

Orange farewells Frank & Marilyn Hetherington

□ A 'son of the diocese' retires from parish ministry after almost 40 years of service

Archdeacon Frank Hetherington has said he and his wife Marilyn were both deeply humbled by the farewell luncheon in their honour at Holy Trinity Church Hall on Sunday, April 27.

The event, on the occasion of Frank's retirement as rector of Orange parish, saw almost 200 people gather to acknowledge his ministry in the parish over the past 14 years and also his contribution to the life of the diocese over almost 40 years of ordained ministry.

An even larger congregation attended worship in Holy Trinity Church before the lunch, for Frank's final service as Rector of the parish.

Commenting on the warmth of the tributes and expressions of support at the farewell, Bishop Ian Palmer said it was "so clear that Frank and Marilyn Hetherington have touched the lives of many through prayer and compassion".

The Bishop also expressed his appreciation to Frank, for his willingness to continue in his role as Diocesan Archdeacon.

Frank Hetherington said he and Marilyn had been "overwhelmed by the occasion", and also by the kind words of those who had spoken at the lunch.

"I'm deeply grateful to God for the enormous privilege of ministry over the years," he added. "It has been an extraordinary privilege."

His retirement has come just seven months short of the 40th anniversary of his ordination as a deacon, in St George's Church, Parkes, in December 1974. He was ordained as a priest in All Saints' Cathedral a year later.

A 'son of the Diocese', Frank grew up in Orange and worked as a clerk with the Orange City Council before training for ordination at St John's College, Morpeth. He has served his entire ordained ministry in this diocese.

After serving as a curate in the Cathedral parish and then Blayney parish, Frank was inducted as rector of Coonamble in 1980. He subsequently served as rector of Narromine (1984-89) and Parkes (1989-99) before moving to Holy Trinity, Orange.

He was Archdeacon of Wylde (incorporating the parishes in the Parkes region) from 1992-99; then Archdeacon of Camidge (the region surrounding Orange) from 1999-2001. With the change from regional archdeaconries to Regional Ministry Councils, Frank was appointed Regional Ministry Coordinator for the Tablelands Region from 2001-06. He



HONOURED: Frank and Marilyn Hetherington cut the cake at the farewell lunch held in their honour on the occasion of his retirement as rector of Holy Trinity Parish in Orange. Archdeacon Frank has served for almost 40 years in ordained ministry in Bathurst Diocese, and will continue in his role as Diocesan Archdeacon.

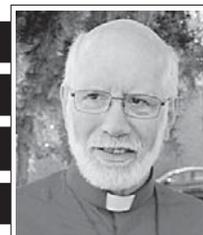
has served as Diocesan Archdeacon since August 2012.

Frank and Marilyn are currently having a house built in Orange, where they plan to spend their retirement. They have three adult children (two of them living in the Orange area) and four grandchildren.

He is also continuing his training as a Professional Supervisor, through Charles Sturt University.

A Pastoral Letter to clergy and parishes

FROM
BISHOP
IAN
PALMER



Dear Companions on the Way,
Greetings as we celebrate this Easter season and the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us rejoice in the hope that we and the whole of creation have in him.

I have been reading the Encyclical of Pope Francis *Evangelic Gaudium* "The Joy of the Gospel" published last November. He writes with passion! Let me quote three of the many passages that I have found inspiring. (It can be accessed on-line or bought as a book or on Kindle.)

"The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew.

I dream of a "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation.

"The bishop must always foster this, missionary communion in his diocesan Church, following the ideal of the first Christian communities, in which the believers were of one heart and one soul (cf. Acts 4-32). To do so, he will sometimes go before his people, pointing the way and keeping their hope vibrant. At other times, he will simply be in their midst with his unassuming and merciful presence. At yet other times, he will have to walk after them, helping those who lag behind and - above all - allowing the flock to strike out on new paths".

This might seem far removed from the financial situation of our Diocese, but not so really. It is our calling to be faithful and to keep up a mission-orientated ministry through this testing time. It is my privilege, under God, to give leadership in the Diocese.

Diocesan financial situation

Here is something of what is happening.

The business of the debt to the

CBA came before the Supreme Court of NSW for a Directions Hearing on Friday 11th April 2014. I attended along with our lawyers.

There are two summonses in which the present Bishop, the present members of the Bishop-in-Council (BiC) and the Anglican Property Trust (APT) are the Defendants and the ADF Receivers/Managers are the Plaintiffs in the first summons and CBA in the second summons. The Plaintiffs are seeking orders from the Court that the Defendants promote an Ordinance that instructs the APT to apply trust monies and sell properties within the Diocese, including Parish property held on trust, to a value that will discharge the debt (the CBA says about \$25 million). One of the issues to be determined in the proceedings is whether Charitable Trust Assets are capable of being sold to repay the CBA.

The main outcomes of the Hearing on 11th April 2014 are that at the end of May we will be applying to the court for Judicial Advice as to whether we can use Trust Assets to defend the Trusts and then we will be back in court in mid-June for another Directions Hearing.

Knowing that this first Hearing in court was pending, a meeting of the Bishop-in-Council and our lawyers was held on Wednesday 9th April. At that meeting BiC agreed that we would defend the proceedings taken against us and in order to do this BiC approved the use of funds in the Synod Management Fund Reserve and noted that the Judicial Advice (referred to above) will include seeking consent for these funds to be reimbursed from Trust Assets.

There is a third summons brought by the ADF Receivers/Managers and this relates to a damages claim against the Ninth Bishop of Bathurst and some former Board members of the ADF (again for some \$25 million). Our Insurers are defending this action at the moment. It too will come before the Supreme Court in mid-June. All these matters are inter-related and we will continue to support each other practically and in our prayers.

On your behalf the BiC has given very careful consideration to all its

options. On two occasions we have had full-day meetings with our lawyers, and we believe we have taken the wisest course of action to defend the Trust Assets of the Parishes and Diocese. We have done this in the full knowledge that it will be costly to us all if we receive Judicial Advice that we can use Trust assets to defend the Trusts. However, the alternative is not to defend and to accept the orders that the CBA and ADF Receivers/managers are seeking. That will mean the end of our Diocese as we know it and/or a personal liability for every member of the BiC.

Please continue to pray for the mission and ministry of our Church and for God's leading and guiding in all that we do.

May God's grace and peace be with you,

+ Ian.

The Rt Rev'd Ian Palmer
Bishop of Bathurst

...still on pilgrimage...

CLERGY MOVES & APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **The Reverend Frank Hetherington** has retired as Rector of Holy Trinity, Orange, as of Sunday April 27. He will continue in his role as Diocesan Archdeacon.
- ◆ **The Reverend Jonno Williams** was commissioned as Priest in Charge of Eugowra on Sunday May 4. His new responsibilities are in addition to his previous role as Priest in Charge of the joint Anglican-Uniting Church congregation in Canowindra.

Building a digital bridge across the generation gap

□ School Chaplain urges MU members to get connected

At a recent meeting of the Bathurst Chapter of MU, Macquarie Anglican Grammar School Chaplain Nick Hurford spoke on the topic, *How do we encourage Christian journeys?*

He told the gathering that women could have a considerable sphere of influence, and could be powerful role models for younger generations. In this, they could be like the great matriarchs of the Bible.

He urged his audience to “get involved in the digital worlds of their immediate families and friends,” and referred specifically to so-called “smart-phones” through which they could use text messages and Facebook to “walk with and encourage the people in their sphere of influence”.

Nick Hurford said that an online presence “enables us to be salt and light to the people in our lives via a medium that can often have an absence of positive Christian influences”.

He said that our Diocese would in the not-too-distant future make greater use of digital networking to bring the extended body of Christ together in community via digital means.

“This is an adjunct to the irreplaceable



TECH SUPPORT: *Macquarie Anglican Grammar School Chaplain Nick Hurford told members of the Bathurst MU Chapter that digital technology could enable them to “walk with and encourage the people in their spheres of influence”.*

nature of church: meeting together in person to worship,” he added.

He cited St Paul in 1 Corinthians, who wrote of being “all things to all men”, and encouraged the MU members to get

involved in the world of those nearest to them, “reaching out to them in order that our love and our interest in them reveals the love of Christ”.

A wonderful winter of worship in the west!

From the church in Peak Hill

How’s that for alliteration?!

This winter we have decided to do something a little bit bold and adventurous, due to many requests to expand the Sunday afternoon praise times we have held in Saint Stephen’s each year – last year it was “Songs of Praise” in August and “Singing the Psalms” in November with Bishop Ian.

As well, Evensong (though said) drew quite an enthusiastic crowd at the Parkes Museum in July last year, it probably being the catalyst for what we are about to do.

What is planned this year is that there will be “something” on at 3pm on the first Sunday of each month from June through to September. The timing will allow folk to have lunch at home, a pleasant drive in the country, attend the service, enjoy a cuppa and return home before dark - that’s the plan!

On three of the Sundays a choral group will lead us in Evensong (BCP 1662) a service that most of us haven’t attended since the mid 60’s.

It will be great to briefly return to the beautiful language of the old prayer book undergirded by the rich congregational music that made it such a land mark of Anglican worship for centuries. The other Sunday will be more about praising God in the hymns and songs that are now treasured by so many!

With Stephen Lindsay at the organ and Ros Bell conducting on each occasion, the congregation are in for a brilliant time of worship!

The “menu” for our Winter Worship looks like:

1st June	Evensong
6th July	Evensong
3rd August	“Songs of Praise”
7th September	Evensong

Do you want fries with that?!

If you would care for any more details, do feel free to contact Fr Graeme 6869 1775

Franciscan Regional Minister visits Bathurst

By Lorraine Clarkson

The Franciscan Regional Minister for NSW B, Fr John Gibson, visited Bathurst recently.

At the Eucharist we celebrated Day of Penitence and Fr John said in his homily that “the Day of Penitence is a day set aside to be offered to God in penitence for sin and for the healing work of reconciliation throughout the world . We observe this day, not as an opportunity to wallow around and feel sorry for ourselves, and beat our breasts, but rather so that we might have life, and have it in all fullness.”

He went on to quote Susan Pitchford in her book *Following Francis -The Franciscan Way for Everyone*. In the chapter *Penitence: Show me Your Scars*, Susan, drew the analogy of life like a piece of ground.

If we want to grow something we make sure it has plenty of dirt, add manure and then stir it up and turn it over. It can be a messy business, but it is into the places that are broken open that we place the seed - the seed that will produce new life. She went on to emphasise God’s ability to make use of our brokenness, to redeem our hurts and failures and to use them to shape us into the people he always meant us to be.

Fr John retold the famous story of Br Francis confronting the bloodthirsty wolf which had been terrorising the people of Gubbio. As the wolf lunged at him

Francis called the wolf “Brother Wolf” and commanded it not to harm anyone. A deal was proposed and reconciliation between the villagers and the wolf was agreed upon where the villagers would provide food for the wolf for the rest of its life and all would live in peace together.

John went on to say that it is into the wounds that we bear that God can plant the seed of hope, of healing and reconciliation.

At the end of the service he blessed the San Damiano Cross generously sent by Sue Chapman Melbourne after she read about the fire which destroyed St Barnabas Church South Bathurst. In her card Sue wrote of how the San Damiano Cross spoke so powerfully to Francis and that we, as a group, may have it where ever we meet this year.

It also reminds us of the prayers and messages of support sent by so many of our brothers and sisters around Australia. For the interest of all Franciscans, most



BLESSING: Franciscan Regional Minister John Gibson and Bathurst Area Convenor Lorraine Clarkson with the San Damiano cross.

of the burnt rubble at St Barnabas has been cleared away, some walls have support structures along side them and plans are underway for rebuilding. While the exterior has to fit the heritage style it was first built in, the interior will be different.

The evening finished in The Abbott Room at All Saints Cathedral with a “hearty bowl” of soup and Fr John answering questions and sharing the plans so far for the General Chapter which will take place in Canberra next year.

Lorraine Clarkson serves as Area Convenor, Bathurst.



Cursillo notes

Diocesan Ultreya

The Diocesan Cursillo Movement will be holding a Diocesan Ultreya at St Barnabas’ Church Hall, Orange East, on Saturday June 21.

‘Ultreya’ is a Spanish word of encouragement, used by pilgrims walking the Camino de Santiago (Way of St James) in northern Spain. It has been adopted by the Cursillo movement to refer to gatherings that encourage Christians in their faith journey.

The St Barnabas’ Ultreya will gather at 10:00 am for a 10:30 start and will

include praise and worship in singing, a witness talk followed by a spiritual reflection, time for fellowship and discussion in small groups, and a bring-and-share lunch.

30th Anniversary

As mentioned in last month’s *Anglican e-News*, the Cursillo Movement is planning a celebratory weekend gathering from May 1-3 next year, to mark the 30th anniversary of the first Cursillo retreat in Bathurst Diocese.

To help mark this anniversary, the Diocesan Cursillo Secretariat is planning



ELIZABETH

SMITH

DIOCESAN

CURSILLO

LAY DIRECTOR

to produce a booklet of testimonies or stories from people who have had a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ, either through their Cursillo experience or in some other way.

Please note that this is not just for those who have attended a Cursillo retreat; all Christians have a story to tell, and this is an opportunity to tell your story as an encouragement to others.

Contributions for the booklet should be submitted by November of this year.