

# Dedicated to service of others

## □ Special Cathedral service honours nurses who have died following their calling

A service of Commemoration and Evensong in All Saints' Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, February 18, remembered both military and civilian nurses who have died while serving others.

The service was conducted in the presence of the Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd).

In particular, the service recalled the military nurses who lost their lives in the sinking of the *SS Vyner Brooke* the day after it sailed from Singapore Harbour on February 12, 1942, just days before the fall of Singapore.

However, civilian nurses who have died in following their calling were also honoured.

A congregation of about 400 watched the Governor General and then the High Commissioner for Singapore, His Excellency Mr Fook Seng Kwok, lay wreaths in remembrance of nurses who have died in service of others.

Representatives of Local, State and Federal Government, the Military and Academia then also laid wreaths in front of the altar.

In his address at the beginning of the service, the Governor General acknowledged that the story of the *SS Vyner Brooke* was not an easy or comfortable one.

"It speaks so much of what is senseless and evil in the act of war: the loss of innocent lives, the great inhumanity and enormous destruction of which man is capable; and our capacity to kill and inflict pain and grief, seemingly without misgiving or remorse.

He briefly outlined the story of the ship's sinking by Japanese bombers just hours after departing Singapore Harbour with 181 passengers including wounded Australian and British soldiers, civilian women and children, and 65 nurses from the 2/13th Australian General Hospital.

"The families of three of those nurses on board – Sr Mary Clarke, Matron Irene Drummond and Sr Bessie Wilmott – are with us today," Sir Peter Cosgrove said.

Some of the survivors made it to land on Bangka Island, part of what was then the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia).



**SERVICE:** The Governor-General, General Sir Peter Cosgrove, told the congregation they were there to honour those who, in the face of adversity, dedicated themselves to the service of others.

Amongst the survivors were 22 nurses. They landed on Radji Beach, which was occupied by the Japanese.

"On that beach there was to be a massacre – a massacre that, even by the local standards of that war and that time, stands out for the horror of the activity," he said. "After surrendering ... the men were marched around the headland where they were summarily shot and bayoneted. Those too sick or injured to walk were simply killed where they lay. The nurses were then ordered back into the water, and as the ocean reached their hips, they were machine-gunned from behind."

There was only one survivor – Sister Vivienne Bullwinkle, shot in the abdomen, feigned death until the soldiers had left. She later joined 32 other nurses interned for the duration of the war.

"But we're not here primarily to dwell on the atrocity of war," the Governor General said. "We're here to remember, to commemorate, to celebrate and to honour those who in the face of adversity, in the most trying circumstances, dedicated themselves to the service of others.

"That is what the nurses on board the *SS Vyner Brooke* did. When the nation called, they were there – giving themselves, their

energy, love and compassion, demonstrating their skill and proving their dedication. They served others, putting duty, the greater good, their fellow man before all else."

He added that alongside military nurses, civilian nurses such as Rose Wyles and Cecilia Bauer, who died treating those suffering the pneumonic plague in Queensland over a century ago; and Gayle Woodford, killed while working alone in a remote part of South Australia in 2016.

"For all nurses, in whatever capacity they serve, today we pause and recognise, and give thanks. Our nurses remind us all of what is good about the human spirit," he said. "They remind us that there is no greater service than the service to others. So often, it is under the unforgiving glare of conflict that the very best – and worst – of human nature is exposed. Under pressure, in circumstances beyond our will or choosing, our character, our true mettle, is revealed.

"Among the senselessness of the *Vyner Brooke*, amongst all the tragedy, we saw the character, the stoicism and resilience of our Australian nurses, not just of the military, but emblematic of all nurses. It is this

**(continued on page 3)**

# Challenge and change: serving an unchanging God

*(The following is part of the Bishop's Address to the special session of Synod held in Kelso on February 17.)*

In recent weeks we have farewelled a number of faithful clergy who have served our Diocese well and I am grateful to God for their ministries.

Over the Christmas/ New Year, Robert and Beth Bowman retired from Coolah/ Dunedoo; and Linda Boss from Warren. On Easter Day Frank Hetherington will be concluding his ministry in Cudal.

I am very grateful to God for the ministry that Linda Boss and Gary Neville have given to the Cursillo Movement. They have retired and I am pleased to announce that the Rev'd Ross Craven will be a new spiritual advisor to Cursillo.

The Registrar, Karen Trafford has continued her careful and detailed work to complete the Deed of Forbearance with the Commonwealth Bank.

I expect that by the time of the September Synod I will be able to assure you that our obligations to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia have been fulfilled. We have sold most of the properties agreed in the Deed of Forbearance, including the All Saints' College.

On the 19th December the sale of All Saints' College Bathurst to the Presbyterian Church was completed. I am grateful that the Christian education purposes for which

the school was established will be continued.

In 1874 Canon Thomas Smith, who after a misspent youth and little education, was the Rector of All Saints' Church Bathurst (it was not yet a Cathedral), persuaded the first Bishop of Bathurst, Samuel Marsden, to start a school where the Christian faith would be lived and taught. From small beginnings with many changes the school grew.

***I have warned members of Synod that we will not be able to revert to where we were.***

It was bought by its headmaster, declined and closed. Then in 1923 under Bishop Long the College moved to the present site and reopened. He also started Marsden School for girls in 1925 and it moved to join with ASC in 1975 on the present site.

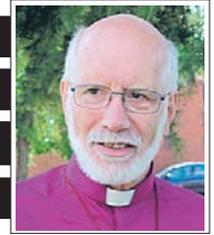
At the end of this year, the All Saints' College and the Scots School running as two streams will integrate to form a single College and this will give to the people of Bathurst and those wishing to settle here

BY

BISHOP

IAN

PALMER



good choices in education: a strong State sector; established schools in the Roman Catholic tradition and high-quality education for over 700 young people in a more Reformed Christian tradition.

As I said earlier I anticipate that at Synod in September I will be able to announce that the Deed of Forbearance is completed and that we will have closed the chapter on this very difficult period of our life. Again, I have warned members of Synod that we will not be able to revert to where we were.

As I travel the Diocese and as I do the work of an assistant priest in Dubbo, I see the courage and sacrifices of clergy and lay people, and I also see the respect in which the Anglican Church in Central and Western NSW is held.

I thank all of you, and continue to pray for God's grace, forgiveness, healing and hope to inspire us all.

+ Ian.

## Worldwide church pays tribute to Billy Graham

### From ACNS

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has led tributes from Anglican leaders to the iconic US evangelist Billy Graham, who died today at his home in North Carolina, aged 99.

Born in November 1918, Graham became a Christian at the age of 16, after attending revivalist meetings led by evangelist Mordecai Ham. After education at the Florida Bible Institute (Trinity College, Florida) and Wheaton College in Illinois, he was ordained as a minister of the Southern Baptist Convention.

While working for the ecumenical mission agency Youth for Christ (YFC), he organised a series of revival meetings in a big top in Los Angeles. It was the start of a series of large-scale crusades for which he became famous – he would go on to lead more than 400 crusades in 185 countries and territories across the globe.

In concluded his autobiography "God's Ambassador", with these words: "Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God."

Speaking at his final rally, at Flushing Meadows in New York in June 2005, he said: "I have one message: that Jesus Christ came, he died on a cross, he rose again, and he asked us to repent of our sins and receive him by faith as Lord and Saviour, and if we do, we have forgiveness of all of our sins."

In an interview prior to today's announcement, Billy Graham's son Franklin said that his father, when asked what he wanted on his gravestone, had replied simply: "Preacher".

### **Bishop Ian's reflection**

*We give thanks to God for the life and ministry of Billy Graham. Many of us have come to know and love Jesus through his ministry and we give thanks to God for him.*

*In 1961 he led three weeks of ministry in Manchester at Main Road Stadium, the home of Manchester City football team and on 10th June that year I went forward in response to his call for people to commit their lives to Christ. It was a significant step in making the faith of my parents my own faith. We must go on to make that commitment to Christ every day - but I was too young then (11 years old) to realise that.*

*In 1984 when I was vicar of a parish in the North East of England (my first parish and I'd only been there for a few months) we took bus loads of parishioners to Sunderland for his "Mission England" ministry there.*

*Many of you will add your own story.*

*As someone commented to me this morning, "Billy Graham has changed his address." Indeed that was how he himself spoke about how death would be to him.*

*May Jesus be honoured and people come to repentance and faith in our Lord by the death of this man of God as they have in years gone by through his life.*

## Dedicated to service of others (from page 1)

legacy that sustains and inspires us to this day. May God bless you all.”

In his sermon, Bishop Ian Palmer began by quoting Dag Hammarskjöld who had served as the 2nd Secretary General of the United Nations. He said Hammarskjöld, whose outstanding statesmanship was largely unrecognised today, had died in September 1961 while trying to broker peace in the Congo. He once wrote, ‘Constant attention by a good nurse may be just as important as a major operation by a surgeon.’

“He was right wasn’t he?” Bishop Ian added.

The Bishop pointed out that throughout history, the church has often been compared to a ship, and church architecture frequently reflects this.

“Or perhaps we should call it a boat,” he said. “Ships are those things that we go on for cruises. They are massive. They dock in Circular Quay. Boats bob up and down on the waves, and they are small.

Picking up the story in the Gospel reading (Mark 4:34-41) of the boat being buffeted by a storm, Bishop Ian said we should “liken the church and all those in it, to a small boat riding on the waves of faith and doubt, worldliness and persecution, indifference and opposition, despair and hope”.

Listing some of the differences between a large cruise ship and a small boat, he pointed out that people who travel by cruise ship are passengers who are served by the crew.

“There was only one passenger in Peter’s boat in the storm – all the rest were crew – working to keep the boat from sinking!

“Passengers on a cruise ship assume they will be safe. Those in a boat on the Sea of Galilee tried to predict the weather – they knew that if a storm came rolling down the mountains



**THANKSGIVING:** *Dean of All Saints’ Cathedral, James Hodson, gives thanks for “all whom we remember this day” following the laying of wreaths. The sanctuary included displays of historic nurse uniforms, both civil and military.*

from the Golan Heights then they were in for a very frightening ride.”

He explained that these sailors had to trust in God and in each other.

“We all face storms in life. If we consider ourselves as passengers on a cruise ship and sit around in deck chairs, then we’ve missed the point and purpose of life. It is to the crew that Jesus became real!

Bishop Ian said that, before his death, Dag Hammarskjöld had left a diary – not

of the so-called important events of his life – but of his spiritual journey. It was later published as his “Markings”.

In his later years Hammarskjöld became deeply aware of the darkness around him, but still he was grateful and while saying “Thanks” for all that has been, he embraced with courage the challenges before him and said “Yes” to all that lay ahead. Time and again he repeated that “Yes”.

## Diocesan Women’s Retreat: Why consider attending?

The Diocese of Bathurst Annual Women’s Retreat will be held at The Vale Lodge, Perthville, from Monday 5th March to Thursday 8th March 2018

The retreat is sponsored by MU Australia Bathurst Diocese.

Retreats are an essential and energizing facet of any spiritual life.

What might you experience on retreat?

- ♦ **Come for silence** – God’s first language is silence. We enjoy times of silence
- ♦ so that we can hear God and ourselves more deeply. What might you hear?
- ♦ **Come for worship** – From the quiet awakening of Morning Prayer to the hush
- ♦ of Compline, prayer is a community offering.

♦ **Come for meals** – We don’t just share the Supper of the Lord in the Eucharist, we also share three healthy meals each day and enjoy lively conversation. Refresh your body with delicious food and the companionship of breaking bread together.

♦ **Come for rest** – No phones, no internet, no television, no errands, no meetings, no deadlines. Instead, take a walk, have a nap, read a book, make some tea, take a deep breath and give thanks.

Application forms for the Diocesan Women’s Retreat are available from parish clergy. For more information contact Mrs Lorraine Clarkson - 02 6332 6032 or email [clarksonlm18@gmail.com](mailto:clarksonlm18@gmail.com)

Anglican

### e-News

A newsletter for the western NSW  
Anglican Diocese of Bathurst

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# December Ordination in pictures

Bishop Ian Palmer ordained four priests and two deacons in a service in All Saints' Cathedral in December.

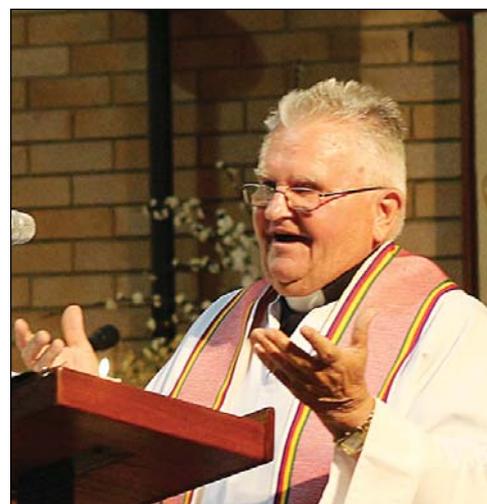
Michael Sutton was licenced for priestly ministry in the parishes of Mudgee, Gulgong and Rylstone/Kandos; Rosie Wynter serves as Priest Assistant in the city of Bathurst; Michelle Watterson is Priest Assistant in Dubbo; and Neville Naden is continuing his ministry with the Bush Church Aid Society as Indigenous Ministry Officer, based in Dubbo.

Natalie Quince has been licenced as a Deacon to serve in the parishes of Forbes and Cumnock, and John Gaff is based in Bourke Deacon-in-Residence with the Company of the Good Shepherd.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** (right) The six receive a sustained round of applause following their ordination.



**FOOT WASHING:** (above) Bishop Ian washes John Gaff's feet before ordaining him as Deacon, symbolising the servant role of deacons.



**INSPIRING:** (above) Gary Priest, now retired and living in Adelaide, led the pre-ordination retreat and preached an inspiring sermon at the ordination service.

**SYMBOLS:** (right) The Bishop presented each of the new priests with a Bible, chalice and paten as symbols of their ministry of Word and sacrament, making visual the responsibilities of their role. Here Neville Naden, Michelle Watterson and Rosie Wynter look on as he presents the symbols to Michael Sutton.



# Stronger child protection practices

## ❑ Special sitting of Synod adopts new regulations approved by national church

A Special Session of the Synod of the Anglican Church in Central & Western NSW met last Saturday (February 17) to consider Canons passed by the General Synod last September and sent on to our Diocese for assent or adoption.

Many of these Canons were responses to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and they basically fell into three areas:

1. Providing safe ministry practices to protect children and vulnerable people.
2. Making Bishops and Former Bishops more accountable for how they handle allegations of misconduct.
3. Advising and protecting priests who hear of grave misconduct as they listen to confessions.

### Safe Ministry Canon

For the first time this brings in nationally agreed standards for providing safe ministry, for lay people and in the screening and training of clergy.

The Synod adopted this Canon so it does now apply in our Diocese, but asked the Bishop only to give his assent when we have clear guidance about the checks necessary for youth leaders under the age of 18.

How we comply with these safe ministry standards and practices will be audited and the audit published.

### Accountability of Bishops

There has not been national agreement on how to hold Bishops and Former

Bishops accountable for their actions, especially in handling allegations of sexual misconduct.

In a series of Canons which changed the Offences Canon to include failure to act on reports of child abuse; then set up and approved Tribunals to examine the conduct of Bishops, a new system was put in place and agreed that will hold Bishops and former Bishops accountable.

In another Canon, Synod agreed to permit Tribunals to depose clergy from the Order of Bishop or Priest or Deacon instead of only having the option of deposition from all their Orders.

### Hearing Confessions

A formal Confession is usually absolutely confidential, but two Canons instructed the priest to report a probable grave offence against a child or vulnerable person or if that child or person was in danger.

The Canons also protected the priest in taking this action.

### Other matters from General Synod

In an Opening Address Bishop Ian reported on other important subjects agreed by the General Synod:



**EXPLANATION:** Bishop Ian gave a comprehensive explanation of each of the new regulations being presented to Synod, so that delegates had a clear understanding of what they were voting on (file photo).

**Marriage:** reaffirming the teaching of Jesus and our church, that marriage is an exclusive and lifelong union of a man and a woman. It asked the Doctrine Commission to facilitate a respectful conversation in our church through a collection of essays on marriage and same-sex relationships.

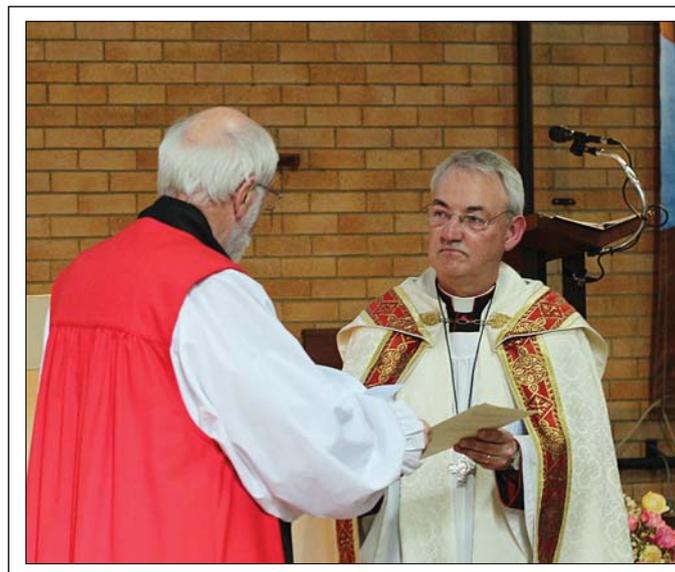
The General Synod condemned **Domestic Violence** and apologised for the failures of the church in teaching and pastoral care to support victims and hold perpetrators to account. All diocese were told to ensure they have policies and good practice guidelines in place, along with education and training, for responding well to situations involving domestic violence within our parishes and organisations.

The General Synod urged each diocese to give 0.7 per cent of gross income to projects supporting **sustainable development goals** and to work towards spiritually-inspired stewardship in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and engage in teaching and preaching on the theology of the environment.

In his Presidential Address, Bishop Ian referred to the final Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

He said he was “appalled to see the extent of abuse by people who on account of their Christian calling were supposed to protect the vulnerable and live holy lives”.

“I am ashamed of what people within the church have done, and again, as I have done on many other occasions, say to those who have survived abuse, how sorry I am.”



**LICENCE:** Bishop Ian hands his licence to Dean James Hodson, after commissioning him as Dean of All Saints' Cathedral during a service of Evensong in the Cathedral late last year. James had served as Acting Dean for ten months prior to his formal appointment.

# Bourke's Blessing of Pets well attended

A pet blessing service in Bourke late last year was quite well attended, by pets as well as people.

"We had two horses, two cats and nine dogs," said Fr Graham McLeod, CGS.

The service was held on the lawns of the church, and was followed by a morning tea and a bring-and-share BBQ at 12.00

Graham McLeod said it was the first pet blessing service he had conducted, but the people agreed he did a wonderful job - and all pets obviously agreed, as they were all very well behaved.



## Looking forward – looking back

### ❑ AWA 50th Anniversary, 2018

#### From Cecily Butcher, AWA Diocesan President

What is AWA?

"Anglican Women exists to celebrate and support women, both lay and ordained, in their ministries and in their witness by providing opportunity for fellowship and the concrete expression of their unity in Christ" (Most Rev'd Philip Aspinall, 2009).

It is an umbrella organisation for ALL WOMEN who belong to the Anglican Church. It does not aim to compete with other organisations, but rather to bring them together in a spirit of partnership and co-operation, as well as making provision for those not included in such groups.

It aims to work towards the extension of Christ's Kingdom through encouraging worship, study, service, fellowship and giving.

Our Diocese will be celebrating 50 years of AWA (Anglican Women of Australia) with a special day of celebration, hosted by Wellington Parish on 14th April.

Please mark this date in your new diary. We have already asked

each Parish to make up a display for the day and would particularly like to see photos and stories about the earliest days.

Does anybody have photos or articles of the early fellowship week-ends, when we enjoyed coach trips to the more distant parishes in the diocese? This will be a good time to refresh our memories. So that arrangements for the display can be finalised at our February committee meeting, please let me know if your parish can make up a display board, or let me have the information to be included on a general board.

Because this day will be combined with the AGM, there will not be room in the program for individual reports, so here again, please let me, or a member of the diocesan committee have a copy of your parish annual report so that they can be condensed into one report and distributed at the meeting.

2018 will be an election year, and nomination forms have already been distributed to parishes. Please give this matter some serious thought. Further information about the celebration will be distributed after the committee meeting on 8th February. A reminder: please save your used stamps for ABM.



## Cursillo Notes

### Renewal Weekend

The Cursillo Secretariat is planning a 'short weekend' for Cursillistas who feel the need for a refresher, another experience of some aspects of a Cursillo-style program.

We will be offering a 24-hour program to be called *Regener8*, running parallel with Men's 45 at Ridgecrest, near Burrendong Dam.

While the men will be using the main venue, our gathering will be using the Lodge and some of the nearby cabins.

We will gather from 4.00pm on Sunday June 10, with one talk to be presented before dinner and a relaxed evening.

On Monday morning we will be on hand for the Mananita before breakfast; then two more talks before lunch, and a short break. pack up our cabins and

prepare for Clausura.

The theme for the event will be 'Identity', with the talks and discussions exploring different aspects of the topic.

More information will be going out to parish contacts over the next week or so, including application forms, and we will also be offering online booking.

### Spiritual Advisors

At our first Secretariat meeting for this year, Gary Neville and Linda Boss both advised us that they would be standing down as Diocesan Spiritual Advisors for the Cursillo Movement.

I have greatly appreciated the support, strength and wisdom both have given over recent years, and wish them God's rich blessings in retirement.

Bishop Ian has announced the appointment of Ross Craven, parish

priest in Grenfell, as replacement for Gary. A female SA is yet to be announced.

### Men's 45

Meanwhile, the team for Men's 45 (June 8-11) begins training in early March. Please continue to pray for the team members as they prepare, and for the candidates. Pray too for guidance in approaching potential candidates for the weekend - and for those preparing for the *Regener8* short weekend as well.

### Diocesan Ultreya

Our mid-year Ultreya is to be in Gilgandra on Saturday July 28, and we look forward to the chance to get to know some of the new faces from Men's 45.

