

Can we meet challenges to come?

Bishop Ian's Presidential Address to the Synod of Bathurst Diocese was challenging in many ways.

At the heart of it was a question asked of every parish, church and the diocese itself: "How does your church, your parish, our diocese, serve our communities, towns, rural areas and cities?"

The annual meeting of the Synod, or 'parliament' of the Western NSW Anglican Church, was held at Bathurst Goldfields last weekend (September 20-21).

The Synod comprises the clergy of the diocese and two lay representatives from each of the 30-plus parishes in the region giving a total membership of just over 100.

Bishop Ian drew this link: that through our service the church discovers its purpose and the people of God find their fulfilment. Service leads to purpose leads to fulfilment!

He reminded us of the words we hear every Sunday morning, "Hear O Israel, the Lord your God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength ... And you shall love your neighbour as yourself."

The Bishop asked, if we show our love for God through our worship as a church, how does the church show our love for our neighbour? "Service is about more than what we do as individuals; it includes what we do together as a Church."

He gave some examples: in Parkes a toy library and meeting place, in Merimbula the Anglican Church built a public toilet, in Queanbeyan churches working together founded a Home for those with ongoing mental illness.

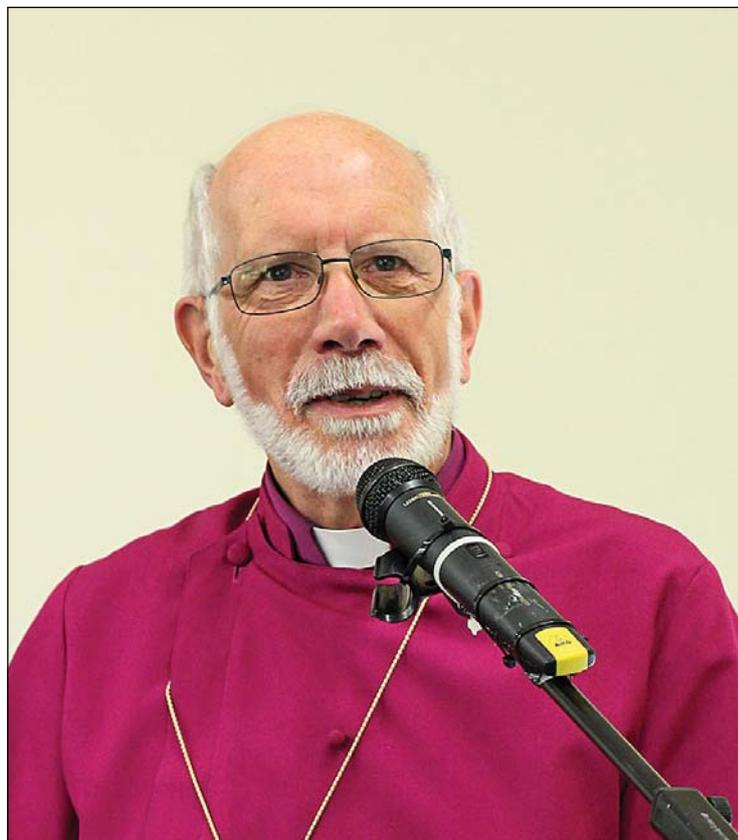
Increase in parish assessments

The first call of Bishop Ian's Synod address was to every parish to be the servant of God in its community.

The second call was to double each parish's assessment to resource the Bishops' Registry.

"This is an absolute necessity," he stated, and offered a number of reasons:

- ♦ First of all the capital of Endowment of the See (the trust fund which pays the stipend and costs of the Bishop) has been used over many years so it can no longer support the Bishop. This means that the stipend and resourcing of the Office of Bishop must now become part of the operating costs of the diocese. The Deputy Chancellor, Leigh Haywood, reminded Synod: "No Bishop, no Diocese"!
- ♦ Secondly, the legal battle the diocese is engaged in is not just a matter of paying external lawyers. Tens of thousands of documents have had to be produced, letters written, applications to be made, questions to be answered, and other court costs met. General Manager Graham Higham and the Bishop's PA Erik Bieniek have been working nearly full-time on this. The Bishop spends about 30 hours per week on related work and the diocese has employed another casual person to help.



SERVICE: Bishop Ian said that through service to others, the church discovers its purpose and the people of God find fulfilment.

- ♦ Thirdly, particularly because of historic abuse claims our, Professional Standards budget is now about \$100,000 per year.

The Bishop told Synod a further cost had arisen because the planned outsourcing of financial and administrative tasks agreed by Synod last year had not taken place because the proposed outsourcing partners had decided they could not take the work on.

Deferred decision

Synod deferred the adoption of the proposed budget for 2015, agreeing that they did not have the authority to make the decision without reference to their parishes.

Instead, the meeting chose to establish a small 'task force' to consider the suggestions produced by a brief but effective 'speed thinking' exercise, seeking new ways of responding to the most urgent needs of the diocese. The report of this task force will be presented to the next meeting of the diocesan executive body, Bishop in Council, early in October.

The meeting recognised that, given the additional expenses faced next year, the proposed budget of \$912,000 had been trimmed to a minimum. However, synod delegates were also aware that most parishes were struggling to meet their commitments this year, with a budget of just \$451,535.

Stand, and stand firm: Archbishop

The Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Glenn Davies drew on St Paul's Letter to Timothy to exhort the people of Bathurst Diocese to 'be strong in the grace of Jesus Christ', in his sermon at the opening Eucharist of the annual Synod of Bathurst Diocese on Friday evening, September 19.

Dr Davies said this quotation could be paraphrased in the words of the 16th Century Slovenian reformer Primoz Trubar who is quoted in the inscription on the Slovenian Euro: 'Stand and withstand'.

The service, in All Saints' Cathedral, Bathurst, was the Archbishop's first official visit to Bathurst Diocese since his election last year.

Acknowledging that Bathurst Diocese faced "a challenging future", the Archbishop told the members of Synod "if you stand and stand firm then the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is sufficient for you", adding that the church needed reliable people with "brains as well as backbone".

He said that if people had brains without backbone they "will just waffle on", whereas those with backbone but no brains will stand firm but won't know what they are standing firm on.

"God has given you such richness in Christ to share with those in your communities," he concluded, "that the name of Christ might be honoured in all the towns and communities across the Diocese of Bathurst, and that you might be known as a people of God who stand and withstand."



BACKBONE: Archbishop Glenn Davies told Synod members the church needs leaders "with brains as well as backbone".

Dr Davies also attended the opening session of the Synod meeting at Bathurst Goldfields the following morning, to hear

Bishop Ian Palmer's Presidential Address to the Synod.

Watterson, Hodson installed as Canons

During the Synod Eucharist service in All saints' Cathedral on Friday evening, September 19, newly-appointed Ministry Coordinator for the Slopes Region Brett Watterson was installed as a canon of the Cathedral.

South Bathurst parish priest James Hodson, who was recently appointed to the part-time role of Ministry Development Officer for the Diocese, was also installed as a Cathedral Canon.

CONGRATULATIONS: Watched by Acting Registrar Graham Higham and Archdeacon Frank Hetherington, Bishop Ian congratulates the two new Canons of the Cathedral.



New Bishop's Registrar appointed

Bishop of Bathurst, Ian Palmer, took the opportunity of the Diocesan Synod meeting in Bathurst in the weekend of September 20-21 to announce the appointment of a new Bishop's Registrar.

Introducing Karen Trafford to the Synod, Bishop Ian said that it gave him "a great deal of joy" to make the announcement.

He said that Karen comes to the Diocese having had a successful career in senior management with Australian and international corporate services experience.

"Over many years of working in business and industry she has specialised in project management, risk and compliance, corporate law, taxation and international law," Bishop Ian said. "She is skilled in working successfully in cross-cultural environments, establishing, mentoring and managing teams and

processes and bringing innovative solutions which have been of value to the business."

He said that she had a background in corporate law as well as taxation law, and had also worked in the not-for-profit sector.

Karen Trafford and her husband Andrew had recently moved from Sydney to Oberon, where they worship at St Barnabas' Church.

She will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ellen Sharp, who had served as Bishop's Registrar for almost two years. Ellen, who has been on maternity leave for most of this year, announced her resignation in July to take up a senior executive role with St Vincent de Paul.

Karen Trafford will commence duties in the Registry on Tuesday, October 7.



EXPERIENCE: Karen Trafford brings specialised experience in project management, corporate and taxation law.

Darryl McCullough ordained as a priest

Bishop Ian Palmer told the congregation gathered for the ordination of Darryl McCullough as a priest, that he wanted them all "in the challenges of life, to see angels" - to see things more beautiful, more powerful, more wonderful than we can begin to imagine".

Speaking in All Saints' Cathedral, Bathurst, on Saturday September 27, Bishop Ian drew on the imagery in the readings from Daniel 7, Revelation 12 and John 1 - all of which include references to angels.

"Through your witness," he said to Darryl McCullough, "may others come to see angels."

Ordained deacon in Dubbo last December, he has served at Holy Trinity Dubbo as Honorary Deacon this year, and will continue as Priest Assistant (part time) in the same parish.

A week before the ordination Darryl, who identifies himself as a member of the Wiradjuri community, had served as Deacon at the Synod Eucharist in All Saints' Cathedral and had given a very moving and sincere 'welcome to country'.

He feels a strong calling to serve in the parishes administered by the Company of the Good Shepherd in the future.

Darryl is also on the executive of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council.



SYMBOLS: Bishop Ian hands Darryl McCullough a Bible, chalice and paten as symbols of his ministry, exhorting him to "preach the word of God, and to minister the holy sacraments in the congregation where you are appointed".

Synod: a younger perspective

A highlight of the recent meeting of the Synod of Bathurst Diocese was a brief address by youth delegate Tegan Berger from Forbes. Her speech is reproduced in full below:

To Reverend Canon Brett Watterson and Bishop Ian I thank you for allowing me to come and join with you at Synod, as the youth representative for the slopes region.

I thank the Bishop for giving me this opportunity to share with you.

Yesterday I began writing a word of encouragement that I would share if the right opportunity arose, but I had come to synod planning to listen and take in all I could here, but not say a word, not because I had promised anyone, but because I was terrified at the thought, overwhelmed by jargon and rules I didn't quite understand.

Yet the opportunity arose and here I am.

A little bit about myself. I'm Tegan Berger from the parish of St John's in Forbes. I'm 20 years old and have lived in Forbes my whole life, and have always attended St John's.

I am currently in my second year of studying Radiography at Charles Sturt University in Wagga.

I have been a Christian for about 17 years, and am thankful for the ways in which being in a church community has benefited me, in walking in my journey with Christ.

Many of you may know Reverend Sister Lyn Bullard who was the leader of our church in Forbes, up until late last year. Lyn has played a big role in my journey with Christ encouraging me, and giving myself and the youth opportunities to learn. She has trained the youth in leadership and putting it into practice in various ways, and to serve, within and extending outside of the church to missional projects.

Bishop Ian has allowed me to speak on an issue. And I was tempted not to, as among you all, I must admit I feel unqualified. However, as I am the only youth representative here, I feel I might've been missing an invaluable opportunity to share with you.

I find it fitting for me to speak related to youth, although maybe a different perspective than you'd expect.

Some of your parishes, I know, don't have many youth. And some may be missing a number of the younger generations. For some, your wider communities may be lacking in the younger generations also. And yet I encourage you not to be discouraged.

I do not believe a lack of youth, or a lack of people, define the state of our church - or its productivity, or success.

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians he writes: 'I planted the seed, Apollo watered the seed, but God made it grow.'

Just as we can plant an actual seed and water it, but it is not our power that makes it grow, so too with the gospel: it is our role to be planting seeds, and watering seeds, but it is God who makes them grow.

If we are faithful in planting seeds and watering them, then God can grow them. We do not see things as God sees, and we do not see things in terms of the kingdom of God and its growth, but God sees, and he sees when we are faithful, so be faithful in spreading the good news of Jesus to those God has placed you among.

And be faithful in nurturing the planted seeds. Do not be discouraged when you can't see the growth that God sees and makes happen. Be faithful to the mission to which we are called: to be spreading the good news, and living it out.

When I am in Wagga, I attend St Paul's Turvey Park, and I am part of the on-campus ministry of Christian Fellowship and uni church.

The mission statement of Christian Fellowship is: To make disciple-making disciples who know, live and speak the gospel.

I think the concept of disciple-making disciples is important to the planting and watering of seeds, to be not content with just being watered ourselves, but to be looking onward to disciple others that God has placed around us, planting



HOPE: *Tegan Berger's address to Synod was a hope-filled reminder that we serve a God of awesome power.*

and watering the seeds for God to grow.

On what has been central to many of our discussions, finances, know that I hurt as we all hurt. Often youth are considered to be not much concerned about such things, and I think that is sometimes true. However, know that I very much care, and feel that I have been honoured to be here, despite the hard things we have heard, but able to share in it with you.

I'm afraid my young perspective hasn't provided any solutions or miracle fixes, as some might have hoped.

So I only offer encouragement. As others yesterday shared words of encouragement to continue on, and remain centred upon Jesus, the words of a song came to mind. In the song *Our God*, Chris Tomlin writes:

*Our God is greater, Our God is stronger,
God you are higher than any other,
Our God is healer, Awesome in power,
Our God, our God.*

*And if our God is for us, Then who could ever stop us,
And if our God is with us, Then what can stand against?*

I think you'll agree, I don't think that means that we can remain as we are just because our God is for us and with us, but in all of this, our God remains with us.

And so we can stand united as people serving the one God, seeking first to bring glory to God, fighting for the cause of the gospel.

And so, as many have reiterated this weekend, I do so too: stand and withstand, together with each other, and together with our God.

Thank you, and God bless

Chicks' Cackle Fest: 10th anniversary

❑ The annual Chicks' Cackle Fest Craft Camp will be on again in November at Ridgecrest, Burrendong Dam from 7th – 9th November

Hosted by women from the Anglican Diocese of Bathurst, the theme of this year's event is *Celebrate*.

Chicks Cackle Fest Committee Coordinator, Daryl Clapham, said that everyone is invited to celebrate the 10th Anniversary.

"Chicks Cackle Fest Craft Camp started 10 years ago as a way to help ladies to get together in fellowship, fun and laughter," she said. "Our mission is *'the celebration of being women, that nurtures, supports and refreshes through the example of Christian living by the sharing of gifts, talents and skills'*."

"Chicks Cackle Fest began in 2005 with Rev'd Sr Lynn Bullard and a team of ladies who put together the first Cackle Fest. Forty ladies came and enjoyed nine different crafts.

From this humble beginning we have had some lovely weekends, and have made some great friendships."

Daryl said that the committee doesn't want to see anyone miss out on the opportunity to attend.

"We have written to everyone who has attended in past years. However, if you see someone who may have been overlooked, please let them know when it is on."



FOLLOWING: The annual Women's Craft Weekend at Ridgecrest, Burrendong Dam, has developed a strong following with many women coming back year after year. The event marks its tenth anniversary in November.

"If you have not been for a few years, why not come along and catch up with some people that you have not seen for a while?"

Registration forms are available now.

For more information or registration form, contact Daryl Clapham on (02) 6358 8451 or email: hazelbrk@skymesh.com.au or Heather Cozens on (02) 6331 8958 or email: ghcozens@bigpond.com

Successful Spring Fair in Gilgandra

From the parish

Gilgandra's annual parish Spring Fair on Saturday September 13 was a great success with many stalls full of goodies to sell and a good crowd of people coming through.

The clown (imported at great expense from the Rectory - Grahame Yager junior) was a big hit and displayed an awesome talent on the stilts.

The usual popular stalls were there with sausage sizzle, plants, drinks, ice cream, trash and treasure, second hand books and clothing, face painting and of course cakes and cuppas.

A beautiful spring day just added the icing on the cake and the church grounds at St Ambrose' looked a picture.

Many enjoyed the fellowship over lunch or a cuppa in the grounds, and all told it was a great day out in Gilgandra.



SKILLS: Grahame Yager Jr showed a range of entertaining skills in his role as clown at St Ambrose' Fair.

Include an ABM presentation in 2015 calendar

The Rev'd John Dean, Executive Director of Anglican Board of Mission - Australia (ABM), and the ABM staff have expressed their gratitude for all the support the parishes of the Diocese of Bathurst have given ABM this year.

As you plan for 2015 please organise a special function for Mission and invite me to explain how ABM works, where it is supporting communities, the projects that are available, what the Church to Church program is and give information about the next ABM pilgrimage.

Please look on the ABM web site for up to date news and appeals, for resources and pew reflections.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Lorraine Clarkson, Volunteer ABM Speaker.

HT Dubbo chalks up a centenary

By Ken Phyllis

Rt Rev. George Long, Bishop of Bathurst, consecrated Holy Trinity Church Dubbo on 29th September 1914. But what came before that great day, what has happened since and where to now?

Dubbo was proclaimed a village in 1849 and, by 1851, had a population of 57. By 1857 there were enough in Dubbo to attract occasional visits by Rev D Garvan, Rector of Wellington. He organised for a church and “clergyman’s cottage” to be built in Macleay Street, North Dubbo in 1859, attracting Dubbo’s first rector, Rev W Coombes, in 1865.

A more substantial church was needed, and James Samuels, church warden, was a key driver in this project. Work commenced in 1875 on a design by the renowned church architect, Edmund Blackett. A local contractor, W. Moffit, had the project complete for the first service on 19th March 1876. The cost was £3,500, or \$7,000 in today’s currency. It seems that it took 38 years to pay that off so that the building could be consecrated in 1914. But why?

A bare church is just the start! It needed furnishing too. Then, in 1888, the foundation stone was laid for the Sunday School, the present church hall. Around that time the original rectory was replaced with another in Macleay St.

A pipe organ (hand pumped) was installed in 1906. Then followed St Francis House in 1908, being rectory number 3, and the church was re-roofed that year with its present roof. In 1912 the second rectory

in North Dubbo was recommissioned as a hostel for girls coming to Dubbo for education. So, in those 38 years there was heavy investment in the Parish.

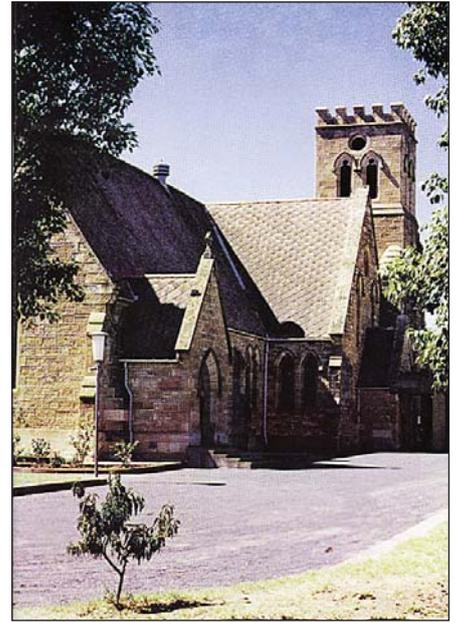
Holy Trinity today

In 2011 the census shows Dubbo City with a population of some 38,800, of whom 11,000 declare themselves to be Anglican. Meeting the ministry calls of this wider group, without their regular financial support, is a challenge to the regular congregations.

In 2013 there were 94 baptisms, 19 weddings and 79 funerals. This financial pressure is one thing. But more important is the need effectively to reach a much greater group with the gospel of the saving grace of the Lord Jesus. This is especially true for young people, scarcely represented in current congregations.

Future goals

So in 2014, at a time when the Parish is seeking a new Rector to replace Craig Moody, who has accepted a call to the Qld Parish of Caloundra, new goals



have been set and action plans are being developed. Foremost among these is the need to have a deeper and longer lasting ministry to young families who bring their children for baptism.

MU Conference Day in West Wyalong

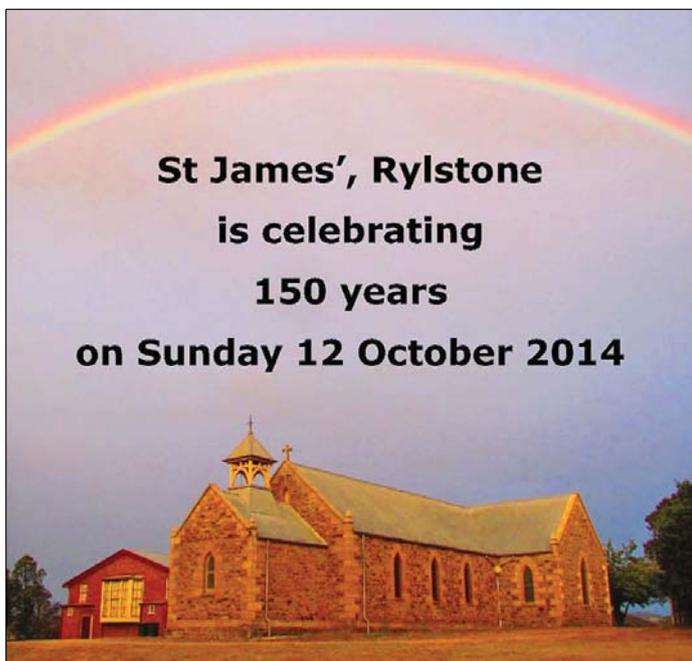
MU Diocese of Bathurst will be holding a Conference Day in West Wyalong on Saturday, 25th October and we invite all interested people.

“Grow Where You Are Planted” is a challenge for all of us. Come and enjoy fellowship, activities and teaching.

Morning Tea will be from 9.30 am and we plan to finish by 3 pm.

Lunch is provided by the West Wyalong group and transport from Bathurst and Orange can be organised.

Lorraine Clarkson, Diocesan President.



**St James', Rylstone
is celebrating
150 years
on Sunday 12 October 2014**

Come and join the Anglican Parish of Rylstone-Kandos for all or part of the day to help celebrate over 150 years of ministry in our community.

10am Commemorative Service with Bishop Ian Palmer

Midday Cutting of the cake

Group photos: We want to get a massive group photo of people who have been baptised or married in the parish, and of course a general group photo. Please bring along any appropriate memorabilia (baptism gowns, bears, wedding veils, photos etc) Perhaps you could bring a copy of a photo to add to our display wall as well.

12.30pm Group Baptism photo

12.45pm Group Wedding photo

1.00pm General group photo

2.00pm Ye Olde Hymnfest—come and sing some old favourites

Midday-2pm Bring a picnic, enjoy a sausage sizzle, activity books available for children, view the displays, join a tour and purchase a special commemorative mug.