

# Linking diocesan family

## □ Diocesan Parish Camp builds connections between parishes and families

The annual Diocesan parish camp at Ridgecrest, Burrendong Dam, continues to grow, with this year's event attracting over 70 registering for the weekend, with others joining in just for the Saturday's activities.

Narromine Priest Phil Howes, who has been involved in the organisation of the camp for each of the past four years, said that in total 100 people took part in the activities on the weekend of August 15-17.

Guest speaker for the camp, Archdeacon Matt Brain from Canberra-Goulburn Diocese, presented a lively series of three studies on St Paul's Letter to the Colossians, and provided opportunities for group discussions to help people apply the studies to their own everyday lives.

The Colossians reading also tells us that Christ is in charge in difficult situations, and on the Sunday morning Matt Brain asked the groups to consider ways in which this truth might apply to situations in their own parishes.

A team of young leaders from Soul Survivor in Sydney provided a program for the children during the morning sessions. However the emphasis of the weekend, as has become the tradition of the camp, was on family-focussed fun: several hours of free time in the afternoon provided opportunities for families to do something together, whether it was to play outdoor games, walk



**SPEAKER:** (above) Archdeacon Matt Brain presented a series of studies on the letter to the Colossians, linking the words of St Paul to contemporary life situations.

down to the wall of the dam or take a drive to the arboretum.

The evenings also included family-focussed games and activities, with Dubbo couple Nick and Rachel Hurford providing some very entertaining challenges for all ages.

Nick Hurford also teamed with Jay Quince from Parkes to provide the music for worship times over the weekend.

Bishop Ian Palmer joined the camp after lunch on Saturday, after attending the consecration of Rob Gillion as the tenth Bishop of Riverina in Griffith Cathedral the previous evening. In an impromptu conversation with about 15 people in the lounge area after dinner that evening, there was a question and answer session with the Bishop.

As well as referring to his conversation with the Archbishop of Canterbury (*see page 3*) The conversation covered a range of topics, including the need for the church to adapt and change to meet the requirements of the region in the 21st century.

An unfortunate glitch in programming, however, meant that Bishop Ian's conversation time had to compete with



**GROWTH:** Phil Howes, who has been part of the organising team for all four parish camps held in recent years, said he has been encouraged to see support for the event continue to grow each year.

the first round of the Bledisloe Cup, which presented some campers with a difficult choice.

The camp culminated in a celebration of Holy Communion before lunch on Sunday morning.

Over the four years it has been held, the annual event has formed strong connections between people from quite a few parishes in the central west - particularly young families.

Anglican

e-News

A newsletter for the western NSW  
Anglican Diocese of Bathurst

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**Disclaimer:**

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Anglican Diocese of Bathurst.

# Call to prayer and fasting for Synod

In preparation for the annual meeting of Synod the 'parliament of the Diocese) on the weekend of September 19-21, I would like to call on people across the Diocese to pray for the Synod.

First of all I want to thank people for the very generous way they are responding to the very difficult financial situation that we face.

People will realise that it will be a very difficult time for Synod, because we will need to grapple with some very significant issues which will include how we do ministry in our diocese with fewer resources and in a difficult financial climate. I shall be calling upon people at Synod to trust the grace of God and to look for ways in which we as churches, parishes and Christian fellowships can serve the communities in which we are placed.

So as part of our preparation for Synod, I want to call the people of the diocese to fasting and prayer.

My inclination is not to set specific days for this prayer and fasting, but to call people in general to work it into their own timetable, and for clergy where possible to open up churches and allow people to pray there. They might choose to have a dedicated day in their own parish to pray together.

Fasting has at least three purposes: firstly it is to carve out time in order to pray; secondly it is to be disciplined in putting aside those things which get in the way of our listening to and speaking with our Lord; and thirdly it is a way of identifying with the hardships and persecution that so many Christians are experiencing at this time.

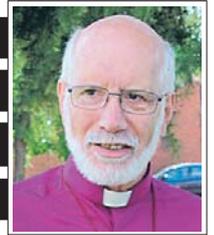
So fasting can be fasting from food,

but it can also be fasting from other things - we might choose to refrain from social media, or from playing games or doing crosswords in order to be able to devote time to prayer; it could mean making a simpler meal, in order that the time saved could be given to reading the Scriptures and to praying.

I encourage you to choose a fast that will be meaningful and appropriate for you.

Fasting is not a chore; it is an act of love and devotion to our Lord. It's not something we do to make ourselves feel better, it is an offering of gratitude that we

BY  
BISHOP  
IAN  
PALMER



give to God so that we can more readily appreciate his gifts. Those things we are refraining from doing in order to pray are not bad things, but we are refraining from them in order to express our love for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

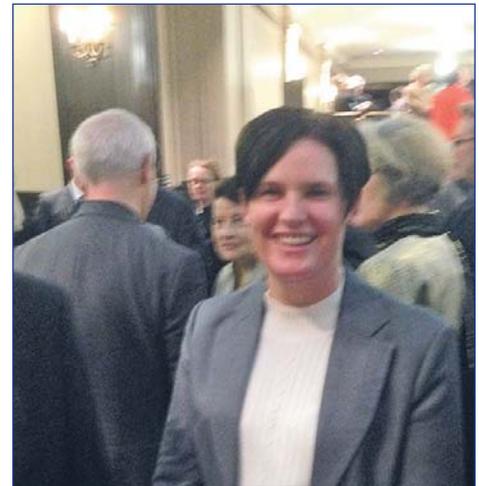
## Resignation of Registrar

Ellen Sharp has resigned from her position as Bishop's Registrar, with effect from August 29.

Ellen has served as Registrar since Archdeacon Robert Howell's sudden and tragic death in August 2012, having been Deputy Registrar for the preceding six months. Prior to that she had been involved with Diocesan Administrative Services (DAS), and had also been Projects Officer at Orange Anglican Grammar School.

Bishop Ian Palmer thanked Ellen for serving the Diocese "with a great deal of distinction and care".

"She has behaved very courageously and faithfully through extraordinarily difficult times, with a very deep professionalism, and we wish her well in her new position as Executive Officer to St Vincent de Paul in this region and based in Orange," he added.



**PROFESSIONALISM:** Bishop Ian Palmer has praised Ellen Sharp on the professionalism she has brought to her role as Registrar.

### CLERGY MOVES & APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **The Reverend Brett Watterson** has been appointed Regional Ministry Coordinator for the Slopes Region, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Canon Craig Moody, who has accepted a position in the Diocese of Brisbane.
- ◆ **The Reverend James Hodson** has been appointed part-time Ministry Development Officer.
- ◆ **The Reverends Brett Watterson and James Hodson** are to be made Canons of All Saints' Cathedral during the Synod Eucharist in the Cathedral on Friday evening, September 9, commencing at 6:30. The preacher at the service will be the Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Glenn Davies, who will be making his first official visit to the diocese in his capacity as Metropolitan. Bishop Ian has stressed that the service will be open to all, and not restricted to members of Synod.

Likewise, Bishop Ian has said that anyone wanting to hear the Presidential Address to Synod is welcome to attend when Synod resumes at Bathurst Goldfields at 8:45 am Saturday.

# Inauguration of new Primate

## □ Ceremony provides opportunity for national bishops to meet with Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Melbourne, Philip Freier, was formally inaugurated as Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia in a service in Melbourne Cathedral on August 13.

The Inauguration was conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, during his first visit to Australia since his election.

Dr Freier, 59, has been Archbishop of the Melbourne diocese since December 2006. Prior to that he had served as Bishop of the Northern Territory for six years.

He was elected as Primate prior to the meeting of General Synod in Adelaide in July, and took over the responsibilities of the role from outgoing Primate Dr Philip Aspinall at the end of the synod.

In his sermon at the Choral Evening Prayer Archbishop Welby said that a pure church was deeply engaged with everything and everyone around it, "freed by its relationship with Christ to transform its society and make disciples".

"Holiness and proclaiming the gospel of salvation are entwined," he said.

"There is no greater adventure than to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, and no greater means to that adventure than to be part of His church as it finds afresh His call, to be a church freed for purity and good deeds, abounding in the luxuriant and gracious wisdom from above. There is no greater hope for this war-torn, bitter and dark world than a church abounding in holiness and wisdom."

### Meeting with Bishops

Bishop Ian Palmer has said that it was a privilege to be in Melbourne for the Inauguration service.

Reporting to a meeting of Bishop in Council on August 20, he said that prior to the service the bishops of the



**CONGRATULATIONS:** Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby leads the congregation in applause following the inauguration of Archbishop Philip Freier (foreground) as Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia.

Australian church met with the Archbishop of Canterbury, when he fielded questions on a range of topics.

The Archbishop told the Australian bishops that the main issue facing the Anglican Communion was Islam, but added that there was a variety of different expressions of Islam: in some places Christians were being persecuted, while in others there was respectful dialogue.

He pointed also to the place of Anglicans in the world and indicated that we

continue to have a gift of bridge-building. He said that a ministry of reconciliation would be a core value for his time in Canterbury.

Archbishop Welby pointed out that the federal and collegial character of Australian Anglicanism provided a good model for the rest of the Communion with the strong collegial bonds between Bishops and within Dioceses despite differences in theology and practice.

"It seemed clear to me though, that the Archbishop was focused upon relationships rather than a written covenant," Bishop Ian commented.

Archbishop Welby also said that he thought it highly unlikely that there would be a Lambeth Conference in 2018.

He felt that the Primates of the Anglican Communion should make the decision about calling the conference, but he wondered whether this would be the best use of £7.5 million it would cost to hold the gathering.

*The church that seeks to save its life will lose it. The renewal of the church always comes through a deeper attention to religious life, to prayer, sacraments, worship, the study of the Scriptures, and to that relationship with God which is the foundation of all our faith.*

*Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury*

# Appeal for help in Iraq crisis

## World Vision Australia CEO calls on Christians to support refugees

CEO of World Vision Australia, Tim Costello, has asked church leaders to pass on an urgent call for help to assist refugees fleeing the strife in Northern Iraq.

His message is as follows:

I am reaching out in the hope that you can help. The crisis in Iraq has broken my heart, as I am sure it has yours. As a Christian, I am compelled to do something to help our brothers and sisters in Christ and other vulnerable groups in need of humanitarian assistance.

As I write this, thousands of families fleeing violence in northern Iraq are in urgent need of humanitarian aid. Some 1.5 million people have been forced to flee their homes, some with just the clothes on their back. In just one week, the country saw 200,000 additional people displaced, some walking for days in temperatures that regularly top over 35 degrees.

People are living in camps, churches, tents and with host families. They are telling our staff that they just want to go home, but in the meantime, they need food for their children, water, hygiene items, blankets, and shelter.

Among them are many Christians and other minorities who have chosen to abandon their homes rather than their faith. The country is also currently hosting over 200,000 refugees from Syria, some of whom have now been displaced again within their host country.

I was saddened to hear the story



**SURVIVAL STRATEGY:** Sectarian fighting in Syria and Iraq has forced tens of thousands to flee their homes for survival, taking only what they can carry. Temporary refugee camps are overcrowded and very short of food and fresh water, and offer no guarantee of safety (photo: [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)).

from one of my colleagues of Shereen, a mother of three:

*“Fifteen people in my family have died... many are missing. Three of my brothers went missing, my sister went missing, even three children went missing. You can’t imagine what it is like.*

*“We came here 15 days ago. We were at the mountain for a week, then we walked into Syria, then to here. We’ve been on this grass for 11 days. We can’t sustain ourselves here. We weren’t able to bring anything with us, even clothes or cash. We can’t live like this.”*

World Vision is working with trusted partners - including churches - on the ground to provide assistance to children

and families like Shereen’s, so that they can access food and other emergency aid supplies.

Please pray for those who have been affected by this conflict and are in urgent need of assistance. In times like this the words of Isaiah provide some comfort: “do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (41:10 NIV).

If your congregation is able to take up an offering to help us provide urgently needed essentials, it would be greatly appreciated. You can find out how to do this in the box below.

Shalom,  
Tim Costello  
World Vision.

## Donations to the Iraq crisis

Donations to this crisis can only be made by direct deposit.

### Bank details:

ANZ - Branch: 420 St Kilda Road Melbourne 3000

BSB: 013 423

Account Number: 310734464

Account Name: World Vision Australia Operating Account

Bank reference / description: IRAQ (SUPPORTER # / CHURCH NAME)

If possible, after the transfer has been made, please can you email [accounts@worldvision.com.au](mailto:accounts@worldvision.com.au) (ATTN: Dolly) with the following, so we can match the transactions easily:

The amount transferred

Copy and paste your bank reference / description

Date transferred

## Diocesan Ultreya

The Cursillo Movement is holding its second Diocesan Ultreya for the year in Parkes on Saturday September 6.

The program starts at 10.00 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.

The day is open to all, and offers a time of encouragement and opportunities to share in the faith experience of others.