

Anglicans and Catholics meet for Covenant Day

The biennial Covenant meeting of Catholic and Anglican clergy in the Diocese of Bathurst on Thursday June 19 saw more than 50 people gather in Wellington for a day of sharing, worship and fellowship.

Lay leaders were also invited to take part in the gathering, which convened in the hall of the Catholic Primary School, where both the Anglican Bishop of Bathurst, Ian Palmer, and his Catholic counterpart Bishop Michael McKenna said a few words of welcome.

Chair of the Uniting Church Presbytery of Macquarie Darling, Graeme MacRaidl, was a special guest for the occasion and addressed the gathering over lunch.

At 11:00am the group walked across the street to the Anglican Church of St John the Baptist, for a combined service of worship. A feature of this service was a declaration of unity, with the congregation saying: "We recognise that the One who unites us is stronger than those matters that divide us."

Then, following the lead of Bishops Michael and Ian and Graeme MacRaidl, those present walked forward in pairs for a symbolic dedication to the unity that Christ had prayed for. Each was invited to dip a finger into a bowl of water, and then make the sign of the cross on the forehead of their partner.

During the pre-lunch session Dean of the Anglican Cathedral in Bathurst, Anne Wentzel, read a paper entitled *Liturgical Renewal: Presence*, prepared by Canon Colleen O'Reilly, Associate Dean and Director of Ministry Studies at Melbourne College of Divinity.

The paper discussed Anglican understandings of the presence of Christ in the Eucharistic elements, acknowledging that "Christ's presence in the Eucharist was a hot button issue of reformation times, and resurfaces readily whenever Anglicans of differing theological traditions meet".

"Despite the significant statement of agreement on the Eucharist, prayerfully, carefully and skilfully crafted by the Anglican - Roman Catholic International Commission, and adopted by the bishops in conference at Lambeth as an expression



UNITY: (above) Bishop Ian, Uniting Church Presbytery Chair Graeme MacRaidl and Bishop Michael take part in a symbolic dedication marking the unity they all share.

PRESENTATION: (right) Dean Anne Wentzel presents a paper by Melbourne Anglican theologian Dr Colleen O'Reilly.



(emphasis mine) of our theology, we Anglicans continue to dispute amongst ourselves the nature of Christ's presence in sacramental form," she stated.

She also touched on the question of gender, stating that her experience had shown her that it was "powerfully important that women as well as men enact

symbolic roles in liturgy".

In reply, Catholic priest Dr David Orr, Senior Consultant to the National Liturgy Committee of the Catholic Church, presented an overview of the changes in liturgical worship in his denomination in the 50 years since Vatican II.

(continued on page 2)

110 years of worship at St Matthew's, Woodstock

From the parish

A lovely gathering of worshippers attended the Eucharist service on Saturday May 31 to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of St Matthew's Anglican Church in Woodstock, in 1904.

The stone was laid by Mrs H Glasson Parish priest Jonno Williams presided at the evening anniversary service, assisted by Mrs Tess Ball who led the congregation in special prayers for the occasion, as

well as one of the Bible readings. The other reading was done by Mrs Heather Drady, and the organist for the service was Mrs Val Kennedy.

The local congregation was supported by visitors from Cowra and Canowindra.

After the service the congregation adjourned to Woodstock's Royal Hotel for a sumptuous Saturday roast followed by sweets, with the open fire in the dining area creating a very welcoming atmosphere.



Anglican/Catholic Covenant Day

(continued from page 1)

He showed that Catholic liturgy had moved from a cleric-centric performance in which the congregation was simply an audience with no engagement in the celebration of the Eucharist, to the much more participatory worship of today.

Dr Orr also pointed to a broader understanding of the doctrine of Transubstantiation, quoting the words of the Eucharistic prayer which offered two invitations to the Holy Spirit. He said that when the elements were placed on the altar, the prayer asked that "they become the body and blood of Christ".

"Our second invitation is, 'May we who eat these gifts of bread and wine become the Body of Christ,'" he said, noting that while Catholics were "very powerful" about transubstantiation of the bread and wine, they usually totally forget the transubstantiation of

the people.

"As someone said, it's much easier to believe in transubstantiation of bread and wine than the transubstantiation of a community!"

Dr Orr said the Catholic Church still had a problem in that there was a sense that the priest still "did it all", and this was an ongoing issue in clergy formation. He had been asked not to teach at the seminary because he did not agree that liturgy should only be done by the clergy, but rather was the "work of the people of God".

We as presiders have to be careful that we don't make our preaching, our presiding the focus of what's happening," he said. "We actually are empowered to minister participation from the people of God."

CLERGY MOVES & APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **The Reverend Geoffrey McAuliffe** was commissioned as a Bishop's Priest in the Parish of Forbes on Saturday 5th July at 4pm. Fr Geoffrey has served in Riverina Diocese and most recently has led a healing ministry.
- ◆ **The Reverend Dr David Craig** has been appointed as the Locum and Transitional Priest in the Parish of Mudgee from 1st June for an indefinite period.
- ◆ **The Reverend Brian Schmalkuche** is taking on some ministry at Condobolin. He is assisted by the LLMs in the Parish and when necessary by other priests in the region.
- ◆ **The Reverend James Hodson** has been given some of the responsibilities for ministry development in the Diocese, especially with reference to those discerning and preparing for ordination.
- ◆ **Mrs Ellen Sharp**, the Bishop's Registrar, has written to say that she is to take twelve months Maternity Leave. This means that she will not be returning until February 2015. We continue to wish her and little Katie well. Mr Graham Higham will continue as Acting Registrar.

Diocesan Meeting

The Anglican Property Trust has received Judicial Advice that we can use some of our Trust Assets to defend the Trust Assets of the Diocese in the action that the ADF Receivers/Managers and the CBA have taken out against us.

In order to keep the Diocese informed Bishop Ian Palmer has called a meeting on

**Saturday 19th July starting
at 10am (Coffee from 9.30am)
at St Barnabas Church
Orange.**

Please make it a priority to attend: your parish and people will be affected and the diocesan leadership wants to keep you informed.

Bishop Ian has particularly invited all Active Clergy, Members of our Diocesan Synod, LLMs, Treasurers and Wardens – but all worshipping Anglicans will be welcome. Please be in prayer about this – it is a very important meeting and more information will be going out about it in the coming days.

Refugee and Migrant Sunday

Paul Bottrill, Executive Officer of the House of Welcome in Carramar in Sydney's Western Suburbs, has told a gathering in Bathurst that the Australian Government has "implemented policies that are inhuman to discourage people from coming" to this country.

The occasion was Refugee and Migrant Sunday, June 22, when a congregation of about 50 gathered in the Catholic Parish Centre in Bathurst on Sunday afternoon.

The House of Welcome works towards enabling a society in which there is full recognition of the dignity, equality, human rights and humanity of all people living in the community no matter their age, gender, sexuality, nationality or religious affiliation, and no matter how they came to be in Australia. It seeks to welcome, shelter, and empower asylum seekers and refugees.

A former missionary, Paul Bottrill has lived and worked throughout Asia and Africa for 23 years. As well as developing and overseeing programs serving at-risk youth, sex workers, people living with HIV/AIDS and various ethnic minority groups, he has pastored both English and Chinese speaking churches in Hong Kong and Australia.

The Refugee and Migrant Sunday congregation included members of several Christian churches in Bathurst as well as recent immigrants, some of whom are being cared for by the Bathurst Refugee Support Group.

Acknowledging that he was probably "preaching to the converted", Paul Bottrill told the congregation that current Government policies were "at odds with our historic record" of providing a welcome for refugees from all parts of the world.

He said that in the period following the Vietnam War there was bi-partisan political support for policies which saw 200,000 refugees come to Australia.

"Now, both parties have similar anti-refugee policies," he stated.

He said deliberate delays in the processing of refugee applications meant there were now over 8,000 people waiting for a decision on their application, and a further 20,000 who had not even had a chance to start the application process.

"The Government is hoping they will get sick of waiting and just go back home," he said.

Paul said the Old Testament story of Ruth, which was presented during the service as a dramatized reading, offered some guidance for a Christian response to the present situation. It tells of how Boaz, in response to having a foreigner turn up



CHALLENGES: Paul Bottrill, Executive Officer of the House of Welcome in Carramar, told the Refugee and Migrant Sunday congregation of the challenges facing those attempting to find refuge in Australia.

in his community, went beyond the requirement of the law to make her welcome.

Furthermore, in Matthew 25: 31-46 Jesus gives clear teaching on two different ways of living, both of which have consequences. In effect, Jesus says 'Do unto others as if they were me.'

"I fail to see how any person who calls themselves a follower of Christ can support our Government's policies," Paul said.

He concluded with a quotation attributed to 18th Century Irish political philosopher Edmund Burke: "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good men (and women) to do nothing."

One down, three to go for Peak Hill

From the parish

The "Wonderful Winter of Worship in the West" in St Stephen's, Peak Hill, was off to a great start with the first Evensong sung in our Parish for many a year on June 1st.

The settings used for the congregational singing of the service were those with which we had all become so familiar over generations long gone. The choral group, under the direction of Ros Bell, gave a great lead, particularly with their rendition of the anthem, *I Vow to Thee, my Country*.

This made such an impact,

particularly on younger folk (like under 30!) that copies of the music were requested afterwards. With Stephen Lindsay at the organ console, the hymns of the day just about raised the roof! Surprisingly, several members of the congregation had never experienced Evensong sung before. After the service they commented that it had transcended them to wonderful heights of worship that they certainly hadn't expected - and that makes all the effort worth it!

Instead of trooping over to the cold hall afterwards, we all enjoyed afternoon

tea in the cosy warmth at the back of the Church with everyone staying - it was a joyous time of fellowship all round!

And, yes, there are three days remaining in the series of worship. Evensong will be sung at 3pm on the first Sunday of July and September (6th and 7th respectively) with the first Sunday in August (3rd) being reserved for our fantastic "Songs of Praise" (before you ask, no, the BBC will not be in attendance!).

If you missed out last time, do make sure you catch at least one of the remaining times of winter evensong worship.

Roffe-Silvester Trust disbursements

The Trustees of the Roffe-Silvester Trust have allocated two grants toward the ministry of the Company of the Good Shepherd.

The Trust was established following a bequest of £5000 from the Reverend Charles Geoffrey Roffe-Silvester in 1912.

The declaration of the Trust was “to provide for the development of the religious community life of the Church of England in the Diocese of Bathurst served by the Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd.”

Both grants were given on the basis that the recipients would carry out some or all of their work in areas that the Brotherhood worked in the Diocese of Bathurst.

Archdeacon Frank Hetherington was granted \$4000 to cover the cost of the education he is undertaking as Diocesan Archdeacon, given that his position will involve ministry in Brotherhood areas.

Deacon Daryl McCullough of Dubbo received \$3000 towards his education fees and his trip to the Holy Land (required as part of his course). After ordination as a priest Darryl hopes to serve in the north-west of the diocese.

Under the terms of the Trust,



PRESENTATION: Trustees Austin Jupp and Earl White present Darryl McCullough with a cheque to help cover his ministry training costs.

disbursements can only be made from interest earned; the principal of the Trust must be maintained.

Richard Hurford, Father Grahame Yager (as Principal of the CGS), Earle White and Austin Jupp.

Trustees at present are Bishop

John Clarkson's 60th anniversary of Deaconing

Fr John Clarkson celebrated at the 10am Service on Friday 13th June to mark 60 years since he was made a Deacon in the Church of God in St Alban's Abbey, St Albans UK.

At the service he spoke about St Alban, a Roman Soldier who was converted to Christianity and was the first martyr in Britain when he refused to offer incense to the Roman gods.

He then went on to explain that the role of a Deacon is to be a servant and that today the “towel ministry” which we celebrate on Maundy Thursday is really the ministry of all baptised and that we should be serving the poor, rejected and marginalised in our community.

He told the story of St Antony of Padua, who became a Franciscan Friar after the martyrdom of Franciscan Brothers in Morocco in the early 13th Century.

“As a member of the Third Order or St Francis, I live by a Rule of Life which, like a trellis for a rambling rose, upholds me in all my life. I live simply, prayerfully and try to serve those less fortunate than myself.”



CONGRATULATIONS: The congregation at the Cathedral's 10:00 am service on Friday June 13 joined in congratulating John Clarkson.

He finished by reminding us that unbelievers are always watching us and that it is important not to live a double

life. As Gandhi said, “I would become a Christian if Christians were more like Jesus Christ.”