

# Michael Deasey farewelled

## □ Cathedral's outgoing Director of Music honoured by Guild of Church Musicians

Precentor, Organist and Director of Music at All Saints' Cathedral for the last ten years, Michael Deasey, was awarded a Fellowship of the International Guild of Church Musicians at his farewell during the monthly Evensong service in the Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, November 29.

Bishop of Bathurst Ian Palmer invited the Australian Sub-Warden of the Guild and Vice President of the International Council of the Guild, Bishop Richard Hurford OAM, representing the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Council and the Academic Board of the Guild, to officially present the honorary award in recognition of Fr Michael Deasey's distinguished contribution to church music in Australia and beyond, as a musician, educator and priest.

The Bishop's Registrar, Karen Trafford, read the citation:

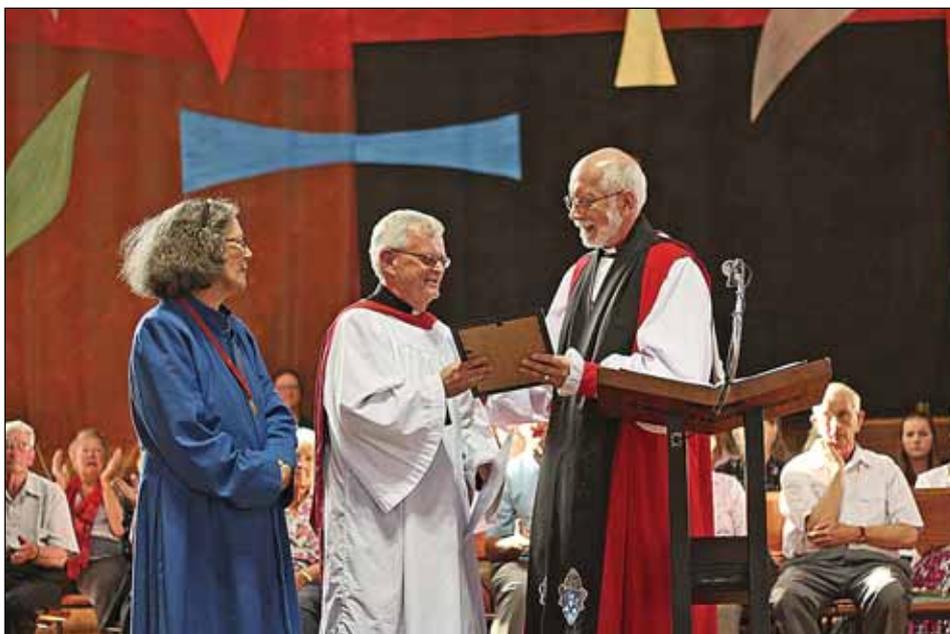
*The Reverend Michael Keith Deasey, OAM, has had a lifelong career in church music and music education.*

*He is a graduate of the Universities of NSW and Melbourne; and of Trinity College London, the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Organists, the Royal College of Music and the Royal School of Church Music.*

*He has held significant appointments as Director of Music at Selsdon Parish Church, Surrey in the UK; St Peter's Brockville, Ontario, Canada; and St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney - this latter appointment was held by him for 25 years for which his remarkable ministry was recognised by an award in the Order of Australia.*

*Following completion of his Bachelor of Divinity Degree and in response to the call of Our Lord and His Church, he was ordained and appointed Precentor and Director of Music at All Saints Cathedral Bathurst where he has served for the past ten years.*

*He has for decades conducted choral workshops, festival services, and master classes and gained an admirable*



**COMMENDATION:** *Antonia Deasey watches as Michael receives a Diocesan Commendation from Bishop Ian Palmer. Bishop Ian said such awards are very rarely given, and it acknowledged Michael's service not just to the Cathedral but to the whole diocese.*

*reputation as an organist, and as a choral and orchestral conductor.*

*Down the years he has taken choirs on tours around Australia, and to 20 Cathedrals in England, to the USA, to New Zealand and to Iceland.*

*His Christian faith has informed and nourished his life and ministry first as a lay person and then as a priest, and through this he has touched the lives of many people. He has motivated, taught and inspired a multitude of singers and players across church and community life.*

*As a vital member of the Guild of Church Musicians in Australia, he has served on the National Council as a Regional representative, and played a major role in the Guild's annual Festivals in Sydney.*

*Accordingly, in recognition of his outstanding life of service to the ministry of music in the Church, the Guild Council in London has resolved to award The Reverend Michael Deasey its highest academic distinction – the Fellowship of the Guild HONORIS CAUSA.*

With the Mandate of the Patron, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Australian

Sub-Warden of the Guild of Church Musicians, and the Vice-President of the International Guild, Bishop Richard Hurford then conferred the award.

Bishop Ian Palmer also honoured the outgoing Precentor with the award of a Diocesan Commendation.

"This is very, very seldom given, and I'd like to award it to you because you've not only been the musician at this Cathedral, but also you have served the whole Diocese of Bathurst," Bishop Ian said.

"You have given to our Diocese a ministry of word, sacrament and music that has enriched and inspired our community ... and you have left with us an example of what it means to follow our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in love, joy, faith and humility."

The congregation endorsed the award by giving the recipient a standing ovation.

Michael Deasey will be on long service leave until the end of January.

He will go into semi-retirement, living in the Blue Mountains, but has accepted a part-time ministry as an assistant in the Sydney parish of Burwood.

# Building bridges into our communities

By any measure we might regard 2015 as a challenging year for our Diocese.

It began with terminating the employment of four people in order that we might meet our budget. I then moved to Dubbo becoming a part-time Bishop and part-time Rector, as the Endowment of the See could no longer afford to pay me.

In April the matters relating to the Diocesan loans and the CBA began to be heard in the Supreme Court, a hearing that lasted 36 days! Then the Judgement was handed down early in December.

Pour into the mix my heart attack and significant dental surgery later in the year, and we might be forgiven for wanting the year to close!

Today, though, on the 4th Sunday of Advent, I've been listening again to the Song of Mary (*The Magnificat*, Luke 1:46-55) and once again my spirit soars.

Mary could have recounted all the disasters that had befallen her nation or her family, but instead she gives thanks to God for all God's goodness, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."

That's not optimism, but rather her trust in the faithfulness of God. "He has come to the aid of his servant, to remember his promise of mercy, promises made to our ancestors."

There is a different story to our Diocese for this year: it's a story of hope and gratitude for all that God is doing, and will continue to do among us, because God is faithful to his promises of mercy. Just one example:

After Liz and I had walked to Dubbo in the first week of February we returned to Bathurst to complete packing and

move our home to the Dubbo Rectory. Time constraints meant that we could not complete it and there was still some stuff in my study at BishopsCourt to bring up to Dubbo when everything came to a stop as I was rushed into hospital on 14th February after a heart attack.

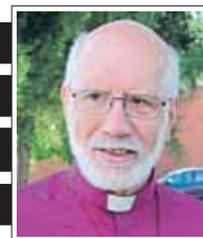
It took time to recover and moving was not complete when Liz and I went to the Bishops' Conference early in March. While there we learnt of the sudden death of Fr James and Fran's son Adrian, in the South Bathurst Rectory.

What sadness, what tragedy. We were back in Bathurst for his funeral but soon realised that Fran and James could not contemplate continuing to live in their Brilliant Street Rectory.

*"How are we serving our communities?" I often ask. It cannot be through big schemes but rather in humble and simple service.*

The delays meant that BishopsCourt had not been rented and they approached me to ask if moving there (still in the Parish of South Bathurst) might be a possibility. The EOS Board readily agreed. They moved in immediately and with St Barnabas Church having been destroyed by a fire a year earlier, the chapel in BishopsCourt quickly became a new place of worship for parishioners and

BY  
BISHOP  
IAN  
PALMER



very soon the house became a hub for all kinds of worship, fellowship and pastoral ministry. So much so that in November, the Bishop in Council agreed that it be renamed "The St Barnabas Centre".

But what of the Brilliant Street Rectory?

It's a large five-bedroom house and during the cold winter months, including snow in Bathurst, it stood empty. But like seed bulbs hidden in the cold earth during winter months, there was life and growth waiting for Spring for the new life to be seen.

For well over a year Fr James has been meeting for fellowship and prayer with his friend a Jesuit Priest Fr Stephen Sinn. I have joined them on occasion. We have talked about Fr Stephen's vision of a home for men who are on the margins and not easily accepted. Stephen worked in King's Cross for many years and the needs of these people has never left him. He felt that God was calling him to Bathurst to work with men in this area.

Fr James and I have come to share his vision; slowly the parish has also appreciated it and the Property Trust too sees how it can serve people here.

Fr Stephen's vision has developed from wanting a large place to gather a lot of men, to becoming more organic and seeing how it might grow. So in January he will move to live in the former Rectory (to be known and the "Bridge Community") and a ministry there – serving our community has begun.

"How are we serving our communities?" I often ask. It cannot be through big schemes but rather in humble and simple service.

Thank you for your fellowship, ministry and service in the past year. May you be blessed by the presence of Jesus today as you remember his first coming 2000 years ago, and may we go into 2016 "with peace, to love and serve the Lord" rejoicing in the powerful love of the Holy Spirit of God.

+ Ian Bathurst .

... still on pilgrimage



**CHANGING ROLE:** The former South Bathurst Rectory, soon to become the home of the Bridge Community.

# West Wyalong welcomes McCullough family

## ❑ New Priest in Charge commissioned

Bishop Ian Palmer drew on the Five Marks of Mission developed by the international Anglican Communion, in the commissioning of Darryl McCullough as Priest in Charge of the Parish of West Wyalong last Saturday (December 19).

Bishop Ian reminded the congregation that these five marks had been incorporated into the Mission Action Plan of the Diocese by Assistant Bishop John Stead in 2012.

They are:

- ♦ to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
- ♦ to teach, baptise and nurture new believers;
- ♦ to respond to human need by loving service;
- ♦ to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation; and
- ♦ to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

During the commissioning, members of the congregation brought forward symbols of ministry representing the marks of mission, and presented them to the incoming priest.

Bishop Ian then invited his Registrar, Karen Trafford, to read the Bishop's Licence, which he then presented to Darryl McCullough, with the exhortation to "be renewed in this call to ministry; be refreshed by those who serve with you; grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ".

Guest preacher at the service was Canon Gill Varcoe from the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, who had been rector of the parish of St Mary in the Valley in the Canberra suburb of South Tuggeranong when Darryl was living there some years ago. Gill Varcoe played a significant role in bringing Darryl to a deeper faith in Christ and encouraged him to pursue a calling that led him to ordination.

Drawing on the readings from Habbakuk (2: 1-4) and Luke (21: 5-11), Canon Varcoe showed how the Old



**SERVANT:** Parishioner Mary Ford presents Darryl McCullough with a towel, as a symbol of the servant ministry of Jesus as he washed the feet of his disciples.

Testament King Habbakuk had faced a fearful and desperate situation, and Luke described the encounter of a doubtful and disbelieving Thomas and the risen Lord Jesus.

"What is it that shifts us from fear, disappointment, despair?" she asked. "What do we need to shift us from just shrugging our shoulders and walking away?"

She said the answer was an encounter with Jesus as Lord – but she noted that "there was an extra word" in what Thomas said to Jesus: "My Lord, and my God."

"That is the transforming moment," she said. "That moment when we – each one of us – can look in Jesus' face and say, 'my Lord and my God'."

She said that God was inviting each person in the church that day, as they sat in their places or as they went forward to the Lord's Table, "to ask God to take us on the next step along the way"; to say to Jesus, "I'm not sure how to do this, but I want you to be my Lord and my God."

She then led the congregation in a short prayer of commitment (or recommitment), inviting those who wanted to, to say 'amen' at the end:

"Lord Jesus Christ, my Lord and my God, we lay our fear and our

discouragement, our hopes and our dreams at the foot of the cross.

"We lay our fear of you at the foot of the cross, and we accept ... that in Jesus we are accepted and free.

"Holy Spirit come, dwell in the temple of your people; Holy Spirit come and dwell in me. Amen."

The service was followed by brief but warm speeches of welcome by Church Warden Jeff West; Regional Ministry Coordinator Canon Brett Watterson; Reverend Cameron Webber as a representative of the local Christian churches; and Cr Liz McGlynn representing the Mayor and Council of Bland Shire.

In response, the newly-commissioned Priest in Charge said that he wanted to work closely with the whole community, especially the other churches in the town.

"I just ask that when I make mistakes – and I will – that you will forgive me," he said, "and I promise you that in all that I do I will be seeking to serve you and to serve the wider community – but above all, to serve my Lord and my Saviour."

Originally from Tottenham, Darryl McCullough was ordained Deacon in December 2013 and was made a Priest in September 2014. He is married to Dianne (a West Wyalong local) and they have three children.

**Book notice:**

# Graeme Clark

## The man who invented the bionic ear

by Mark Worthing

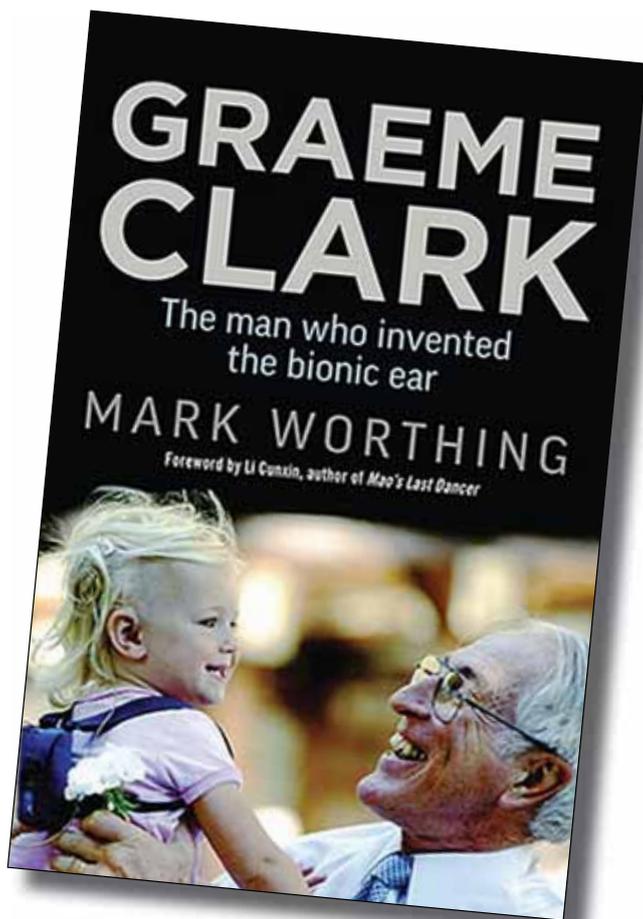
Looking for an interesting book to read over the holidays? This biography of the amazing surgeon who developed the cochlear implant is easy to read, well laid out in short chapters and not too long.

It tells how Dr Clark grew up watching his father struggle with hearing problems while running a chemist shop in Camden. Our eyes keep us in touch with the world of things but it is our hearing that keeps us in touch with people. So young Graeme, even when he was only in Year 1 in Primary School, told his teacher, "When I grow up, I'm going to fix ears."

We gain an insight into the financial struggles of devoting his life to scientific research and also see how his faith in God developed. It was when he was very sick in a Cairo hospital that a French Catholic nun helped him discover that God does answer our prayers.

This recently published book tells the inspiring story of how he overcame many difficulties and setbacks so that hundreds of thousands of deaf people can now hear.

*Graeme Clark, The man who invented the bionic ear* by Mark Worthing is published by Allen and Unwin and is available for \$29.99 at Pilgrim Books, Orange.



Giving birth is an amazing yet precarious event for women all over the world, but even more so for women in developing countries. **When Mary gave birth to Jesus in a stable, it was most likely a frightening experience in difficult conditions that many women in poor communities can relate to.**

In Solomon Islands, nurses have had to rely on their mobile phones, or their own small, personal solar light, when assisting women giving birth at night. With our support, the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM) is aiming to change this by installing large-scale solar lighting at regional health posts.

**Our Christmas Appeal this year aims to continue and expand this work of lighting the way for new life.**

The birth of Christ is described as a great light in Matthew's Gospel. Help us to light the way for new life in poor communities by donating to our Christmas Appeal.

### HOW TO DONATE

- 1 Online:**  
[www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au](http://www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au)
- 2 By phone:**  
1800 249 880
- 3 By post:**  
Christmas Appeal 2015  
Anglican Overseas Aid  
PO Box 389, Abbotsford Vic 3067

*All donations over \$2 are tax deductible*  
Anglicord: ABN 39 116 072 050

# Cacklefest continues

Another wonderful weekend of fun, laughter and activities was held at Ridgecrest on the weekend 5th – 7th November, 2015 as women from all over the diocese gathered for the 11th annual Diocesan “chicks cacklefest”.

Although smaller in number this year the women all reported that they had a wonderful weekend catching up with old friends and making new friends.

As always craft, dancing, wonderful food and lots of laughter were on the agenda and many beautiful handmade items were proudly placed on display at our Sunday morning thanksgiving service.

Among the new additions this year was the Belly Dancing workshop, which proved to be a popular attraction with the dancers showing their new-found skills during the thanksgiving service.

Another camp is planned for 2016 so start planning now to join us in this wonderful weekend away celebrating God’s love to us.



**DANCERS:** (above) A new addition to the line-up of workshops at this year’s Women’s Craft Weekend was Belly Dancing, with the participants preparing for and then presenting a demonstration dance routine at the thanksgiving service on Sunday morning.



**ENTHUSIASM:** While numbers were down on last year’s turnout, the level of enthusiasm remained high, with the weekend providing a very enjoyable break for the women taking part.

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.

## Correction

There was an error in the November issue of *Anglican e-News*.

The Reverend Geoffrey McAuliffe will be commissioned as National Chaplain Elect of the Order of St Luke, not National Chaplain as stated last month.

The National Chaplain Elect serves as an understudy to the National Chaplain until he/she succeeds the National Chaplain, usually for a three-year period, from Triennial

Conference to Triennial Conference - although in this case Geoffrey has been appointed a year into the Triennium.

The commissioning as National Chaplain Elect will occur at a Combined service at St John’s Church, Forbes, at 9 am on Sunday 21st February, with the National Chaplain of the Order of St Luke Trevor Butler preaching and carrying out the commissioning.

## Book Review:

# Facing the hard questions of faith

**Walking with God through Pain and Suffering.** Timothy Keller (353 pages; \$17.99 from Koorong.)

**Reviewed by Rev'd Noel Clarke\***

A solid book on topics we all face personally and with which we seek to help others. Pain and suffering are frequently reasons people give for rejecting Christianity. This book helped me think more clearly about many of the issues involved.

Here's a taste of Keller's writing:

*Staving off our own death is one of our favourite national pastimes... despite our best intentions, (death) is still for the most part, random. And it is absolutely coming.* (p.3)

*One of the main ways we move from abstract knowledge about God to a personal encounter with him as a living reality is through the furnace of suffering.* (p.5)

The book is written in three parts, so that the reader doesn't have to read it all in sequence.

**Part one:** looks at the furnace from outside, the phenomenon of human suffering and ways different cultures and religions have sought to help people face suffering. Our western secular materialistic culture is least helpful for anyone coping with pain, suffering and death.

**Part two:** The Bible's comprehensive teaching is both profoundly realistic and astonishingly hopeful.

**Part three:** Practical, but going through the furnace of affliction isn't a matter of technique.

*Suffering can refine us rather than destroy us because God himself walks with us in the fire.* (p.9)

Most chapters end with first-person stories of someone who has encountered suffering and walked with God though it.

*Nothing is more important than to learn how to maintain a life of purpose in the midst of painful adversity.* (p.13)

*... most young American (and Australian??) adults ... see God as a being whose job it is to meet their needs ... If there really is an infinitely glorious God, why should the universe revolve around us rather than around him?*

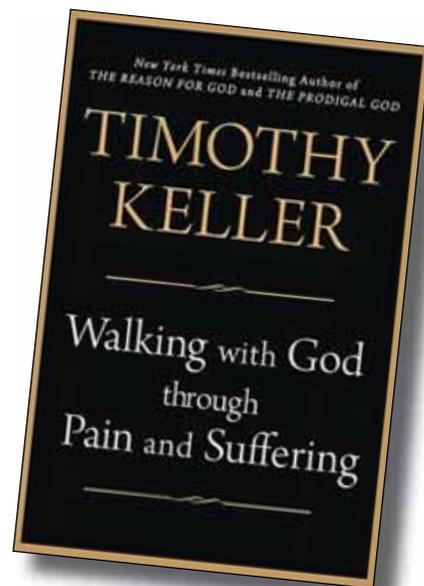
(p.115)

*If we forget the first truth, that in general, suffering is just - we will fall into proud, resentful self-pity that bitterly rejects the goodness or even the existence of God. If we forget the second truth - that in particular, suffering is often unjust - we may be trapped in inordinate guilt and the belief that God must have abandoned us.* (p.139)

*Because of God's infinite majesty and wisdom, we expect to not understand all his ways ... If we ever asked God to be completely fair and just and he complied, we would all be instantly destroyed.* (p.198)

Speaking of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, their confidence was actually in God, not in their limited understanding of what he would do. (p.230) We need to ensure we are really trusting in God himself, not in some agenda we want him to promote.

*As I look back, God was saying, 'Son, when a child of mine makes a request, I always give that person*



*what he or she would have asked for if they knew everything I know.'* (p.302)

I found Keller very insightful. He stresses that every individual is different, and no "one size fits all".

\***The Reverend Noel Clarke** is a parishioner at Holy Trinity Orange.

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