

The Murray Anglican

A New Bishop, A New Year And A Fresh Start

One of the great things about starting a new year is the sense of a fresh start. I suppose that is where the tradition of making New Year's resolutions came into being. I don't know about you, but I have had a very chequered history when it comes to New Year resolutions!! Recent stats tell us that less than 30% of people achieve their resolutions. That's depressing!!

Some the all-time favourite resolutions appear to be, losing weight, stop smoking, take up exercise (probably associated with losing weight) and even lessening, if not stopping drinking alcohol. The research also tells us that we are less likely to achieve our intended results if we do it alone, but, if we commit with a friend, or friends, then our ability to achieve what we want rises exponentially. We are informed through research that people make such resolutions in order to feel better about themselves and to have a better sense of self worth.

While I am all for New Year resolutions, I think we can do better than the traditional stuff. While it is important to lose weight, do exercise, etc., these are temporal endeavours. As Christians we recognise that there is more to life than just this life, and we are also aware that our self worth does not come from losing weight or exercising, although I recognise doing all that can't hurt!

I want to encourage us all as part of any New Year's resolutions we might make, to include in those resolutions a determination to deepen our walk with our Lord and Saviour. It might be reflecting on God's word each day in a systematic manner. It might mean committing to 5 minutes of intentional prayer each day. It might mean that you commit to an act of service in your faith community if you are not already thus involved.

If you work, it might be committing to pray before a meeting, committing the meeting into God's hands and asking God to help you be godly in your manner and conduct. It might be praying before visiting friends that God might use your visit to his glory. In short, what I am encouraging is that we see every moment in our lives as an opportunity to be godly, and to see all of our lives, not just Sunday as being centred on God. This requires, at least initially if we are not used to it, an intentionality. This can be a part of our New Year's Resolutions. As we seek to align our lives more fully with our heavenly Father then I suspect our other aspects of our lives that we are seeking to change will be more easily accomplished.

With every blessing to you all,
+Keith



The Bishop of The Murray on the Murray

Bishop Keith Dalby began his ministry as the fifth Bishop of The Murray by undertaking what he called "the Grand Tour of the Diocese".

He visited most of the churches, held welcome masses in strategic locations, conducted two confirmations, met the councils of Mission Partnerships and Pastoral Districts and spoke to parishioners and locals.

The tour began on 1st October 2019 and finished on 10th November 2019.

See page 8 for full story.

Deaconed, Priested And Consecrated In The Same Cathedral



St Peter's Cathedral in Adelaide was at near capacity for the consecration of Bishop Keith Dalby on 16th August 2019.

Bishops, clergy and lay people from across South Australia along with representatives from the Diocese of Sydney including the Archbishop of Sydney, Glenn Davies, and from Bp Keith's former parish of St John's Gordon, were present.

The Primate and Archbishop of Melbourne, Philip Freier, and a number of other Australian Bishops were also present.

Bishop Keith was selected as the fifth Bishop of The Murray by a Diocesan Bishop's Selection Committee, headed by the Diocesan Chancellor, Robert Tong, after the committee deliberated for nearly six months. This followed the announcement that Bp John Ford would retire in May 2019.

For Bishop Keith, it was a homecoming for him and his wife Alice, after 15 years at St John's, Gordon, around eight years in the Diocese of Ballarat at Warracknabeal and several years in the Diocese of Adelaide.

He had studied at St Barnabas Theological College at Belair before becoming a Curate at St Michael's Mitcham in 1995. Fr Keith was ordained a deacon in 1994, a priest in 1996 and now was being consecrated a Bishop in the same Cathedral.

At the consecration, Fr Keith was presented to the Archbishop of Adelaide, Geoffrey Smith, by the Vicar General and Administrator of the Diocese, Bishop Lindsay Urwin; the Bishop of North Sydney, Chris Edwards, and two of Fr Keith's fellow students at St Barnabas College, Fr John Stewart and Fr Theo McCall.

Also attending were members of Fr Keith's family, including

his parents and his wife Alice, along with fellow submariners who were companions with him during his 13 years in the Navy. The Army Principal Anglican Chaplain and Archdeacon of the Army, Fr Rob Sutherland CSC, preached at the consecration.

Fr Rob said he believed that under God's guidance, the people of The Murray had chosen well to have Fr Keith as their new Bishop.

"Be encouraged that the (bible) readings that he has chosen tonight are a prayer to God, for wisdom to lead you well, a promise to proclaim the great news of God's love and salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ and a telling of the greatness of the Lord.

"To the people of The Murray, I commend to you my friend and brother as your shepherd, leader and pointer to eternal life in all its fullness," he said.

Fr Rob said Fr Keith is not a populist; he knows suffering and pain; he knows healing and knows the way and the truth and the life."

He stated that you may not always understand or agree with your new Bishop. "When you don't agree with him, please speak to him openly about this and he will unfold God's words of life to you.

"Life in all its fullness involves trusting God and His Shepherd. Please love, trust and be gentle with my brother your loving shepherd," he said.

At the conclusion of the service, Bishop Keith said it had been 24 years since he commenced this journey, which

Deaconed, Priested And Consecrated In The Same Cathedral



Alice Dalby, Bp Glenn Davies, Bp Keith and Bp Chris Edwards

Archbishop Smith said was quite uncommon, to be Deaconed, Priested and now Consecrated in the same Cathedral.

Bishop Keith said that on behalf of Alice and himself, he wished to thank everyone for being present at this fantastic service for his consecration.

Bishop Keith also wanted to thank the ABM for their presentation of a stole. "My family have a wonderful connection with ABM, with Mum and Dad having spent time in PNG on mission with the ABM.

"A plaque recognising their service from when they departed and when they returned, resides in St Thomas, Balhannah," he said.

Bishop Keith said he looked forward to working with the Archbishop, the Bishop of Willochra, John Stead, and the other Bishops of the Province.

He thanked many others including Archbishops Peter Jensen and Glenn Davies, Bishop Lindsay Urwin for his wisdom and guidance and, Bishop Chris Edwards for presenting him, and for those who presented him with his episcopal attire.

He also thanked Fr Rob for preaching and for his fellow submariners for being there as well.

The service concluded with supper in the hall.

Enthronement of Bishop Keith Dalby

On the day following his consecration, Bishop Keith Dalby was enthroned as the Fifth Bishop of The Murray in the Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist at Murray Bridge.

The enthronement on Saturday 17th August 2019, was an invitation only service due to the small size of the Cathedral.

Those represented included Bp Keith's family, members of Diocesan Council, two members of each parish or pastoral district in the Diocese, full time Diocesan clergy, the Archbishops of Adelaide and Sydney, Bishops and clergy from other Dioceses.

The enthronement began with Bishop Keith being presented by representatives from his Parish of Gordon in inner northern Sydney.

The declarations were then read before the Administrator of the Diocese, Bishop Lindsay Urwin inducted, installed and enthroned Bishop Keith to the Diocese.

On behalf of the Bishops of the Province, the Archbishop of Adelaide and Metropolitan of South Australia, Geoffrey

Smith, recognised Keith as Bishop of The Murray and greeted him as a brother Bishop.

The bible readings were then read from Joshua 24:14-29, Psalm 16 and John 1.29-34.

In Bishop Keith's homily, he stated that like Abraham, Moses and Joshua, he was very aware of his shortcomings, but was totally confident that God is at work in the Diocese, as long as we aligned our efforts with what God is already doing.

"If we engage in our agenda, our work, we will ultimately fail. If we engage in the Lord's work, we can do nothing else but succeed.

"I am here to encourage you, to pray for you and with you, to lead you, to admonish and correct where necessary and to do everything within my power to make sure you all succeed," he said.

"And that will require me helping you identify where God is at work, and helping you collaborate with God.

Continued overleaf

Enthronement of Bishop Keith Dalby



“As we commence our new journey together, I thought that I would draw on two people in the Gospels who might give us a suitable signpost for how we might journey together as a Diocese, and reflect on what their examples might mean for us, even help us understand what we need to do and who we need to be as we carry on their work of revealing the Lord Jesus to a world who desperately needs it.”

Bishop Keith said the first person is Mary, the mother of our Lord. “She was willing to place all that about conceiving a child out of wedlock to one side and to simply be obedient to the call of God on her life.

“The second aspect of Mary’s witness is that she points to Jesus. When a wedding in Cana occurs, the wine runs out, and she says to the servants, concerning her son, ‘whatever he says, you do’.

“This is the simple direction of Mary to these people, and it is her witness to us. Whatever Jesus says, commands, we do,” he said.

Bishop Keith said the other example of witness is John the Baptist. “While Mary is called to prepare the opportunity for the Messiah to come into the world, John is called to prepare the way for the Messiah to operate in the world. Like Mary, John also points to Jesus.

“In John’s Gospel we read just after the prologue, John the Baptist, seeing Jesus coming towards him, declares, ‘Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world’.”

Bishop Keith questioned what this might mean for us here in The Murray. “I don’t know about you, but I take great encouragement from the examples of Joshua, Mary and the Baptist, and it encourages me to have great faith in the future of our Diocese, and the mission that we are called to by Jesus to go out into the world to baptise, to proclaim, to make disciples.

“We can do this, simply because it is God who calls us, and equips us for the ministry he calls us to.

“As St Peter reminds us, we are sojourners in a strange land. We are destined for a greater place in the Kingdom of God, but in the meantime, we are called to live out our calling as the people of God in the here and now.”

The service concluded with the Eucharist, a blessing of the City and the Diocese and a reception at Tyndale Christian School in Murray Bridge, where there was a formal welcome for Bishop Keith and his wife, Alice.

Fr Paul Devenport



Onkaparinga Valley Parish

In The Heart Of The Hills Fire Zone

The Adelaide Hills bushfire shortly before Christmas has left three families from the Parish of Onkaparinga Valley with property losses.

Two families lost their homes, one in Woodside township and one near Brukunga, and a vineyard owner lost his vineyard and winery business near Lobethal in the fire while a number of others fought blazes on their own or neighbouring properties.

The fire on 20th December took hold quickly near Cudlee Creek and raced towards the townships of Lenswood, Lobethal, Woodside, Charleston, Mount Torrens, Harrogate and Brukunga with frightening speed.

Fire fighters worked hard in trying to save as many houses as possible in Lobethal and Woodside, while the fire got within a few hundred metres of the Mt Torrens township.

It also damaged vineyards, orchards, dairies, grazing and cropping properties as well as equine activities, small businesses and hobby farms.

There were huge stock losses and some parishioners assisted local farmers with loading massive numbers of stock for burial.

Fortunately, both Anglican Churches at Woodside and Mt Torrens were not damaged.

Onkaparinga Valley Parish Secretary, Jill Herve says everyone in the district has pulled together following the fire to help their neighbours where possible.

“Many though have suffered heartbreaking losses of homes, stock, plant, equipment, crops and livestock.”

She says in some cases, it will take years to re-establish nurseries, vineyards and orchards.

Jill says the forced rebuilding of a home is never easy but for many who are at retirement age or with young families, this is incredibly daunting.

Jill says it is quite confronting to drive through these towns

now and see all the destruction but one thing that stands out amidst all the devastation is the incredible number of homes and buildings that did NOT burn, thanks to the heroic efforts of the CFS and other volunteers.

She says they could not be everywhere though with some 85 houses destroyed both within these townships and in the outlying rural areas.

In terms of our parishioners who lost their homes, one couple has moved into the rectory at Balhannah which was vacant and the other is living in a granny flat at the home of other parishioners.

Jill says locum priest, Fr Peter Bourne has been a tower of strength in providing pastoral care to these people and other affected parishioners.

She says times like these bring out the best in people and so many people have contributed in so many ways. As one local commented, everyone knows their neighbours now, even where they are new to the area. The towns all have very close knit informal support networks and the churches are an important part of this.

“As to the future, the need for support will be long term in this district as rebuilding homes does not happen overnight and struggles with bureaucracy and insurers drains the spirit” she said.

Jill says losses suffered will cause ongoing symptoms of grief and shock.

“Farmers will suffer depression from the trauma of seeing stock die, crops, vineyards and orchards ruined. Those who fought the fires, both firefighters and those who did their own firefighting and who witnessed the devastation firsthand, will potentially suffer PTSD.”

Jill added the outpouring of generosity in goods, time and money donated has been extraordinary but we must ensure that this same spirit of generosity and support continues until it is no longer needed.



Walking the Extra Mile

Locals Respond To The Devastation Of The Cudlee Creek Fire

Dan Cregan, our state MP and member of the Mt Barker Parish, contacted Fr Thomas at 3p.m. on the day of the fire - 20th December 2019 - asking whether our church and hall could be used as a drop off/relief centre. Fr Thomas readily agreed.

Next day, the church and the hall became a drop off centre for food, non-perishable items, household necessities and toys. A long row of volunteers was wrapping Christmas gifts for the children of fire affected families, the CFS crews and volunteers. A convoy of utes, trailers and vans dropped off a vast range of goods from local, Adelaide and Adelaide Hills donors as far away as Freeling. Nat Reuss, former priest at Onkaparinga Valley, even brought a load from his new parish of Norwood. We were so inundated that we had to ask people to stop donating as we were not able to sort, store, and distribute until we could catch up.

A large band of helpers, volunteering from many areas, including a family of holiday makers from Melbourne, turned this avalanche of goods into groupings on lines of tables in the hall and in the back of the church.

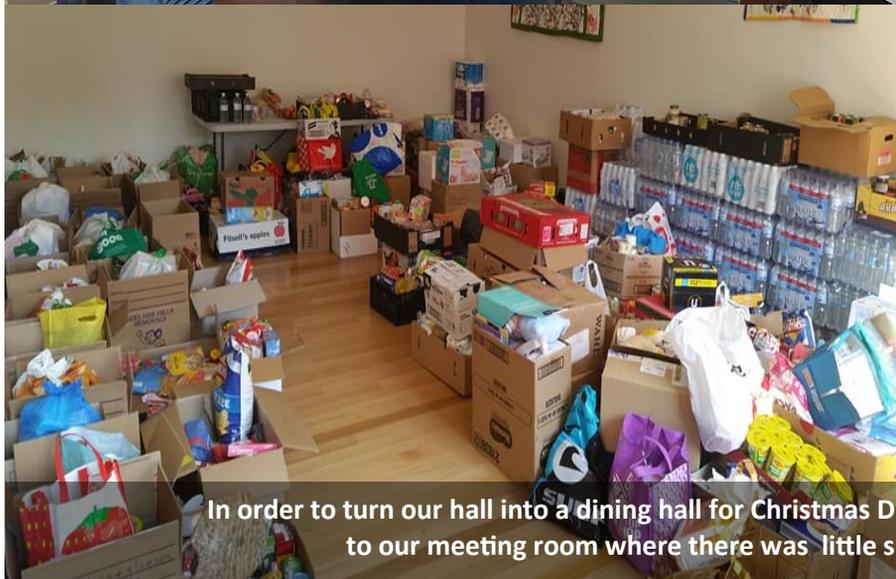
On Christmas Eve, the hall had to be cleared to become a dining room for Christmas dinner the next night. The District Council financed, and we catered for people who were alone, unable to afford a meal or were dispossessed by the fires. There, Dan Cregan and Mt Barker Mayor, Anne Ferguson, spoke about the Hills' fires and the impact on local communities and families.



Though not people of faith, Ibrahim and Holly volunteered their time as well as items of food and drink to help both the fire victims and those who gathered for Christmas Dinner.



The Parish hall set up and ready for Christmas Dinner.



In order to turn our hall into a dining hall for Christmas Dinner, donated items were moved to our meeting room where there was little space to work and sort.



St Stephen's Day saw the donated goods returned to the hall and organised like a supermarket for easy selection. From here, a number of families were able to choose what they needed. One child was ecstatic to find the exact replacement of a favourite toy lost in the fire. Rebekah Sharkie, our federal MP, took two carloads of items with her when she visited Kangaroo Island.

For the parish, it has been heartening to see our politicians, local government and the church working so closely together.



Items were laid out and grouped to make a supermarket setup where those affected could take what they needed.



Fr Thomas' experience with BlazeAid in 2015, after the Sampson Flat and Pinery fires, when he was a parish priest on Yorke Peninsula, meant that he already had existing relationships in the BlazeAid community. He will begin working from 10th January, **“not just rebuilding fences, but helping rebuild lives”** (see BlazeAid website). Our parish will be cooking meals for volunteers in the BlazeAid camp at the Lobethal football oval over the coming months. With Fr Thomas, we have begun to help many families too.

It is planned to turn our monthly market on Saturday 1st February into a fundraiser for BlazeAid. Government representatives, local, state and federal will be there, and Bishop Keith. The Adelaide Mar Thoma Church will provide an Indian food stall with all ingredients donated and the entire takings to go to the Fund.

BlazeAid will have information about the organisation and their work – how you can become a volunteer, bank details for making a donation etc.

So, we prepare ourselves to walk the extra miles for a long time with those who have suffered loss and trauma over these last few weeks. Our loads that we carry for them will be so different, depending on their needs, but there is one constant question - How would Jesus have walked this extra mile?

Liz Hampel

The Grand Tour Of The Diocese

With caravan in tow, Bp Keith travelled nearly four thousand four hundred kilometres starting from Murray Bridge to the Riverland, down to the Limestone Coast, then to the Fleurieu Peninsula and ending in the southern suburbs of Adelaide at Morphett Vale. He also went through three gas bottles, mainly due to the cold weather in Mt Gambier!

On his first port of call in the Riverland, Bp Keith strategically parked his caravan in the car park next to the church hall at Renmark overlooking the River Murray.

A neighbour across the road soon questioned whether he had permission from Fr Paul Devenport to park his caravan. He replied yes, saying he was the new Bishop and Fr Paul's boss! Having the caravan parked by the river did provoke interest from walkers and gave him the opportunity to say hello to them.

During his five day stay, Bp Keith met the staff at ac.care in Berri, was interviewed with Fr Paul on ABC Riverland and with The Murray Pioneer newspaper, and had dinner with key parishioners at the Rectory.

He also visited every church in the Riverland stretching from Morgan to Renmark and Loxton and met the locals.



The Riverland

There was also an opportunity to take time out with an expedition on the river and for a trip to the junction of the NSW/Victorian/South Australian border and the Woolshed Brewery nearby.

Bishop Keith then travelled south to Lameroo in the southern Mallee where he met parishioners at St John the Baptist.

After Lameroo, he went further south to Kingston and Robe, and then across to Keith, where there was a regional welcome for him.



Lunch in Lameroo

The next stop was Naracoorte where the Bishop visited clergy, the local schools, the Mayor and met the parishioners and the church's mothers group.



St Peter's, Robe



St Catherine, Keith

Bp Keith then travelled further south to Mt Gambier where he performed his first confirmation - that of five young people. He was also interviewed on ABC South East and the Christian FM Station for the South East of SA, LIME FM. He had the opportunity to meet parishioners at Mt Schank, Port MacDonnell, Millicent and Penola and to meet the respective Pastoral District Councils and he also visited the Op Shop at Christ Church Mt Gambier.

Bp Keith also took part in an ecumenical service for World Peace in Mt Gambier and attended the AGM of ac.care.

The Grand Tour Of The Diocese



St Luke's, Mt Schank

It was then on to Port Elliott, Goolwa, Mt Compass and Victor Harbor where the welcoming Mass was held. Again, he met parishioners and the local clergy.

Hilary's, Morphett Vale. There he confirmed an adult. The night before, there was a district welcome dinner for him at St Francis of Assisi, Christies Beach.



Morphett Vale



The South Coast

At the conclusion of the tour, Bp Keith returned to Murray Bridge. He said he'd had a great time but was a bit exhausted!

Bp Keith said whilst he was familiar with the Diocese in a general sense, the Grand Tour gave him the opportunity to gain a snapshot of the communities and their issues as quickly as possible.

Next stop was the Western Fleurieu Mission Partnership taking in McLaren Vale, Aldinga, Willunga, Seaford, Yankalilla and Delamere. There he met the Mission Partnership Council and was given a briefing of its strategic plan. There was also a combined welcoming Mass at St Margaret's, McLaren Vale, followed by a barbecue.

He was also keen to meet the clergy and the Regional/Parishes/Pastoral Councils to gain their assessment of their regions and how to make their churches successful.

Bp Keith has since spent time in the Murraylands taking in Murray Bridge, Mannum and Tailem Bend, in the Adelaide Hills area taking in churches at Balhannah, Mt Pleasant, Mt Torrens, and then further south at Strathalbyn, Milang and Langhorne Creek.



St Margaret of Scotland, McLaren Vale

Prior to starting the Grand Tour, Bp Keith also presided at services at the cathedral at Murray Bridge and at Christ The King, Mt Barker.

Bp Keith said it was his intention to visit each region in the Diocese again in 2020. He will start in the Riverland in February, followed by the South Coast late in February and March. During these visits, he will hold three seminars for all parishioners. The first will involve a Healthy Churches Checks in the region, the next will undertake some basic biblical teaching on the Gospel of Matthew and finally, strategic planning workshops for the future of each of the regions will be co-ordinated.

Fr Paul Devenport

He finished his Grand Tour in the Mission Partnership of the Southern Suburbs which included a welcoming Mass at St

Reflections on the Grand Tour and other Musings by the Bishop



The Grand Tour which I conducted through the Diocese late last year was an amazing road trip. I had an enormous amount of fun, and it was a truly fabulous opportunity to get to meet so many amazing people. I especially want to thank all the clergy of the Diocese for being so accommodating of my various requests, and most importantly providing fabulous spots to put my van. I understand that a lot of interest was generated in my tour, and that was part of its purpose. While it was overwhelmingly positive, it is also true that the tour did highlight some tensions which I have continued to reflect on. I have had further opportunity to do so as I have continued to visit churches.

Since the Grand Tour I have been to Mount Barker, Strathalbyn, Mount Pleasant, Mount Torrens, Balhannah, Woodside, Taillem Bend, Lameroo, Mannum, and conducted a Home Communion Service for about 8 at Karoonda. So I have certainly been getting out and about, and I have so appreciated the opportunity to sit down with the local people and just have a chat.

One of the aspects of the Diocese that I have really appreciated is the depth of commitment by both the laity and the clergy to the faith and to their local church. We will have to continue to develop that, and get a better sense of being the family of God in the Diocese. We need to be willing to look out for one another, not just look out for our own patch. The reality in the Diocese is that there will be very strong parts and there will be parts that, while they will have

their own strengths locally, will need assistance. This is why I am so pleased the Diocese has been arranged into Mission Partnerships or Mission Districts. I get that there has been tension in that happening, but I have to say that the idea is right. However, the way in which it is implemented will have to be tweaked somewhat. The reality is the regulatory environment has altered significantly even in the last few years. I am not convinced that the old parish model works now, if it ever actually did. We need a new model for a new future. Part of that future is also about re-evangelising the Diocese. While I get that the term “evangelism” has significant baggage attached to it, we should not use that as an excuse to do nothing, or to ignore it, for to do so will inevitably spell the end of the Diocese over time.

It is also clear that our lay people are our greatest resource, and they have been seriously neglected for a long time. It is my intention to reverse that, and to see that in this Diocese lay and clergy have an equal share in the gospel ministry that is all of our responsibility. I also get that in some places people are just tired and worn out, and I am not going to ask, or force people to do what they simply don't have the energy to do. However, a word of caution, in those places new things will start to happen alongside what you are already doing. You may not like what will happen, but I urge you not to distract the efforts or try to derail the efforts, but be involved as much as you are able.

I am sorry this has been a bit rambling, but they are my initial musings as I reflect on the first few months of my episcopate. I want to make a couple of other observations in closing. I have about 12 years before I think about retirement. In that time I want the Diocese to move into a position where every church is open every Sunday for a service, either of Holy Communion or Morning / Evening Prayer. This is vital for the ongoing spiritual health of our Diocese and our local faith communities. I want to also inform you that it is my policy not to sell property in the Diocese, unless it is to purchase property elsewhere to enhance mission and ministry in that locality. Furthermore, it will be the policy of the Diocese that we will be the last to leave a community. The banks may go, other shops may go but we will be the last to leave.

I look forward to continuing my exploration of the Diocese in the future and getting to know you all just that little bit better. Please keep me in your prayers for safety as I travel, and for wisdom, insight and understanding as I deal with all the various issues that arise from time to time.

With every blessing to you all.

+Keith

RIP The Reverend John Hewitson

17.8.1948 - 2.11.2019

A fly past by three F/A-18 Hornet aircraft from the RAAF Base at Edinburgh was a fitting way to conclude the funeral for The Rev'd John Hewitson, held at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Mannum on 7th November 2019.

The aircraft flew past the church along the River Murray just as the coffin of the Rev'd John was being placed in the hearse and after almost everyone at the funeral had filed out of the church.

It was not planned but it seemed to be, as the aircraft circled the town and the area promoting the Air Show, before they flew in close range past the church.

But it was fitting in a way, with the funeral giving thanks for the Rev'd John's and ministry in the United Kingdom, South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory for the past 50 years.

His last appointment in the Diocese of The Murray, by Bishop John Ford, was at Mannum-Mt Pleasant in 2016. He retired last year due to illness and died on All Souls' Day at the age of 71.

The church was packed for the funeral led by Bp Keith Dalby and was attended by The Rev'd John's wife, Anne, their children, their grandchildren and wider family and friends.

The Rev'd John studied at St Michael's Theological College (SSM) Mt Lofty, SA (which was destroyed on 16th February 1983, during the Ash Wednesday fires) in the late 1960s before being ordained a Deacon in 1971 and being priested a year later in Bristol in the UK. He later returned to Australia and continued his ministry in parishes in Perth, Townsville, Rockhampton, Elizabeth in northern Adelaide and in Darwin. In Western Australia, he ministered as a Ministry Development officer in the Country Goldfield, Field Officer with Council of Churches working closely with Prison Chaplains, School Chaplain, CPE supervisor and director at RPH along with nurturing family life. He went back to Darwin as a Hospital Chaplain and CPE Director and Supervisor before returning to South Australia.

Fr Neil Forgie, who gave the homily, knew the Rev'd John while a student at St Barnabas College and later shared ministry at Townsville, Rockhampton, Elizabeth and Darwin.

Fr Neil spoke of the 53 years where their paths crossed so many times and with so many memories along the Eastern, Southern and Northern seaboard of Australia.

He used the last two lines of the chorus of the hymn TIS 690 *Beauty for Brokenness* to base his sermon *Come change our love from a spark to a flame*.



Fr Neil said as a fellow student, he saw in John "this determination and creativity, this focus and passion and strong will that would stay with him throughout his life. There was this spark that kindled and led to a flame."

Fr Neil said he saw in John this same spark that kindled into a flame with the development of an Aboriginal Theological College at Townsville, again as the Director of Careforce in the Diocese of Rockhampton and then in teaching CPE, the Clinical Pastoral Education course in Rockhampton Hospital.

He said this continued as the Parish Priest at Holy Cross, Elizabeth, a chaplain at Trinity College, Gawler and helped establish St Columba College, an Anglican/Catholic education facility in Andrews Farm. After relocating to Darwin John was both the implementer of the Religious and Values Education throughout the college and was later head of Pastoral Care and Assistant Principal at Kormilda College, before moving interstate as Parish Priest at Fred's Pass.

Fr Neil said even though this earthly spark of John's had been extinguished, the flame is burning on in so many people, who over the years have had their lives influenced and enriched by his energy and enthusiasm, his creativity and focus, his compassion and concern for justice, and his insistence that the Gospel can't just be preached, but must also be lived with both purpose and risk.

"Yes, it has been an extraordinary Ministry, but not without personal pain, rocky times, and the deep questioning and reflection of his relationship and faith to his God. But it has been a Ministry for which we give thanks and celebration," Fr Neil said.

At the conclusion of the service, the coffin was led to the font at the back of the church, where Bp Keith anointed the coffin with oil of Chrism and sprinkled it with Holy Water. This was followed by a committal and a blessing. The coffin was then taken to the hearse.

The funeral finished with a lavish morning tea in the church hall.
Fr Paul Devenport

Baptism

What Is It All About?

One of the most important pastoral services we do in our church is the Sacrament of Baptism. It is such a joyful event in the life of a family when someone is baptised. With the advent of secular celebrants, marriage and funerals are no longer just part of their purview, as they seem to have crept into what might be considered “our territory” with “Naming Ceremonies.” I have to say that I am quite non-plussed as to why you have such a ceremony. You simply fill in the form and Births, Deaths and Marriages register the name of your child, and I don’t even think it costs you anything. Why you then need to formalise this reality with a ceremony that does nothing except cost you a lot of money eludes me.

So the reality of having a “Naming Ceremony” is clearly tapping into a latent desire to have some formal recognition of the birth of the child, that this child is real, and that the child has a name. In the past, I suspect this was all covered under the Baptism Service in the church which was so much more widespread than it is now. I am not sure what other clergy experience is with baptism, but I get odd requests from people to have their child “done” to which I usually reply, “medium, well done, or rare?”

Another misnomer that happily seems to have worked its way out of the consciousness of the society is the mistaken belief that God-Parents can raise the child in the event of the death of the parents. As we should all know the person who becomes a God-Parent has no legal connection with the child, unless the parent includes that person with their consent in their will in the event of their death.

So what is Baptism then all about?

For most of us, we see it as the entry point for our children to the church. Sometimes we see it more as a rite of initiation. However, this is not how the bible speaks about baptism. It is true that the New Testament speaks very sketchily on the subject. Mark’s account of the baptism of Jesus is very perfunctory, John does not have it at all, Luke it is barely there, Matthew has the fullest account. In the Acts of the Apostles Cornelius’ household is baptised by Peter (Acts 10), Philip baptises the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8), and followers of John are rebaptised into the name of Jesus (Acts 19). So we know that Baptism is important, and it is an important that we are baptised into the name of the Triune God. However, there is still more.

When we look at the Matthean account of the Baptism of Jesus we see two important principles in play. The ethical and the sacramental. The ethical, is the action, the work of Jesus in the baptism. The account in Matthew 3 is important. There is a debate between John and Jesus. Jesus settles the argument by declaring the ethical aspect. He is there to be baptised by John to be faithful to the word of God, and Jesus’ desire to be faithful to what God wants. Supplementary to that is his desire to achieve righteousness. So when we are baptised the ethical call on our lives is to be desiring to be faithful to do the will of God and to achieve righteousness.

However, there is a problem. We are sinful fallen human beings. We cannot do the will of God, and we certainly cannot achieve righteousness on our own behalf. This is where the sacramental aspect of Baptism comes into being.

To give an example of what I am talking about consider marriage. Here a man and a woman pledge themselves to each other in fidelity for life. We all know that this is impossible. And so in Christian marriage the couple bind themselves to God. By binding ourselves as a couple to God we wed ourselves to him who is always faithful, and He gives us the Holy Spirit which is the power to enable us to achieve what we can’t do on our own. In Baptism the same thing occurs. We ask God to bind us to him, which enables us to achieve the impossible, being faithful to God, and he gives us Jesus who is the righteousness of God. (This is Paul’s argument in Romans 3).

Thus, when we are baptised we pledge to be faithful to the will of God in our lives, and to live that life in righteousness. We are bound to God by the Holy Spirit which is given to us by God, to enable that desire to be faithful to be realised, and God gives us His son Jesus, the righteousness of God so that in Him, Jesus, we might also be righteous. When we step away from being bound to God and in Christ, we stop being faithful to his will and we stop being righteous. That then becomes our internal test to reflect on where we are at in our relationship with God, and when we find that we have fallen away, then we have the opportunity for repentance, and to turn back to God and to re-engage in the relationship we have had established with him from our baptism.

Let’s live that life of dedication to do the will of God and to live a life of righteousness shall we?

+Keith

Nicodemus said to Jesus, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.”

John 3 :4-5 NRSV

Diocesan 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Back to Church Sunday Services, a blessing of the waters near the mouth of the River Murray, a visit by the historic paddle steamer The ETONA at Renmark and a Diocesan calendar are some of the plans proposed to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of The Murray in 2020.

The celebrations aim to give glory to God for what He has done in the Diocese, in honouring the past, in celebrating a new beginning with Bishop Keith, in building memories, which includes healing and restoration of past wrongs and in turn, building hope for the future.

The Back to Church Sunday celebrations will be held on the closest Sunday to the anniversary date of 16th April 1970. Hence the celebrations will be held on 19th April, the Sunday after Easter.

It is hoped that every church in the Diocese will be open on that day and the services will encourage those, and their families, who have had past associations with the church to attend the celebrations.

Diocesan Councillor, Ruth Daws who has been co-ordinating the celebrations, says Parishes and Pastoral Districts need to look at past congregation lists and how they will engage their people on that day.

“It may include contacting families or memorials in churches to revisit and ask for God’s blessing with thanks for them,” she said.

Mrs Daws also said it could include, if possible, a Eucharist with a local band or an organ choir. She said other suggestions include a social event with period culture along with period food and entertainment, a Sunday School picnic style celebration, a hymn festival and an old fashioned Evensong.

Mrs Daws says the Back To Church celebrations will focus on building community with hospitality and in exploring each other’s gifts and talents.

A Diocesan calendar for 2020, featuring historical pictures and more recent events in the Diocese, has already been produced. Thank you to all those who submitted photos.

Another, which is proposed for 2021, will give a snapshot of events for 2020. Photos for this calendar will need to be submitted to Fr Max Bowers or Ruth Daws by October.

A new Diocesan logo and a new Diocesan prayer have been circulated for use in all churches in the Diocese for this year.

Another event being planned is the Blessing of the Waters



near the mouth of the River Murray on Thursday 16th April, the day of the actual anniversary of the formation of the Diocese.

Two buses have been booked for people to travel from Goolwa to opposite the Murray Mouth. There will also be a lunch at the Goolwa Hotel following the blessing.

Also being planned is a visit by the historic paddle steamer, the ETONA to Renmark. The paddle steamer was the only connection for much of the River Murray from the early days of the Anglican Church in South Australia. It performed services, which included baptisms and weddings, between 1891 and 1912.

It’s envisaged that the ETONA will travel from Echuca to Renmark at some point between August and October and will stay for up to a week, where there will be an exhibition of memorabilia.

Diocesan wide, it is planned to use a Eucharistic setting composed by former Waikerie resident, Adel Barrett, at the Synod Eucharist in May. It will be made available throughout the Diocese via the Diocesan website. The setting continues to be used often at St James, Waikerie.

A special edition of The Murray Anglican is also proposed along with a possible wine bottling with a centenary label. It could be from a winery or several, making it a mixed dozen from wineries across the Diocese.

Canon Missioner, the Rev’d John Warner, has suggested celebrating it with dedicating the year as “The Great Gospel Give Away”. The goal would be to give away five thousand gospels to people, inviting them to read it individually, with someone, or as part of “book club” style reading group.

The Rev’d Warner says he is willing to provide training and or facilitate ‘mission weeks’ in each region with ‘seeker’ style outreach events, services, preaching etc.

Fr Paul Devenport

News From The Limestone Coast



Bishop Keith Dalby's Visit

Five young people were confirmed in the Anglican Church at Mount Gambier in an exciting climax to the first visit by the Right Reverend Keith Dalby, Bishop of The Murray.

The confirmation was the first for Bishop Dalby since his consecration as a Bishop and took place before a large congregation.

Confirmees Eleanor Doyle, Jack Greene, Ayla Greene, Alexander Lynch and Emily Lynch and their parents and sponsors took lunch with Bishop Dalby, parish priest Fr Neil and Mrs Fernando, members of the Mt Gambier Parish Council and a large number of Parishioners.



In a busy four day schedule Bishop Dalby was interviewed on each of two sessions with Lime FM and by ABC Radio's Stuart Stansfield, visited St Luke's, Mount Schank and St Thomas' Port MacDonnell where he had lunch with Parish Council members from both churches.

The highly successful Op Shop at Christ Church Mount Gambier was also visited for discussions with volunteers.

The Bishop led an ecumenical service of prayers for World Peace where the congregation included representatives from other churches in the Mount Gambier community. Uniting Church minister Rev. David Sigley [President of the Minister's Association] said a special prayer for Bishop Dalby

and Pastor Greg Gram of the Lutheran Church offered prayers for the peace of the Diocese of The Murray.

Bishop Dalby attended the annual general meeting of ac.care and praised its tremendous work throughout the Diocese. Originally set up with one part time paid worker and several volunteers workers by the late Fr Brian Ashworth more than 3 decades ago, ac.care now covers the whole of the South East region of SA from Murray Bridge along the river and down to Mount Gambier, which is still the pivot and management office for [now] more than 200 staff members and a \$7m budget.

A dinner meeting was held in Penola where Bishop Dalby met Parish Council members for Penola and Millicent Pastoral District. The Bishop's final engagement was a meeting with Christ Church council members after a very well attended lunch gathering.

Both Bishop Dalby and Fr Neil Fernando expressed their delight at the success of the visit and the wholehearted involvement of parishioners to ensure the warmest of welcomes for the new Bishop.

Parish life and general activities have continued and involved many parts of Christ Church, Mount Gambier's Christian activities since the visit of Bishop Keith.

St Luke's Day

St Luke's Day celebrations at Mt Schank were a great success. Enjoying a service which filled St Luke's church followed by a BBQ lunch and tennis.



News From The Limestone Coast

Children's Services and Family Fun Day

A family fun day was held on 3rd November at the City Rail Lands following the Eucharist service. Quite a number of adult parishioners and over 12 children attended, heavy rain and wind did not deter the fun, games and pizza eating. In spite of the weather, the gathering was declared a great success.



It has been wonderful to welcome a number of new families to our church. The monthly children's service has provided an opportunity for us all to see God's love through the eyes of the children in the church with feedback across all ages being very positive.

The Pet service held on 27th October was a particular highlight with fur and feathered family members joining the congregation in the hall to receive a blessing from Fr Neil and money raised donated to the South East Animal Welfare League.

Remembrance Day

Three Remembrance Day memorial services were held at Christ Church and St Luke's on 10th November. Highlights of the services were the speakers Commander Peter Coulson RAN Rtd; President Bob Sando of the Mount Gambier RSL Sub Branch and Commander Sandy Coulson CSM RAN Rtd.

Scott Hanel played the Last Post. The Australian Defence Veterans Covenant was read and the poem *In Flanders Field*, written by Lieutenant Colonel John McRae, was recited. Ninety people attended and braved the very cold weather to attest their thanks for the sacrifices made by so many.



Then on Monday 11th November at 11:00am, Fr Neil officiated at a special Remembrance Day gathering beneath the flagpole at Boandik Lake Terrace which again was well attended.

Patronal Festival

Christ Church, Mount Gambier, celebrated the Feast of Title of Christ the King with a service on 24th November. It was attended by approximately 90 parishioners. The somewhat reduced choir and the congregation were brilliantly supported by the organist and the Mount Gambier City Band in a grand offering of wonderful hymns. Fr Neil Fernando says he was delighted by the excited reaction of the congregation and thanked the Band members for a memorable appearance.

The service was followed by a morning tea for the City Band members with about 40 people later going on to a Celebratory luncheon at Macs Hotel.

Confirmation At St Hilary of Poitiers

The Bishop celebrated the Rite of Confirmation during the District Mass at St Hilary of Poitier, Morphett Vale, Southern Suburbs Pastoral District, on 10th November at the end of his Grand Tour.

Richelle and Ryder, pictured right with Fr Andrew Forder and Bp Keith, were baptised at St Hilary's on 21st July.

We welcome them into God's family.





diocese of the murray *walking the way ... Together*
 50 years
 1970 2020

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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
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 Fr Lyndon Sulzberger, Fr Simon Waters,
 Mrs Ruth Daws, Mr Chris Martin,
 Mr Murray McFarlane, Dr Ted Sandercock,
 Mrs Joan Small, Mr Richard Fisher,
 Mr David Fleming, Mr Robert Foggo, Mr Des Warner.
 In attendance:
 Mrs Donna Jones, Mr Graham Dickson,
 Mr Jeff McHugh, Fr Andrew Forder

Website

<http://www.murray.anglican.org/>

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Want to know what is happening around the Diocese of The Murray?
 Want to let us know what your Parish or Pastoral District is up to?
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www.facebook.com/The-Diocese-of-The-Murray-139301872905418/

50th Anniversary Prayer

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise for the fifty years of
 witnessing to your Kingdom by your Church in the Diocese.
 Continue to enliven the Holy Spirit in the heart of Bp Keith and all our
 faithful people to empower in us a greater love for all.
 Invigorate our baptismal vocations to be more compassionate for the
 sick, the lonely and all in need - more zealous in our call to inspire us,
 young and old alike, and to be more committed to the wider mission of
 your Church.
 Accept the sacrificial offerings we make to you of our time, our resources,
 our skills and our finances.
 May we prayerfully discern, through your Spirit what it is you call us to be
 doing, and the strength to become alive with wisdom and the courage we
 need to grow in faithfulness.
 We humbly make this prayer through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
 who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.