning gowns for the display, with more than 60 dresses on show in the Cathedral's Chapter House. The display also included photos of some of the dresses from the original weddings –including one from Edinburgh in 1948.

Cathedral parishioners Elizabeth Magee and Noline Steel put more than six month planning and preparation for the event, to produce an outstanding exhibition.

A morning tea station in sunshine outside the bell tower provided a play



COMMUNITY SUPPORT: The display of vintage wedding gowns attracted strong support from the Bathurst community.

area for children – but the autumn leaves raked into piles under the trees offered a better attraction for some of the young folk.

Other stalls included cakes, while elephant, craft, books, plants, barbecue, hats, face painting, knitwear for children.

The event attracted strong support from the Bathurst community, with proceeds for the day exceeding of \$5,000.

Anglicare launches Pantry Appeal

Bishop Ian Palmer officially launched Anglicare Western NSW's Pantry Appeal at Anglicare's Sustainable Living Hub in Parkes on Wednesday 4 June.

The demand for emergency food supplies at the Sustainable Living Hub has tripled since the facility opened 12 months ago, and based on the current needs of the local community, Anglicare expects to assist more than 120 people over the next year.

For the first time the Anglicare Pantry Appeal is being run in Parkes to help support the growing demand, with donations of non-perishable items and funds being collected and distributed to families in need.

Anglicare Western Chairperson Sue West said that supporting people in need was a powerful way to pull people out of worsening poverty.

"Many people in our community will struggle with basics like food over winter," said Ms West. "More than 105,000 Australians were homeless on the last census night so we are asking people to dig deep as the weather turns cooler."

"Workplaces and schools are encouraged to participate to make sure people in need don't go without during these bleak times."

Items can be donated at a number of



LAUNCH: Gathered for the launch of the Pantry Appeal in Parkes are Evelyn Trainor (Anglicare's Community Engagement, Fund Raising & Financial Services Manager); Parkes Shire Councillor Ken McGrath; Natalie Quince (Coordinator of the Parkes Sustainable Living Hub); Trevor Capps (Anglicare's General Manager, Community Engagement); Bishop Ian Palmer; Anglicare Western Chair Sue West, Parkes Priest Brett Watterson (photo courtesy Parkes Champion-Post).

collection points in Parkes, and will be distributed to men, women and families in need across the Central West.

"This will be a big help for people who don't have any money left after rent, bills and medical expenses," said

Ms West, adding that energy prices and the cost of living was putting pressure on household budgets which meant that more residents living in the Central West were struggling to make ends meet.

Gulgong author to donate book proceeds to support Endowment of the See

When Rochelle Sutherland from Gulgong Parish heard about the predicament of the Endowment of the See, she volunteered to contribute the profits from the sale of her latest book to support the ministry of the Bishop of Bathurst.

The Endowment is a trust fund which each diocese of the Anglican Church is required to maintain to fund the office and ministry of the bishop of the diocese.

At the annual Synod meeting last year it was revealed that Bathurst Diocese' Endowment was critically under-funded, and was expected to run out of funds altogether by the end of 2015.

Bishop Ian Palmer has said that he was "humbled and thrilled by Rochelle's generosity".

"Rochelle has written other books but this is her first novel," Bishop Ian said. "It is set in one of my favourite parts of England, the Lake District, and it is a delightful story of courage in the face of

adversity. There seems also to be a serendipitous resonance with our situation, as in the story so we in life seek to escape from the mire of debt and engage in a struggle to live with hope and joy."

Writing under the pen name Caroline McCarthy, Rochelle Sutherland describes herself as "a hobbyist author".

She said that her novel, *A Home for Moira*, was a romantic historical fiction "and naturally there is a hero and a happy ending". It is a well-researched and sizeable novel at almost 300 pages, and will be released as a paperback, e-book and talking book.

"I have been a member of this diocese since 1995 and have enjoyed the ministry and support of past and current clergy," Rochelle said. "I would like to give something back. I intend, with the support of the diocese, to release this book and others in the future through the churches. Aside from printing costs, all funds will go to the Endowment of the See."

She has distributed flyers to cooperating parishes throughout the diocese, to raise interest in the concept and hopefully to secure some pre-orders for the book.

Rochelle said she was also hopeful that some parishes would be interested in hosting "a book signing, an afternoon tea or some other function to join in what should be a lot of fun".

"Although the release is through the churches, the book will be widely available in Australia and additional orders may be placed at my website houseof-hadrian.com.au/press," she added. "I am hopeful that this endeavour will create a buzz and excitement in the diocese, and a reason for fun and fellowship."

Bishop Ian has expressed his gratitude to Rochelle, and has encouraged parishes to take up her offer to come to promote her book in their church and community: "Think of a good place where she can promote it – and if I am able to join you and her on these occasions I will."