

Georgie's Pantry expands

□ Anglicare's Sustainable Living Hub in Parkes enlarges its food bank operation

By Lewis Hitchick

Anglicare's Sustainable Living Hub in Parkes has expanded its low-cost food pantry, to meet a growing demand.

Originally operating from a single room in the building that houses the Hub's op-shop, storage rooms, hospitality area and counselling rooms, Georgie's Pantry has now moved into the building next door.

The 'new' premises, which is owned by the Anglican Church but until recently had been leased to a commercial operation, offers greatly-expanded display and storage areas, as well as space for several tables and chairs where clients can relax with a cup of tea or coffee.

General Manager Community Engagement for Anglicare NSW South, NSW West and ACT, Trevor Capps, told the crowd gathered for the launch of the expanded facilities on Thursday October 9 that Anglicare was not just providing a welfare service.

"We're actually part of a much larger movement, and that is the Anglican Church," he said. "What you see here in Parkes is the embodiment of that."

He said that Anglicare would be talking more about the term "stronger communities" in months to come.

"The way stronger communities happen, is that people within the communities empower themselves, and empower others, and look after those who need a helping hand from time to time," he explained.

He paid tribute to the work that the Manager of Parkes Sustainable Living Hub, Natalie Quince, and parish priest Brett Watterson had done in developing the facility since it opened 18 months ago.

"It's a fantastic testament as to what a church can be doing, and we're really glad to be part of it," Trevor Capps said.

In blessing the new food bank, Bishop Ian Palmer told the gathering he had challenged every parish to ask itself the question: "How are we serving the community



PARTNERSHIP: (above) Parkes priest Brett Watterson, Anglicare's General Manager Community Engagement Trevor Capps, Parkes Hub Manager Natalie Quince, Kaye Pritchard (Anglicare's Parish Partnerships Development Officer), Bishop Ian Palmer and Ian Coutts (Anglicare) at the opening of the expanded food pantry.

we live in?"

"Jesus himself said, that he did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many – and that sacrificial love is right at the heart of the Christian faith: to serve others, and to serve our communities," Bishop Ian said.

The building that Georgie's Pantry has moved into is next door to the Anglicare Op-Shop, and was originally built as the office for Goobang Shire Council (subsequently merged into Parkes Shire Council). The Shire Council moved into larger premises by the 1950s, when the building was acquired by the Anglican Church.

For a several decades it served as the parish youth centre, but changing needs in the parish saw it leased to various clients in recent years.



Ecumenism: keep up the good work

A visiting Canadian academic and theologian, Dr Catherine Clifford, has encouraged the Anglican and Roman Catholic Dioceses of Bathurst to continue their covenanting relationship and to work towards a closer ecumenical understanding.

Dr Clifford is Professor of Systematic Theology and Historical Theology at St Paul's University, Ottawa, and has been visiting Australia at the invitation of the Theological Reflection Commission of the NSW Ecumenical Council.

She compared the Covenant between the Anglican and Catholic Dioceses of Bathurst to a similar covenant between two Anglican and Catholic Dioceses in Canada, who shared a common geographic area.

During her two-and-a-half week visit to Australia, she addressed a small gathering of Anglicans and Roman Catholics at All Saints' Cathedral in Bathurst on Thursday October 30.

Committed to ecumenism

Professor Catherine Clifford is the author of several books including *Decoding Vatican II* (Paulist, 2014) and *Keys to the Council* (Liturgical Press, 2013), co-authored with Richard R. Gaillardetz, and is the Editor of *A Century of Prayer for Christian Unity* (Eerdmans, 2009). She has published more than forty chapters and articles in scholarly reviews.

Catherine Clifford has been a member of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue of Canada since 1994, and has served as a consultant to the Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews, and Interfaith Dialogue of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Cowra Book Fair

The Cowra Anglican Book Fair is on again on Friday and Saturday November 14-15 and November 21-22, and organisers are saying it will be bigger than ever.

Held in the Cowra Anglican Church Hall, the Book Fair will have more than 10,000 books on display.

Doors open at 8:30 each morning.

Dr Clifford began her address with a brief overview of the history of ecumenism over the past century, and particularly since Vatican II in the early 1960s.

Moving on to the present day, she quoted Professor Paul Murray from the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University, who has said we are in a time when we must be open to "receptive ecumenism".

"He asks us to not only recognise the work of the Spirit in other churches, but to ask what gifts of the Spirit are being lived in other churches, that are also gifts from which we could learn," she said. "Pope Francis, in a letter that he wrote to Catholics around the world last November, invites us to receive from the gifts of the Spirit present in other Christian churches."

Dr Clifford said there had been a shift in thinking over the past 50 years, from a view that said 'the only way to restore unity is for you to return to the Catholic Church'.

"Now our vision is Christ-centred, not Catholic-centred," she said. "All the churches need to be renewed and converted to Christ, and we already recognise in other Christian churches that the church of Christ is present and active in them. Perhaps we still have judgements about other churches ... some of those judgements need to be revised in light of what we've discovered about each other through the process of



HUMILITY: Dr Catherine Clifford says churches need to enter discussions on ecumenism with a sense of humility and repentance.

dialogue."

She said that all parties in the discussion needed to be more generous in their recognition of others, and could not enter into dialogue at all without a sense of humility and repentance.

"We all bear responsibility for the divisions in the church," she added. "That's a reflection of our sinfulness."

CLERGY MOVES & APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **The Reverend Malcolm Dunnett**, presently Rector of Koorngal parish in Wagga Wagga (Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn) has been appointed as the new Rector of Holy Trinity Orange. Mal and Rosie will be moving into the parish shortly before taking leave and also going to the Solomon Islands to do some teaching. His commissioning will be Tuesday evening, November 25.
- ◆ **The Revd Michael Pailthorpe** will be leaving the Diocese of Bathurst to take up an appointment as the Rector of Bungendore in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn. He will be inducted into Bungendore parish on Tuesday evening, November 25.

Cursillo's National gathering

❑ Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Jesus

These three steps, familiar to anyone who has experienced a Cursillo weekend retreat, were the topics for three addresses given by Bishop Bill Ray at the national Cursillo gathering in Coffs Harbour on the weekend of October 25-26.

The National Ultreya attracted more than 150 people from Anglican Dioceses as far afield as North Queensland, Perth and Bunbury, and followed a meeting of the National Secretariat of the Cursillo Movement in Australia, held in Coffs Harbour's Anglican Church.

Bathurst Diocese was represented by Bishop Ian Palmer (who serves as National Episcopal Advisor to the Cursillo Movement), his wife Liz, Diocesan Lay Director Liz Smith, Bob Smith, and Lew and Sylvia Hitchick.

Bill Ray, the Bishop of North Queensland, introduced himself by telling the gathering he had made his Cursillo at "Men's 8, Bathurst, 1989, on the table community of St Luke". At the time, he had been serving as Education Officer in the Diocese of Gippsland.

"What sort of friend are you?" he asked in his opening address on the topic, *Be a friend*.

"Are you friendly? Or selectively friendly? Do we put ourselves out to befriend someone who is on our patch, who we do not know? It's hard work," he acknowledged.

"Each of us is a seed-sower, as well as a living Bible" he claimed, referring to Jesus' statement that "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24).

"What is it in my life that's got to die, to produce a harvest?" he pondered.

Bill Ray cited research claiming that we needed "21 meaningful contacts" with a person before there will be a change. "That's commitment," he said, adding that his own experience had shown this claim to be accurate.

Addressing the topic of *Be a friend*, he highlighted the importance of asking appropriate questions in the early stages of a friendship, to encourage people to give meaningful responses.

He cited the account of Philip's conversation with the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8), when Philip asked the eunuch whether he understood what he was



FORUM: Coffs Harbour parishioner Terry Shorten (left) hosted a very interesting forum featuring guest speaker Bishop Bill Ray (North Queensland), Bishop of Grafton Diocese Sarah MacNeil and National Episcopal Advisor for Cursillo, Bishop Ian Palmer.

reading from the Book of Isaiah.

"How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" replied the eunuch, inviting Philip to travel with him.

"We need to ask, 'What can we do to help you understand better?' – we need to determine where people are at, and start there – and move very slowly," Bill Ray said.

In his final address, on the topic of *Bring a friend to Jesus*, he spoke of "connecting transformatively" with friends.

"The church is changing," he claimed. "The Christendom model is gone – most people are no longer come to church."

Reminding his audience of Jesus' final instructions in Matthew's Gospel, to 'go and make disciples of all nations', he said this was still a constant task before the church.

"Do we really want to make disciples? It will mean change," he said, explaining that when any new people come into a group – even a family group – it causes change.

"But I don't think God is interested in change," he asserted. "Change is just tinkering at the edges – I think God's interested in transformation!"

He said such transformation would involve "walking with people and answering the questions they are asking – not just the questions we think

they should be asking".

In the Cursillo tradition, the audience was split into table groups with about nine people in each group, and the program allowed about half an hour's discussion time after each of the addresses.

Groups were invited to submit questions or comments to a forum comprising Bishops Bill Ray, Ian Palmer and Sarah MacNeil (Bishop of Grafton Diocese).

Bishop Ian also addressed the gathering as the pre-dinner speaker, describing some of his experiences in walking the 800-kilometre Camino de Santiago in Spain.

He explained that pilgrimage changes the pilgrim, and the experience of a Cursillo weekend pilgrimage should change those taking part. However, he stressed that the Cursillo retreat should be focussed on the new Cursillistas, adding that there had been a tendency in some places for team members to think the weekend was for them, "and if a few new people turned up then they could fit in as well".

Bishop Ian also suggested that Cursillo might have to make some changes to appeal to younger people. He pointed out that the original Cursillo retreats in Spain in the 1940s had been primarily aimed at young men, but added "The world has changed quite a bit since the 1940s."

Grow where you are planted:

MU Annual Conference in West Wyalong

MU Members from the Diocese of Bathurst with visitors from the Dioceses of Canberra Goulburn, Riverina, Bendigo and the United Kingdom enjoyed a wonderful day of fellowship, fun and learning at the Annual MU Conference held in West Wyalong on Saturday 25th October.

Australian Education Co-ordinator Ronda Gault spoke to us on the Theme, *Grow Where You are Planted*, and guided us to reflect on the stepping stones in our Christian/ MU journey and the people or events that inspired us.

These thoughts were written on “stepping stones” or “clouds” and added to our poster of a bare tree trunk. During the afternoon we looked at where we bloomed.

Ronda told the story of the little daisy, bringing pleasure and joy to those to find it, but surrounded by large trees in a forest. We need to turn obstacles into opportunities and she told the story of Canon Andrew White, the Vicar of Baghdad.

MU Australia has many resources



PRESENTATION: MU Diocesan President Lorraine Clarkson (right) presents Lalage Gabb with a certificate recognising her many years of service to MU.

TALENTS: MU members explored the theme of ‘growing where they are planted’ by recording their gifts and talents on coloured ‘leaves’ which they then placed on a poster of a tree trunk, providing a visual image of life and growth.

to help members to grow and flourish and we need to grow in knowledge and be enthusiastic in all we undertake. We recognised all our gifts and talents by recording them on leaves - green for MU outreach, yellow for parish activities, orange for the community, and red for overseas projects.

These leaves were added to the tree trunk and we were amazed at what had been achieved. Diocesan President Lorraine presented Lalage Gabb with a certificate to recognise her many years of dedicated service to MU Australia by her willingness to undertake many tasks on the executive during her almost fifty years of membership.

We also recognised the faithful service of Rona George who exercised a loving ministry of maintaining the Baptismal roll at the Cathedral for over 20 years during her 40 years membership. So may we say “Well done good and faithful servants.”

MU members believe that we belong to a life-changing movement, praying, campaigning and enabling families world-wide. We are “Seeds of hope planted, nurtured and fed in the love of Christ to bloom to the glory and praise of God.”

Lorraine Clarkson, Diocesan President, MU Australia.

CLAIM THE DATES:

Monday March 9th - Thursday March 12th, 2015

Diocesan Women’s Retreat

Shalom House of Prayer, Carcoar
Theme: *Prayer: the Church’s banquet.*



Please continue to collect used stamps for ABM, remembering to leave at least one cm of paper around the stamp. Please drop them off at the Cathedral Parish Office and I will collect them.

Thank you
Lorraine Clarkson