



THE MURRAY ANGLICAN

TMA Autumn 2014

BISHOP FORD OUTLINES A CHALLENGING VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE

Around 700 people have turned out at six locations around the Diocese to hear Bishop John Ford outline his future vision for the Church in the Diocese of The Murray.

Bishop Ford highlighted seven areas where he sees the Diocese needs to grow. They include a vision for evangelism, worship, lay and ordained ministry, a ministry with children and young people, a vision for social responsibility, Christian giving and stewardship and a partnership in the Gospel.

The vision underpins the “Taking The Plunge Together” program which began in Lent and will continue until Pentecost next year.

The Bishop’s vision for the Diocese was delivered at Loxton, Victor Harbor, Millicent, O’Halloran Hill, Murray Bridge and Strathalbyn from 8th March until 7th April.

The Bishop says the vision bears the four marks of mission in the New Testament; that is serving, living the common life, proclaiming and giving thanks at the Eucharist.

Following is a summary of the Diocesan vision outlined by the Bishop at the meetings. Seven areas overlap and are not in order of priority:



PARTNERSHIPS

Ecumenical cooperation in all areas in order that we can serve people and witness to the Father’s love for them. This is essential in the more rural areas where ecumenical approaches have to be developed if there is to be a sustainable Christian presence in each and every human community. This, I believe, is crucially important; we have to be present everywhere. It is only from being present and in relationship with those around us that effective evangelism can happen.

However, this ecumenical spirit has to be rooted in an ever deepening understanding of our own theological position. We have to be rigorous about the truth that there are deep theological differences between different denominations and these are not easily overcome nor are they neutral in our mission and outreach. Real collaboration between Christians of all denominations in the service of others is essential and the relationship that then develops will permit more in depth theological encounters.

This can be expanded into thinking about inter-faith dialogue. This can only happen between people of faith and is effective only in so far as people are clear about their own position. There is no such thing as inter-faith dialogue from a position of no faith. The apparently “neutral” position advocated so often as being even-handed and non-judgemental is rarely if ever encountered.

The secular humanist/atheist position is always from a set of values and opinions which form and shape those who hold it and therefore has to be equated as being from a particular position, rather than a neutral one.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Worship that engages and inspires thus draws people into a deeper relationship with God in prayer and self-offering. There has to be a deep commitment to releasing the power of the Word lived and proclaimed and to the sacraments as converting encounters with Jesus.

BAPTISED AND ORDAINED TOGETHER

Ministry that is truly collaborative and values the gifts and charism of all the baptised. We must develop a way of approaching the life, work, worship and witness of each of our communities of faith that uses the gifts of all and encourages growth in prayer and devotion thus witnessing to the truth that we are all life-long learners – this is as true of our discipleship as it is of any other part of our lives. We have to become more attuned to the fact that it is the Church that calls to ministry – lay and ordained – and develop an attitude that takes seriously the need for increased vocations to a whole variety of ministries.

MISSION AND EVANGELISM

That we become a diocese that knows that its only reason to exist is to be the Body of Christ in this part of South Australia. We have to be a people that is not distracted by self-interest and the maintenance of structures but rather one that is seeking to be a serving, proclaiming, thankful and spirit filled community which stands consciously in receipt of the revealed tradition of Christianity and which humbly seeks to live and proclaim

the love of the Triune God by being a sign, instrument and foretaste of his Kingdom for the world.

ALL AGES

We have to be a community that is truly all age and this needs to be reflected in our worship, outreach and nurture. We should rejoice that God does not recognise chronological age but sees each and every person as one whom he loves unconditionally and calls to be the saint that he has made them to be. We need to be especially exercised by the need to engage with those currently noticeably absent from our assemblies; the young and the families. Working in support of all the schools in the diocese would be a good place to start. In particular we need to encourage more people to offer themselves as school chaplains.

SOCIAL ACTION

Parishes and other pastoral units must work with AC Care and other agencies in the service of the poor and marginalised. We must seek to become a voice for the voiceless in our society; a people who are seeking to recover a prophetic ministry, addressing matters of justice, that are essential to our missionary task.

GIVING

We must be a diocese that faces realistically the questions of financial viability at every level. However, the monetary question is not the only or even the most significant factor that needs to be considered about viability. Rather we need to address the question of what makes us vital and life-giving and how our common life can develop accordingly. We have to be clear that stipendiary ministerial provision has to be financed from regular planned giving and not subsidised by op-shops, fund raising and historical bequests. A diocese must not be distracted by financial problems but must have a clear vision for our common life that is consistent with our calling, transparent to all and compelling to the extent that we will all wish to fund it. We have to develop an approach to giving that defines what is sacrificial not by how much is given but rather by how much is left over having given; the only model and example is that of Our Lord.

Plunged into the waters of baptism each of us was called to grow God’s Church together!

AUDITS OF PARISHES AND PASTORAL DISTRICTS

The first phase of the Diocese's Taking The Plunge Program has been completed with parishes and pastoral districts in the Diocese presenting their audits to the Bishop.

The audits which are to be used to formulate a mission action plan for each of the parishes and pastoral districts involved a map of each area and the location of the congregations of each church. It also pinpointed the locations of where people congregate for community activities. This included shopping centres, schools and other community and sporting clubs.

The audit asked for the population statistics in the local government area and a breakdown of age groupings.

The documentation was presented to the Bishop by two representatives of most parishes and pastoral districts at a service at the Cathedral at Murray Bridge on Maundy Thursday, the 17th of April.

At the service, the Bishop emphasized in his reflection verses from two bible passages one of them being Romans 12: 1-8. ". . . Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect . . . as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

During his reflection, the Bishop also commended the Following Jesus program which is to start after Pentecost. The program will involve a series of Bible studies either in 24 weekly sessions or over eight full days in the second half of the year. The Bishop then thanked everyone who had been involved in the audits, before they were presented to him.

"As a diocese and as people faithful to the Good News we acknowledge that each of us have an extremely important role in growing God's Church. Each and every person in the Diocese of the Murray has been blessed with numerous gifts, talents and skills for the building of the Kingdom here on earth. In our Taking the Plunge Together diocesan program we as a people committed to mission and ministry recognise that both laity and clergy working together are vital for the future of our diocese – God's Church. I take this opportunity to thank you for the work you have completed to date and for your continued support of our Taking The Plunge Together mission. I now invite you to present symbols of the fruits of your labours acknowledging your ongoing effort and support in this most valuable mission."

At the conclusion of the service, the representatives from each of the parishes and the pastoral districts shared in pizza and coffee with the Bishop.

The results of the audits will be collated with the Bishop and a visiting priest, Father Damian Feeny who will meet with each of the parishes and the pastoral districts during May to help start formulating the mission action plan.

By Brian McMillan

Edited by Fr Paul Devenport



THE NEXT STAGE OF THE TAKING THE PLUNGE PROGRAM

Following is an excerpt from Bishop John Ford's circular regarding the "Taking the Plunge Program" between Synod and Pentecost 2015.

The Diocesan Synod meets at Tailem Bend on 23/24th May and the majority of our time will be spent considering a vision for the diocese to underpin The Taking The Plunge Together mission and developing our common life so that we can participate effectively in God's mission. The origin of the synodical concept is how God's holy people in a particular context (in our terms, the local church, understood as a diocese gathered around its bishop) can make their pilgrim journey towards the Kingdom and, as they do so, discover the mind and will of God for them in union with all believers.

Also during Eastertide there will be area gatherings – in clusters like those used for my initial visits last November – when I will be with you to help take the results of your audit further into the flow of taking the plunge together. I am delighted to say that I will be joined by Fr Damian Feeney a colleague from St Stephen's House theological college in England. He is the vice-principal and will be using his work with us to further his own academic research. It might be that he and I cooperate in the publishing of something following our taking the plunge together mission – but that depends ... It will also be our joy and privilege to welcome Fr Damian to the Diocesan Synod where he will be the keynote speaker to help us in our common task.

This next stage will be using the four by four audit results to help each parish/pastoral district to develop its own mission action plan. This will become a document which will always be work in progress that should direct the priorities for your parish in all aspects of its life. If we are going to grow the Church then we have to think strategically about how that can be done. It won't just happen! The mission action plan needs to be owned by the local worshipping community who become familiar with it and commit themselves to inhabiting it. It will include both of the central aspects of growing the Church – the internal and the outward. Therefore it might identify some needs discovered in the local community and set out not only the ways in which we might attempt to respond to them but also, detail how we are going to prepare ourselves to do so ... internal growth in knowledge/understanding and at the same time getting on and doing it. This plan needs to address very specifically where, when and how your worshipping community and individual members of it are going to

take the plunge together in the area you are called to serve.

The process of drawing up the mission action plan will identify areas where we will need to provide some formation and training to equip people to exercise their baptismal ministry in particular ways. Accordingly, the next phase of taking the plunge together will be forming, shaping and equipping people in every local worshipping community to take the responsibility which is theirs for the building up of the Church and participation in God's mission where they are. I imagine that we will need to think carefully about how we share together in this – clergy and lay – each participating in collaborative ways, working in informal teams and sharing their gifts, talents and abilities. All of this will be the subject to work on through to Lent 2015.

We will probably need to engage in a sustained period of learning how to deepen our faith and grow confident in its truth and vitality. I anticipate that it will be necessary for me to introduce a diocesan wide course which will help in this. I do have something in mind ... a programme that is called Following Jesus and is designed to help us do just that. This could begin right across the diocese at Pentecost. Small groups of disciples meeting together weekly to pray, learn, grow and celebrate what it means to be followers of Him. Do you know, this in itself will transform not only those who participate but also the communities of which they are a part? Why/how? Because following Jesus is infectious! The problem is, many of us (to say nothing of those who are not yet part of us) act and think as if we have received an inoculation against it!



The penultimate phase of taking the plunge together will be a Lenten study programme that I will commend to each parish to be undertaken by as many people as possible during this holy season next year.

The final phase of the taking the plunge together mission will be a residential conference from 13 – 16th April 2015 when three or four lay people will join with their priest to share with me and Fr Damian who will return to be with us for a leading your church into growth conference. This is a well tried and tested three day residential course designed to help local churches work together on their

primary task – the worship of God and at the same time making disciples: holding together in unity, the inward growth that is essential and also without any demarcation between the two dimensions, the going out in mission and evangelism, the outward and numerical growth.

The whole taking the plunge mission will reach not its end but a new beginning on the Eve of Pentecost 2015 when there will be a great celebratory Pentecost Vigil at a central venue yet to be decided. This celebration will be designed not to be a conclusion but rather a springboard from which we, the diocesan family, can launch out into the deep waters, plunging ourselves into the mission of God in every part of the diocese with the declared intention to grow the Church so that we might be renewed in our own discipleship and changed, from glory to glory as we continue our journey as God's pilgrim people into his future with confidence, unity and courage.

Friends, thank you for reading this. I make no apology for its length; I have tried to set out a programme which responds to what I have witnessed, heard and been led to through prayer since I arrived as your bishop. I really hope that the whole diocese can respond and, with me, take the plunge together. I am ready to jump in, let go and be surprised by where the flow of the river of God's loving life takes me ... will you come too? I know it will be demanding, it is likely to involve some decisions which are difficult and we will undoubtedly discover new

Following Jesus

A discipleship program where together as a diocese:

- We pray and worship
- We study Holy Scripture
- We reflect theologically
- We explore God's call in our lives

In conjunction with our "Taking the plunge together" mission

treasures and opportunities. Just think how refreshing it is to jump into flowing water - you were dramatically plunged into such water at your baptism so taking the plunge together is just a way of recommitting to that. Please don't let me be the only swimmer, let alone the one to drown!

TAKING THE PLUNGE TOGETHER DIOCESAN PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
you call us to grow deeper in your love and life and through the gift of the Body and Blood of your Son you make your home within us; we pray that you will renew our discipleship during the time of our Taking The Plunge Together mission that we might be transformed so that our faith becomes the living water refreshing, cleansing and transforming our lives.

May the joy we discover in the depth of your love inspire all of us in the Diocese of The Murray to reach out in fellowship to all whom we meet and lead us to share with them the water of life.

We ask this through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

AN EASTER REFLECTION

(Matthew 28: 1 - 10; Acts 10; Col 3: 1 - 4.)

"Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said."

When it comes to the resurrection of Christ, two questions might come to people's minds:

1. Is it true?
2. Does it matter?

1. "Is it true?" In the reading from Matthew's gospel, and the Acts, we are given some of the evidence for Christ's resurrection: the empty tomb, the resurrection appearances to chosen witnesses, the fulfilled prediction, and the changed or transformed lives. Let's think briefly about each.

The empty tomb. A heavy stone had been rolled against the entrance to the tomb, and a guard of soldiers placed to guard it. But in spite of this, the tomb was found empty on Easter day! The presence of an angel, and the earthquake tell us that God was at work. The tomb had not been emptied by humans but by God. The tomb had been opened, not to let Jesus out, but to show disciples Jesus' body was no longer inside.

The resurrection appearances.

Matthew tells us that the first witnesses to the resurrection were women. If anyone was going to fabricate the story of the resurrection, it is unlikely that they would have made the first witnesses women, because in those days women could not bear witness in a court of law.

If we read on in Matthew we hear that Jesus also appeared to the eleven disciples. And in the reading for today from Acts 10 we hear Peter tell Cornelius and his household of how the risen Christ appeared to chosen witnesses.

"And we are witnesses to all that he did both in the country of the Jews

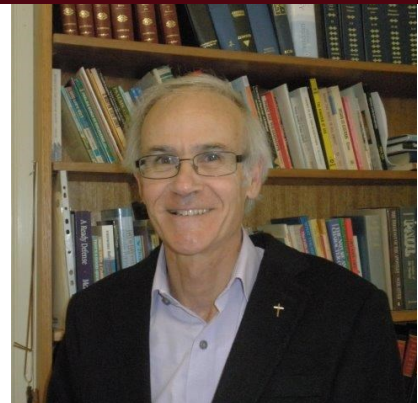
and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and made him manifest; not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead."

Eye-witness evidence is still an important type of evidence in courts of law today.

And then there is the fulfilled prediction. "for he has risen, as he said." When did Jesus say he would rise? After Simon Peter said to Jesus' question "But who do you say that I am?" - "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" - Jesus then began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." (Matthew 16: 15, 16, 21). Jesus also reiterated this on a number of subsequent occasions.

And the changed or transformed lives. The two women came to the tomb with deep mourning, only to leave it "with great joy." Or we might think of how the two brothers James and John, nicknamed "sons of thunder," became apostles of love; or Simon Peter, a vacillating leader (denied Jesus 3 times) became a rock-like first pastor; or the eleven disciples changed from fearful to fearless! But isn't it also the case that the risen Christ is changing us more into his likeness as we go on trusting in him?

Does it matter? This question concerns the significance, or meaning of Christ's resurrection. Each of today's readings has something to say about the significance or meaning of Christ's resurrection. Let's see what Matthew says, then the Acts, and then Paul.



What does Matthew tell us? Matthew tells us two things in particular: worship and witness. The resurrection of Christ means our worship of him and our witness to him. When Jesus met the two Marys on that first Easter day, they worshipped him. If we read on we hear that when the eleven disciples saw Jesus they too worshipped him. He told them "all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

The proper response to the risen Lord Jesus Christ is worship, homage, obeisance, submission. Putting it in Paul's words "every knee should bow,.... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the father" (Philippians 2: 10, 11).

Not only so, but witness. Jesus said to the women "Go and tell", and to the eleven "Go therefore and make disciples....." That is still the case for the church, for ourselves, where we are, where we live, work, play. We are witnesses - proclaiming in life and lip the risen Lord, seeking to make friends and followers of Jesus. And to encourage us in this let's take to heart Jesus' promise "and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." "Go ..." and "lo...." His presence makes the difference!

What does the Acts tell us? Peter teaches that the resurrection of Christ tells us that he is the judge of all. "he is the one ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead." (Acts 10: 42.) How then can any of us stand? Peter tells us

"everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Pardon - that's what his resurrection assures us. God accepted his death on the cross as the sacrifice for the sins of the world. Pardon yes, but also power, for the reading immediately goes on to tell us this: "While Peter was still saying this, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word." Jesus still gives pardon and power to live rightly to all who will trust in Him. That's what his resurrection means.

And lastly the reading for Easter from Paul (Colossians 3: 1 - 4.) The resurrection means "seek" and "set". "Since then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things on earth."

Because we have been brought to new life with Christ, then let us have a new perspective and a new focus that is consistent with our new life. If you like, we are to "become what we are." We have died with Christ and been raised with Christ, so we are now to apply that to our lives. The risen life is already ours, but we need to put it into practice. Paul teaches this involves "seek the things that are above....," or set your heart on things above", and set your minds on things that are above....."

But Paul doesn't end there - and nor should we, for he says, "When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." The resurrection of Christ means that one day we will "appear with him in glory." That's eternal life in fullness.

*Alex Bainton,
Rector Parish of Victor Harbor.*

NO RETIREMENT FOR MILLICENT PRIEST

Retirement is a concept which is not known to Father Alf Stringer, of Millicent. The remarkable service of this 87-year-old priest to the Anglican Church in Millicent and beyond is continuing. From time to time, he leads the Sunday services at Millicent and Penola during the absence of parish priest, Father Peter Carlsson.

Now living in the Hart Court aged care facility Father Alf has often assisted with church ministry across the region and beyond since his "official" retirement from full-time ministry just over 20 years ago.

There is no doubt that his deep commitment to the Christian faith is the major motivational factor. According to Father Alf, he is happy to assist with the parish ministry while Father Peter is unavailable.

"I am serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Once you are ordained, you are a priest forever. In that way, you could say that you are never out of a job," Father Alf said.

His sermons are renowned for their scholarship and understanding of doctrine and the scriptures. Worshippers are also aware of his keen sense of humour.

"You could say that it is my strength as a Victorian that is keeping me going," said Father Alf in a tongue-in-cheek reference to his home city of Melbourne.

In the past two decades of "retirement", he has conducted weddings, baptisms and funerals as well as Sunday services whenever a priest was needed. Father Alf has also served as a Rural Dean, a member of the Diocesan Council and as a Canon of The Diocese of The Murray.

His willingness to serve the community was evident in his teenage years when he served with the RAAF in the Philippines in the closing years of World War Two. For the next 30 years, he attended university and a seminary and then taught English and History in schools in Australia and the United Kingdom. After ordination to the priesthood in 1975, Father Alf became a chaplain at St Peter's College in Adelaide.

His interest in parish life took him to appointments in the parishes of Keith, Naracoorte and Millicent. Late in 2012, Father Alf attended a compulsory training session in Mt Gambier for all clergy and church workers in the Diocese of The Murray. For recreation, Father Alf listens to music and reads books in his room at Hart Court.



CHRISM MASS AT MT BARKER



Bishop John Ford used his first Chrism Mass in the Diocese of The Murray to urge all baptised Christians to go out as disciples and preach the good news.

The Chrism Mass on Monday of Holy Week is when the priests and deacons of the Diocese renew their ordination vows for another year with the support of their parishioners.

The Bishop in addressing the priests and representatives of the parishes of the Diocese in his homily, referred to the beginning of the mission by Jesus in his home town of Nazareth.

Bishop John spoke of the strategic location of the beginning of Jesus' mission in Luke 4: 16-21. There, Jesus stood up in the synagogue on

the Sabbath and read from the prophet Isaiah and announced He was fulfilling the text, that the "Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me." (4:18)

Bishop Ford said despite this proclamation by Jesus, the people could not believe what he was saying and rejected him.

"Like Jesus, we should desire to share the good news, starting with our community, no matter how inconvenient and difficult it is. In a culture of consumerism and violence of all kinds, we need to be persistent in the task."

Bishop Ford said in Nazareth, it was not the end of Jesus' ministry. He passed through them and went on His way.

"This is the way we seek to follow, the way of the resurrection, the way of liberty, sight and justice; we do it persistently and unstoppably."

Bishop also spoke of the gift of ordination, another gift of the Spirit, and stated that the priests of the Diocese are one of God's gifts to God's holy people.

The Bishop then blessed the Oil for the Sick, the Oil of the Catechumens and the Oil of the Holy Chrism. It was followed by the Eucharist. Bishop Ford was the principal celebrant with the Diocesan priests concelebrating.

After the Mass, there was a lunch in the hall.



CONFIRMATIONS AT HAPPY VALLEY

God is Good, all the time, He put a song of praise in this heart of mine..... so sang the congregation as it supported and celebrated the Confirmation of Scarlett Curson, Carole Edgeworth, Matthew and Thomas Jeffries.

Despite a forecast temperature of 44 degrees, St Aidan's at Aberfoyle Park was packed with family and friends on Sunday 2nd February when Bishop John Ford celebrated a joyous service of Confirmation.

Bishop John engaged us as he talked about the tingling feeling we get when we are filled with God's love and the experiences we will have, a tingling in the ears and all over in our lifetime journey with our Lord.

The Rite of Confirmation was a special time indeed for our 4 candidates as they were anointed and blessed by Bishop John.

A marvellous feast followed with a time of fellowship and friendship extended, and the cutting of the Confirmation Cake made by parishioner Leah Young. A truly wonderful day in the life of the Parish of Happy Valley.

*Top photo (from left) Matthew Jeffries, Thomas Jeffries, Bishop John, Scarlett Curson and Carole Edgeworth
Bottom photo: The Confirmation Cake.*

I have just been confirmed and I am still "buzzing!"

Almost 53 years to the day after being baptised - I was privileged and honoured to be confirmed on Sunday 2nd February, along with three other candidates, Scarlett Curson and Matthew and Thomas Jeffries. We were confirmed in the Parish of Happy Valley at St Aidan's Church, Aberfoyle Park, by the Right Reverend John Ford, Bishop of the Murray. What an occasion!

We were blessed with a beautiful service and a full congregation and despite the heat (44.7 degrees) and dodgy air conditioning, everything went smoothly. It was a wonderful service and a very special sermon by the Bishop, which focused on the role of the confirmed, enabling us to live in the way of Jesus and to go out into the world and shine our light. A very special aura did seem to shine upon us on that day, not only because of the presence of the Bishop, but many people commented that the atmosphere at church that day was joyous and it was a beautiful place to be. There was definitely a "Buzz" in the air.

On behalf of myself and the other Candidates, I would like to thank the Right Reverend John Ford, who travelled from the Murray in extreme conditions to



make it all possible. Also, Father Ross Morony, the Mothers Union, who provided a wonderful lunch afterwards, Dianne Smith for the Church flowers and also the Servers: Trevor Smith, Carol Edgeworth, Alice and Emma Sharples.

I am looking forward to continuing my journey in faith in Christ and with the power of the Holy Spirit enabling me to live my life in the way of Jesus and not in isolation. God Bless.

Carole Edgeworth

On the 2nd of February I had my confirmation with Carole, Matthew and Thomas. My mum and I were on the front row and we were very nervous. Then it was time to go up, I answered all of the questions then it was over. I was so happy because I was a full member of the church. We went to my house and everyone said well done and I got a few presents. Then we went back to the church and there was an amazing cake with lots of food. All of my friends and family were there and I was so proud.

Scarlett Curson

CONFIRMATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN VALES

Four candidates were confirmed by Bishop John Ford in the Pastoral District of the Southern Vales in January. The service was held at St Margaret's, McLaren Vale.

Those confirmed were Andrew Simon, the youngest son of the late Fr Greg Simon, Annaliese Tassie, Thomas McNee and Sheila McHutcheon. They are pictured with Bishop John and Fr Paul Devenport.



PARISH OF PORT ELLIOT-GOOLWA

The parish was blessed to welcome Bishop John and his wife Bridget who came and stayed in the parish from Palm Sunday. Bishop John celebrated all the major Eucharistic Masses up to and including Easter Eve during which he confirmed and welcomed 3 of our parishioners into the Anglican Faith.

Bishop John took us on a spiritual journey with Christ from Palm Sunday when he asked us to reflect on whether we would be an individual or part of the crowd. Jesus was welcomed by the crowds in Jerusalem as the Messiah and yet only 4 days later they had turned - "crowds are fickle... they have a life of their own". He invited us to join him for the week leading up to Easter and reminded us that we had to go through the difficult journey of the crucifixion before the celebration of the resurrection. The Eucharist of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday was very moving and full of meaning. Bishop John asked us to reflect on the incredible love of Jesus Christ for all of us. It was on that very night that Christ celebrated the first Eucharist with

his disciples and commissioned them to do this "in remembrance of Him". St John's Gospel is the only account that records Jesus Christ washing the feet of his disciples and Bishop John invited members of the congregation to have their feet washed. He reminded us all that this was a visual act of tender love by Christ for his disciples to demonstrate humility and service to one another. Many parishioners came and Bishop John tenderly washed their feet like Jesus had done 2000 years ago. At the end of the service, the altar was stripped and the Watch in the Garden of Gethsemane was started.

Parishioners were invited to stay and pray and reflect in silence on readings that were read by Fr Richard. The Church was in darkness apart from candles on either side of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Good Friday service was once again celebrated by Bishop John. He continued with the theme of being an individual or part of a crowd..."which one are you?" Christ had been mobbed only 5 days earlier and now he stood

alone in shackles in front of Pilate. One of his friends had betrayed him and the rest of his disciples had deserted him and even denied knowing him. Jesus was on his own and only the love for His Father and of His Father sustained him. The crowd had totally turned-they now wanted him killed and chose Barabbas to be let free in time for their Passover. Where were his friends? Bishop John quoted from Lamentations 1, 12 "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? look and see..". Some of his disciples stood in the distance as He was hung on the Cross and many passers-by jeered Him. Golgotha was on the road leading into Jerusalem and many would have witnessed His suffering and yet did nothing. We left the Church in silence to reflect on this most Holy Day.

The next day brought in new hope and expectation of a new life. We started the Easter Vigil service outside the Church in darkness and the New Fire was lit. Bishop John once again led us in this very moving service and explained the symbolisms behind the service. The Paschal Candle being lit from

the New Fire - the New Life from the resurrected Jesus Christ. On entering the darkened church our candles were lit from the Pascal candle. Bishop John told us that this year all Christians, including the Eastern Orthodox churches, are celebrating Easter on the same date.

Traditionally baptisms and confirmations took place on Easter Eve so this year was even more special as all Christians were united and celebrated as one. Our 3 confirmees were Pat Derham, Brenda Burgess and Janet Newell and their respective sponsors Lorraine Pomery, Judy Litjens and Vicki Plummer were all invited along with the congregation to renew their baptismal vows. Bishop John then continued with the Confirmation service and invited all of us to welcome them into the Anglican Faith. Photos were taken and acclamations were made followed by the greeting of Peace. The Church was glowing with the Spirit of Christ. At



the conclusion of the service, we all adjourned to the Parish hall for a wonderful festive celebration with nibbles and bubbly.

Bishop John is an inspiration for all of us and we are truly blessed that he was called to this Diocese. He made our Easter celebrations very special and we thank him for all the love and care he gave to us all during the last week.

Easter Day - brilliant sunshine and a perfect day in Port Elliot and Goolwa. The area was teeming with visitors and this was reflected in the attendances to the 3 Easter Day services which were celebrated in both centres of the Parish. Alleluia, Alleluia, Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

Sylvie Cleret

LAMEROO'S FIRST ANGLICAN CHURCH DEMOLISHED

Lameroo's original Anglican Church has been pulled down, marking the end of an era for Anglicans in the region. The decision was made because the building was in a state of disrepair and likely to collapse at any time. Members are now chasing any old photos people may have of the structure, including photos from past weddings.

The original Anglican Church was called the Mission Hall and was opened on June 16, 1910. It was one of three flat packs sent from England to the Mallee and Riverland region. A room was attached to the back of the hall and was fitted out and furnished for the lay minister to stay in. During the ministry of Rev. R.H. Pearman in 1927 -30, the

building was recognised as a church and was dedicated to St John the Baptist. By the 1920's the room at the rear was no longer used to live in and became a meeting room. It was extended in 1951.

A new church was built in 1962 by E.H.+ H.E. Hollitt of Geranium. The foundation stone was laid by Mrs M.A. Eime. Meetings and Sunday school were still conducted in the old church for many years. Four local churches then ran an op shop from 1992 to 2007.

Due to bad weather and time, the old church and hall had deteriorated and were subject to vandal attacks. On Saturday 8th of March 2014, a team of volunteers led by Leon Gregory pulled down the old hall

and by late afternoon the next day, the church was demolished.

A door frame, prayer mats and vestment cupboard have been donated to the Lameroo Historical Society. If anyone has pictures of the old church and are willing to loan them to be copied, could they please contact Anne Pocock on 04285 76309.

Services have been held since 1962 at St John the Baptist at Lameroo and it remains in good condition. It remains the only Anglican Church in the Mallee District. The Anglican Church at Pinnaroo was sold last year due to its condition while the Anglican Church at Geranium was sold a number of years ago.

THE MURRAY ANGLICAN

ISSN 1325-3859

Publication of the
Synod of the
Diocese of The Murray
of
The Anglican Church
of Australia Inc

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**DEADLINE DATE
FOR WINTER
EDITION**
30th July 2014

*Submissions received after the
deadline will only be published
at the Editor's discretion.*

DIOCESAN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Want to know what is
happening in DC?

After each meeting, the Registrar
will compile a report which
is sent to each parish and
pastoral district council.

If you would like an electronic
copy, please email Donna on
registry@murray.anglican.org

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THE DIOCESE OF THE MURRAY SAFER MINISTRY SEMINARS

Saturday 14th June

Mt Barker Parish Centre, 40 Hutchinson Street, Mt Barker
9.30 am. Registration from 9 am

Saturday 18th October

St Catherine's, Memorial Avenue, Keith
9.30 am. Registration from 9 am

For all people in new ministry positions including Bishops,
Priests, Wardens, Pastoral Assistants, Servers, Choir Directors,
Sunday School Teachers, Pastoral Care Volunteers,
Youth Workers, Organists and paid Op Shop Managers.

To register for Mt Barker contact Fr Paul Devenport
pdevenport@vtown.com.au or 8323 9744
To register for Keith contact Brenton Dick
dickscot@bigpond.com or 8755 3222 or 0417 831 880

Refresher courses for all licenced people in the Diocese will be held in 2015