

walking the way

diocese of the murray

murraylands

upper limestone coast

lower limestone coast

south coast

western flouvieu

southern suburbs

the hills

riverland

# The Murray Anglican

winter 2019

## A New Diocesan Bishop

A priest with former connections with South Australia has been elected as the fifth Bishop of The Murray. The Reverend Keith Dalby, the Rector of St John's, Gordon, in the Diocese of Sydney for the last 15 years was voted by the Bishop Election Committee to succeed Bishop John Ford, who officially retired at the end of May.

The Bishop Election Committee, chaired by the Chancellor, Robert Tong was enacted once Bishop John announced at the end of September 2018 that he would retire.

The Committee sought names from all Australian Archbishops, parishes and pastoral districts in the Diocese and within the committee as part of the process.

It met regularly and ended up interviewing four candidates, two of them twice before coming to its final decision at a meeting after the conclusion of Synod on 26th May. The decision was announced a week later on Sunday 3rd June.

The Reverend Dalby, 57, who is married to Alice with five children said it was with a great sense of excitement and anticipation in coming to be the Anglican Bishop of The Murray.

"It is particularly pleasing for both of us to be returning to South Australia, where both our parents live in Adelaide, along with two of my sisters who reside in the Diocese.



"I was born in the UK, after my parents married in Adelaide but then returned to Adelaide with them before spending time in the Northern Territory and then joining the Navy, where I spent 13 years in that arm of the Defence Force, 12 of those in submarines." he said.

The Reverend Dalby started training for the priesthood at St Barnabas Theological College in Adelaide in 1992 and became a curate at St Michael's, Mitcham, before moving interstate.

"We moved to the Diocese of Ballarat in 1997 where I served as the Parish Priest at Timboon and Warracknabeal, before being appointed to the Diocese of

Sydney in 2004 to the Parish of Gordon, where I am currently the Rector."

He said he had taken an interest in the Diocese of The Murray over a prolonged period of time.

"I am delighted to be able to continue the efforts of Bishop John Ford in encouraging the diocese to engage with the wider community and enable them to be more aware of the good news of Jesus Christ."

The Reverend Dalby said the diocese under Bishop John's leadership was a good blueprint for how this might be achieved.

Bishop John Ford said in a letter to the

people of God in The Diocese of The Murray following the announcement that he was delighted by the news.

"I will pray for you and him in the coming months as he prepares for his ordination and you prepare to receive a new shepherd and teacher."

Bishop John said he hoped this new chapter in the life of the Diocese opens with excitement and commitment to continue in our vocation to be Christ in the world and to bring others to faith and trust in Him.

The consecration of Fr Keith Dalby as Bishop will be held at St Peter's Cathedral at North Adelaide on Friday 16th August at 7:00pm.

The Administrator of the Diocese, Bishop Lindsay Urwin is encouraging as many people from the Diocese to

gather at St Peter's Cathedral and pray for Fr Keith and his wife, Alice, as he receives this weighty gift of ministry.

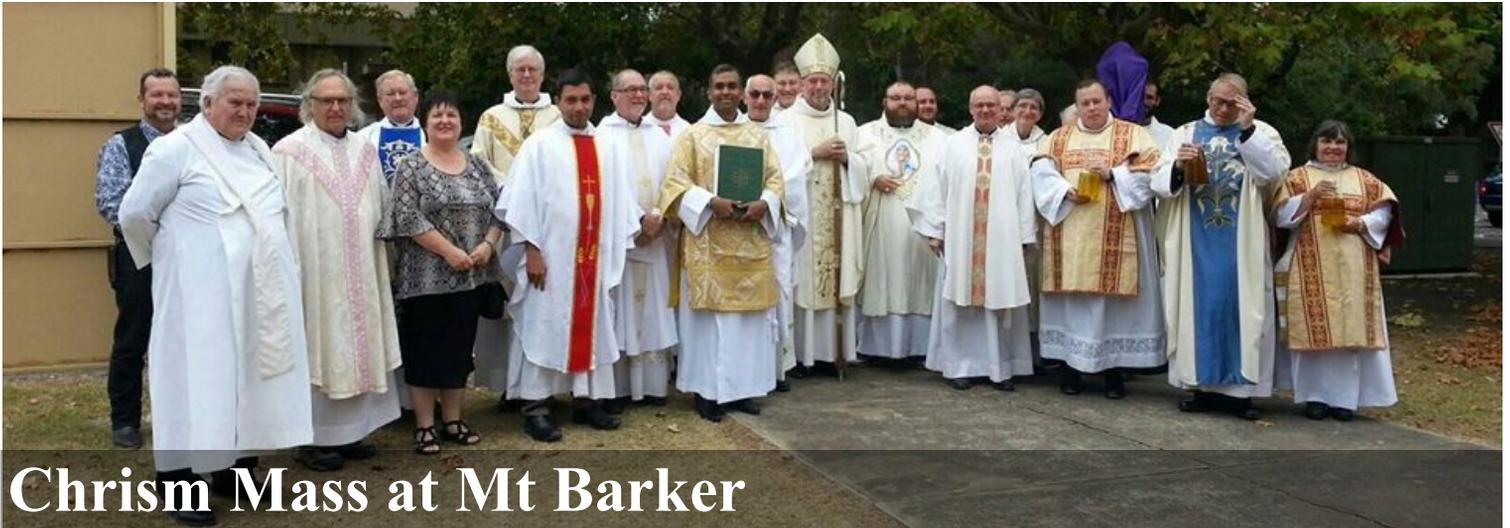
Bishop Lindsay said he will then be installed as the fifth Bishop of The Murray at the Diocesan Cathedral at Murray Bridge on Saturday 17th August at 11:00am.

"This installation is often called an 'enthronement' because at the heart of it is the placing of the new Bishop in the 'throne' in the Cathedral. This throne or chair is one of the symbols of a Bishop's calling, that is, to teach and preach the Christian Faith and to ensure that Faith is preached and lived throughout the Diocese. In the early days of the Church, and still in many places, the Bishop sat in his Chair when teaching or preaching."

Bishop Lindsay said unfortunately, given the size of the Cathedral, it severely limits who may gather for the enthronement and so this will be by invitation only.

However, there will be a series of gatherings to welcome our new Bishop in different parts of the Diocese in the following weeks, allowing more people to meet him from across the Diocese in a relaxed way.

Bishop Lindsay added that, "just as we prayed throughout the Diocese that Our Lord would guide those responsible for the discerning of a new Bishop, so now I invite everyone in the Diocese to pray earnestly that God will give to Fr Keith all the needful gifts of Grace to be our chief pastor."



## Chrism Mass at Mt Barker

One of the last liturgical acts by Bishop John Ford as the Bishop of The Murray was the renewal of a ministerial commitment by the priests and deacons in the Diocese and the blessing of the oils.

The Chrism Mass at Christ the King at Mt Barker on Monday of Holy Week (15th April) was attended by the majority of priests and deacons in the diocese along with lay people representing various parishes and pastoral districts.

Bishop John spoke of the commitment the ordained ministry has selecting people like those called to this ministry, "in the humour of God in choosing people like us and things like oil to advance his love and life.

"This service concentrates upon Jesus as our great high priest and his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world, on the royal priesthood of the people of God and the spiritual sacrifices for which they have been called, and on the ordained ministry set apart to serve that people in their royal and priestly character."

"Today's liturgy involves the blessing of three oils and the renewal of our commitment as ministers of the church. All three symbolise the wholeness of Christ's redeeming work."

Bishop John believed that this re-commitment could be a very self-occupied and perhaps guilt-ridden exercise.

"But it all looks quite different when we realise that the one who has set us apart, has charged us with the care of his people and equipped us with the needful gifts of grace is not a divine watchmaker, but a living God whose consecration and commission are as real and vital today as when he first called us."

The Bishop also acknowledged that God in calling people to live in the deep mystery of his life in the face of the demands of transitional cultures was very demanding.

"This has been experienced through forces eternal to the communities of faith but often, and significantly painfully, it is manifest in the ways in which people of the household of faith treat each other.

"It is both our failure to stand firm in the culture and for our self-destructive tendencies that we need to go to the cross on Good Friday. I pray that both our failures and our self-destructive tendencies can be left there."

## Bishop John's Parting Words

Bishop John Ford believes the future of the Church will need to be marked by an ever increasing level of self-supporting ministry.

In a final circular to the Diocese shortly before he went on leave early in May, Bishop John wanted to thank those who had accepted a call into ordained ministry at great cost to themselves and their future financial security.

He believed the church of the future will need to be marked by such sacrificial giving and also a ready willingness to accept an ever increasing level of self-supporting ministry.

Bishop John wanted to particularly pay tribute to those who have heard the call of God and offered themselves to ministry in His service.

Bishop John also wanted to thank all with whom he had worked and ministered, both in the Diocese and in his previous ministries.

"I have learnt much from all with whom I have shared the common pilgrimage of faith.

"Amongst those here in South Australia, I give particular thanks to members of the Diocesan Council, past and present, who have laboured with me to fashion a new vision for our Church," he said.

"As a result, many congregations around the Diocese are growing."

Bishop John also remained thankful to God for his call to be the Bishop in this Diocese.

"It has been a time of both blessing and trial. However, it isn't possible during Eastertide to be anything less than thankful for the gift of new life that flows from the love of God revealed in the person and work of Jesus.

"As part of His Body, we enjoy the gift of eternal life here and now. For this, we can all be thankful and this, at least, we should all be united," he said.

Bishop John rejoiced in all that has been done together in the Diocese.

"I ask those who can share in my joy and, of those who can't, understanding and where necessary forgiveness.

"I am deeply saddened that some people are of the opinion that the Diocese remains divided and dysfunctional," he said. Bishop John said he had hoped that things might have improved over the past five years and that we will await the judgement of history."

Bishop John retired on 31st May 2019 and has returned to England with his wife, Bridget.

## Farewells to Bishop John



Bishop John Ford gave heartfelt thanks for the generous farewell gathering for him and his wife Bridget at Mt Gambier over Easter. The farewell coincided with a confirmation at the Easter Vigil and him preaching at Christ Church, Mt Gambier on Easter Day. The congregation thanked Bishop John for his faithfulness to the Pastoral District of Mt Gambier over the past five years.

This gift, an aerial photo of the River Murray at Loxton was presented to Bishop John Ford by members of the Riverland congregations who came to Fr Scott Mudd's ordination.

The photograph was taken by Mark Burgess utilising a drone.

The gift was a way of saying thank you to Bishop John for his tenure in the Diocese over the past five years, in giving all he could to encourage us and others in the journey in faith with God. The roll up photo was given with our best wishes from the Riverland for his return to England and his retirement.



## Ordinations on the South Coast

Two young men made Deacons in the Diocese in 2017 have been ordained to the priesthood in ceremonies at Victor Harbor and Goolwa.

The Rev'd Jesse Poole, aged 26, was ordained on Sunday 13th January at St Augustine's, Victor Harbor, as part of the Sunday Eucharist with the other churches of the South Coast Mission Partnership, which include Port Elliott and Goolwa, also present.

The Rev'd Scott Mudd, aged 31, was then ordained on Sunday 9th May at Holy Evangelists, Goolwa at 5 pm. The services at this church and at St Jude's, Port Elliott for that morning were cancelled to incorporate the ordination of Deacon Mudd.

Both were ordained Deacons at Christ the King, Mt Barker, in December 2017 and began their ministry for Jesse at Victor Harbor and for Scott in the Riverland. Scott continued his formation at Goolwa and Victor Harbor for the first part of 2019, before he was ordained in May.

They both were selected for formation for the Diocese, having undertaken some formation at St. Peter's East Maitland in the Diocese of Newcastle over previous years.

Fr Jesse said following his ordination that it was a wonderful gift to be able to celebrate alongside the people he has come to minister to and alongside.

"I am incredibly humbled by the love, support, worship and love! I am so deeply grateful to everyone who has helped me to celebrate my ordination to the priesthood. I cannot express how beautiful it is to have so many people praying, loving, supporting and sustaining me in my ministry. My family and my friends are the greatest gift that God has given to me," he said. Fr Jesse offered his first mass, a votive mass of the Holy Spirit at St Jude's Port Elliott the following day.

His close friend, Fr. Chris Jackson who also sponsored Jesse for baptism five years ago, flew over from NSW to be with Jesse at his ordination and first mass.

The ordination of Scott Mudd on Sunday 9th May to the priesthood became the last liturgical act for Bishop John in the Diocese, while Bishop Stephen Pickard who was made a Canon Theologian at the Cathedral at Murray Bridge earlier in the day was the preacher.

The service was attended by his wife Melissa, Scott's parents and his in-laws, along with priests from the Diocese, two priests from Sydney and Newcastle representing the Society of the Sacred Cross, a friend of Scott's from East Maitland and parishioners from Port Elliott/Goolwa and the Riverland.

Bishop Pickard preached on the Gospel reading John 20:19-23 where Jesus entered the Upper Room through a closed door on the night of his resurrection. He related this event to Scott who like the disciples, were given special authority to fulfil a commission given by Jesus Christ.

"The pattern for the Church's ministry is Christ. The power of the Church's ministry is the Spirit of Christ. But what of the substance of this commission: First it is a ministry of forgiving, releasing or letting go. And the result is being forgiven, released and freed. "

"Second it is about retaining, holding fast and the consequence is that things are held and retained. This twofold movement of forgiving and retaining is fundamental to the apostolic commission in John's Gospel. And therefore not surprisingly it is at the centre of the life of a priest in the Church of God."

At the conclusion of the ordination service and before the blessing, Bishop Stephen spoke with gratitude about Bishop John and thanked him for his ministry, before giving him a personal blessing.

It was certainly a celebration of praise and thanksgiving and an opportunity to nourish everyone's faith and for those



visiting, in bringing them closer to God. Despite the difficulties for the Bishop in his concluding months of his episcopate in South Australia, there was with us a vision of the world as God intends it to be, in sustaining him and us in the human struggle of life as work and working for justice and peace on the earth. There was genuine feeling of thanks at the conclusion of the service of his ministry in the Diocese.

Fr Scott offered his first Mass at St Jude's Port Elliott on the Tuesday after his ordination and at St Augustine's Renmark the following day. His parents were there too for both services.

*Fr Paul Devenport*

## Bishop Lindsay's Reflection

One of the great joys for a priest or bishop, and indeed for a congregation, is the raising up of a new Christians in baptism and the renewing of Christians at confirmation. I am writing this piece with vivid memories of the baptism and confirmation service I led at St Christopher's Church in Mount Compass a few days ago, a service made all the joyous because it was the first confirmation in the church for over twenty years! Speaking of a new Christian being 'raised up' reflects the teaching of Scripture and the mystery of what actually happens when a person repents, believes and is baptised. We are raised from death to life, and the life we share is the life of the risen Lord. In the letter to the Colossians, Paul speaks of us being 'co-raised' with Christ, and tells us to 'seek the things that are above...' (Col.3)

Of course, though we are called to be heavenly minded, it doesn't mean we are to be of no earthly use! God has placed us here at this time, and we are to live life to the full, but that can only be lived with Jesus who has introduced us to what life in all its fullness truly means.

Although this diocese is small numerically, the last few months have taught me that you are blessed with some people who *are* both heavenly minded and of earthly use, working really hard to sustain and grow the life of the Diocese of The Murray. My part in the diocesan life is but a brief one, but I have seen and heard enough to want to thank the diocesan council and its officers for all they do, and to thank the staff in the Registry, not least Donna Jones who is remarkable in her loyalty and service. You have reason too, to be thankful for your clergy, and I look forward to spending time with them at the residential clergy chapter this month. Pray for them!

### We have a new bishop!

And what a great thing it is, a great thing that a new bishop will soon be arriving to serve and lead the diocese. I want to thank all of you who shared in the prayer that the Lord would indeed raise up a faithful pastor. We must now trust that the Lord has indeed honoured our prayer and has worked in the midst of the processes that have been laid down and faithfully followed. The diocese owes a debt of gratitude to the election committee for its careful work. I think it was clear to us all that the diocese would not be served by a long vacancy in the See, but no one should imagine that the committee worked with undue haste. We were well and prayerfully led by the elected Chair of the Committee, Chancellor Robert Tong.

If you are reading this, but did not in fact share in the prayer prior to the election, then I urge you now to begin to pray for Fr Keith, who has accepted the invitation to come and live with, and lead the diocese. He is a South Australian so he is coming to home territory, and he is a priest of considerable experience and of good and godly reputation. Whatever his capabilities, his ministry will depend as much on your prayers as anything else, though of course we trust that when the bishops at his consecration ask the Lord to 'send the Holy



Spirit' on him for the office and work of a bishop, the Lord will listen and answer our prayer, entrusting him with the needful gifts of Grace!

I hope many in the diocese will gather in St Peter's Cathedral for the episcopal ordination on 16th August at 7 p.m. to pray with and for Fr Keith, and indeed for his wife Alice, and their family.

You all know that the cathedral of the diocese is small in size, so the installation the following day will only allow a representative gathering, but Bishop Keith will later travel to I think five venues for a series of welcome services. These will be great opportunities to meet him, to worship with him, and to listen to him as he preaches about his hopes and vision for life together in the diocese.

### And we have said good bye to a bishop....

It would be remiss of me as we look forward, not to look back and celebrate the five years offered to the diocese by Bishop John Ford, who, with Bridget, made the journey from England and accepted the invitation to be your Chief Pastor. As some of you will know, Bishop John and I were ordained together just under forty years ago, and we have been firm friends ever since. Indeed I was one of those who encouraged him to come here and have an Australian adventure.

At one point in our ministries John followed me as diocesan Missioner in the Chichester diocese, and he inherited a colleague I had appointed. I tell the story against myself that a few years later the colleague concerned said of us both something that made me review my own style of leadership. He said, "You work for Bishop Lindsay, you work *with* John Ford."

My conversations with members of the Bishop's Council tell me that he has not changed! He is a strong leader, but he is a consensual leader. While some of the decisions made by the Bishop in Council have not been appreciated by everyone in the diocese, those decisions have been made consensually and the minutes of meetings bear that out as surely as do the conversations I have had with Council members. The decision to re configure relationships between parishes and people in the diocese were all made in the hope of creating a

## Bishop Lindsay's Reflection

more outreach and mission focussed diocese and because life together is the way of the Gospel, and because the structures that worked at one time don't necessarily serve the mission so well in another. Any urgency has been based on Gospel imperatives.

Many people are I know grateful for his ministry here. Other bishops in the Australian Church have spoken warmly of his contribution to the national church. I am not I think inappropriately revealing the secrets of the election process for the new bishop when I tell you that one of the good and worthy candidates we met spoke with deep admiration about the efforts and the initiatives during Bishop John's ministry here. It was heart-warming to hear. And I was so gratified at the recent diocesan synod I chaired to have so many members come up to me during the break times to express their thanksgiving for John's ministry among you.

It is therefore a great sadness to me that the last period of +John's long ministry was marked by some controversy, and indeed he has left the diocese with a measure of brokenness that I do not believe most in the diocese would want or consider to be warranted. I spoke of this in my address to the diocesan synod last month, the text of which can be found on the diocesan website. In that address I spoke of two narratives about the Diocese of The Murray, narratives that are so contrasting that they cannot both be right. As far as I can tell these narratives have been around for much longer than Bishop John's time, and it is difficult to understand why that is so, and how it can be that the more negative narrative seems to get considerable airtime, but I suppose that is just in the way of things. Sadly, the critique can become very personal, intentionally so, and wounding. To question processes in the right forum is one thing, and not a bad thing, but questions designed to expose, based on what posh people call a 'hermeneutic of suspicion', that is, that it's all a skulduggerous plot, the spreading of frankly inaccurate information to inflame, and the imparting of improper motives is another.

But enough of all that! Such things are in reality just a side show, if a noisy one. Fortunately, most folk simply just want to worship the Lord with thanksgiving in their hearts, and want the Church to grow. The diocese is going in good directions, and I have no doubt will continue to do so with Bishop John's worthy successor. The challenges are great, and the labourers are few. Pray that God will send labourers into his harvest.

So a new chapter will begin in the diocese very soon. Please love and pray for your new bishop. It is among the first duties of the people of God. Welcome him with open arms and hearts as a gift to you from the Lord. He faces many challenges. When I was ordained a bishop over twenty five years ago, I was given an old book of prayers which included a sort of catechism for bishops. Included in the questions addressed in the first person was one which went something

like this: "Do I always remember that the duties laid upon me are indeed too heavy even for angels wings?"

These are not easy days to be a bishop in the Church, and in dioceses in rural Australia in particular. But there will be so many joys!

Pray also for the bishop who has just left you. I know he has many happy memories. All ministry brings wounds. He will consecrate them, and no doubt get on with trying to be a faithful disciple in his homeland.

I will lay down my brief responsibility as Administrator on 17th August. It will be a joy to be involved in the installation of your new bishop in his Cathedral, and to continue in my support and prayer for him in the months and years ahead.

+Lindsay Urwin OGS  
Administrator

### So just who is this 'Administrator'?

Bishop Lindsay was born in Australia and had the first stirrings of a call to ministry at a young age in Melbourne.

In 1976, at the tender age of 19 he travelled to England for a temporary adventure, and stayed there until 2015!

In 1980 he was ordained deacon in South London alongside John Ford who was a year 'ahead' being priested that year. Their friendship was cemented when John suggested they 'leap over the wall' on the last night of their retreat to go out for a curry...

After serving as a curate then a parish priest in London, in 1988 he was appointed diocesan missionary in the Chichester Diocese with a particular brief to encourage spiritual renewal and mission during the so-called 'Decade of Evangelism' leading up to the year 2000.

In 1990 he made his first profession as a brother in the Oratory of the Good Shepherd ([www.ogs.net](http://www.ogs.net)) a dispersed religious community in the Anglican communion.

In 1993 he was made bishop in Westminster Abbey to serve as Area bishop of Horsham in the same Chichester diocese. The Area included over 200 congregations covering West Sussex. He inherited a chaplain called John Ford who had worked with his predecessor! John then became the diocesan Missioner.

In 1998 he was also appointed Provost of the Southern Region of the Woodard Corporation of Schools and some time later, the President of the School Chaplains Association, an appointment of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

After fifteen years he moved to be the Administrator of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk, and an assistant bishop in the diocese of Norwich, a position he continues to hold in an honorary capacity.

After six years at the Shrine, the English adventure that began at 19 ended (at least for the moment) with his return to Melbourne to be the Vicar of Christ Church, Brunswick, and Bishop to the Anglican Schools.

# Diocesan Budget and Assessment Rate Adopted

The Diocesan Synod was held at Woodcroft College at Morphett Vale on Saturday 25th May 2019. The shortened time frame for the Synod was due to a reduced agenda with Bishop John Ford having officially retired, and taking leave before it came into effect on 31st May.

The matters before synod were largely related to nine pieces of General Synod Legislation, all of which were passed, the financial reports along with the draft budget, the determined rate of assessment, the report of the Diocesan Council and other reports, and various motions and questions.

The Synod began with a Synod Eucharist at 10:00 am and was followed by an address given by the Vicar-General the now Administrator of the Diocese.

The draft budget for Synod Income and Expenditure and the rate of assessment at 16% from January 2019 to December 2020 were approved, but not before an attempted series of statements and questions were put forward to Synod.

In part responding to the statements and questions, the Chair of the Finance, Audit and Investment Committee, Jeff McHugh, said there had been significant changes to the structure of the accounts in 2018, due to obligations by the National Charities Commission.

Mr McHugh said the Diocese aimed for a balanced budget from the three main sources of income, interest, the Leigh Trust Grants and rate assessment.

Many of the questions posed related to the budget were not answered, due to the number of them, and why they had not been followed up with the Registrar or Mr McHugh before Synod. Bishop Lindsay gave a commitment that the questions would be answered in due course.

Bishop Lindsay also thanked Jeff McHugh and the Registrar, Donna Jones, for all the work done with the Synod finances, most of which is done by volunteers. This was followed by a round of applause.

There were also concerns about the Integrated Accounting System, with a motion that it be incorporated as a diocesan financial entity.

Mr McHugh said it was important to acknowledge that the IAS is a group of Pastoral Districts/Parishes that came together to share a common treasury and reporting facility, due to their inability to attract volunteer treasurers.

He said the function of the IAS run out from the Registry Office, accounts as a matter of convenience and that they were independently audited.

Mr McHugh said the incorporation of the IAS into the diocesan accounts places additional responsibility on the Registrar and that those using the IAS would be reported to Synod and those not in it would remain outside that scrutiny. He said Pastoral Districts/Parishes were free to withdraw from the IAS at any time; likewise, they can join the IAS if they wish. The motion was defeated.

Another motion put to Synod was to provide in confidence to members of Synod, a complete list of all payments in connection to the former Bishop during his Episcopate.

Mr McHugh in responding questioned whether the motion made a suggestion that there had been some illegal activity in relation to payments to the Bishop.

He said the Bishop's remuneration and expenses were part of his contract agreed with Diocesan Council.

"Payments made have been reported each year in the financial reports under Bishopric Expenses, broken down into 13 different headings.

"Travel expenses including annual return trips to the UK approved by DC, in line with normal commercial practice for overseas appointments, have been made from the Clergy Welfare and Training Fund," he said.

Mr McHugh said one additional trip was approved by DC on compassionate grounds. Any additional overseas travel was at the Bishop's personal expense. The motion was defeated.

A further motion directed the Registrar to provide in confidence to members of Synod, a list of each and every payment, together with a statement of its nature or purpose, incurred or made for, by or on behalf of the Diocese for the Chancellor, Robert Tong, Bishop Lindsay Urwin and Fr Damian Feeney.

Des Warner, in speaking on behalf of the FAI, said this motion implied that there had been a misappropriation of funds.

For Fr Damian, his first visit was paid by an Alumni Fund at Oxford University, the second was paid by the Diocesan Home Mission Fund and the third was paid by two \$500 gifts given to the Bishop from outside the Diocese. The accommodation was provided at no cost to the Diocese.

For Bishop Lindsay, air fares from Melbourne totalling \$666 had been paid by the Diocese and for Dr Robert Tong, no costs had been incurred by the Diocese for any travel or accommodation, which Mr Warner said was an extremely generous contribution. At that point, Dr Tong received a round of applause from the Synod floor. The motion was then defeated.

At the conclusion of the Synod, a motion of thanks was moved to thank the University of Oxford for grants toward Fr Damien Feeney's work with the Diocese; to Dr Robert Tong due to the generosity of time and expense in fulfilling the role of Chancellor; and to the Diocese of Melbourne for supporting Bishop Lindsay Urwin in his role as Vicar General of the Diocese at this time.

An additional motion was moved that Synod express its thanks to Bishop John and his wife Bridget for their time and ministry in the Diocese.

The Synod was adjourned shortly after its closing time of 3:00 pm.

## UK Missioner in Awe of What Has Been Achieved in The Diocese

An experienced UK Missioner, Father Damian Feeney believes a miraculous amount of work has been achieved during Bishop John Ford's episcopate in the Diocese.

Fr Damian made the claim while visiting the Diocese for the third time in five years in February at the invitation of Bishop John.

His first visit was made with the intention of introducing the Mission Action Planning in the Diocese: the second, briefer visit was to run a Leading Your Church into Growth Course for clergy and lay readers in 2015, and the third visit in February was to offer training in evangelism and missional training to clergy and deliver a series of workshops around the Diocese.

Fr Damian says the vision which was mooted for the Diocese in 2013-14 was daunting, radical, ambitious and utterly essential. As a result, issues of clergy deployment, training and formation have improved markedly.

"The signs are very clear, clearly in the number of people ordained and the quality of the newly ordained is a testimony to the decision by Bishop John at the beginning of his episcopate to devise a means by which ordination candidates could be discerned and formed and in the particular resources used, which particularly relate to theological education and the contribution of people like Bishops Michael Langrish and John Hind and others, has been most significant in raising the general level of teaching but also encouraging candidates to come forward."

Fr Damian says the necessity for home based, mixed mode ordination training, contingent with a low budget and the careful garnering of resources, shows tremendous creativity.

"A great deal, with an almost impossible workload has been achieved in the time since Bishop John arrived here."

"The challenges for the diocese remain as they have ever been – isolation, distance, diverse communities, paucity of resources, the challenge of an aggressively secular culture."

Fr Damian says it is hard to imagine a more challenging context for 21st Century Mission.

He says the acid test is whether the churches so equipped grow – grow numerically, grow in discipleship, grow in mutual love and the bonds of peace.

"It should be part of our life blood, it should be part of the very nature of the church to grow, it is part of the great commission of the Church in Matthew's Gospel, this is life and death stuff in terms of salvation, in terms of our souls.

"This is for everyone and the importance is the confidence to proclaim Jesus Christ and the continuation of his work," he says.

"The Eucharistic fellowship of the church is what we find so vital in our lives, in gathering people around the risen Jesus; it is actually a non-negotiable part of our lives, so that everyone can live as a saint, as a citizen in heaven here and now."

Fr Damian said despite the mistrust in the church in recent times, all we can do is continue to proclaim and witness to the love and compassion and forgiveness, which lies at the heart of the message of Jesus Christ.



"In addition I would want to think people of goodwill would respond to that and recognise that those talents were not necessarily shared and the only way we can restore the place of the church in the life of SA is to witness to that love, to show that this is a natural part of who we are in Christ.

"Of course we have a distance to travel in terms of reconciling and healing in the hurt and anger that has come about as a result of more recent historic issues in the church and we have just got to keep going, there is no way we can just modify the message. The departure of trust is not the way of the Gospel, the only way it will be resolved will be through the Gospel and through faithful people living and believing it and witnessing to it, but it will take time."

Fr Damian says clergy need to recognise their God-given role to be those who have oversight and ultimate responsibility for evangelism in parishes and pastoral districts.

"That does not mean that clergy and solely responsible for delivery. There needs to be a renewed understanding of clergy who are able to discern the missionary gifts of others, and to support and encourage these gifts.

"The whole people of God need to recognise, acknowledge and own their own responsibility for the growth of the church," he says.

Fr Damian says the clergy chapter in February was also an opportunity to set up mission events and opportunities for evangelisation within worshipping communities later in the year, along with the marking of the 50th anniversary of the Diocese in 2020.

He says this will be a wonderful opportunity to promote the Diocese among the wider community.

"An anniversary is always a significant moment, it's a moment of real opportunity to gather people from where we have come from, you know the great stories of how the Diocese was first evangelised from the river.

"I find that a powerful image of evangelism you could possibly have and maybe something of that pioneer spirit is something that could be celebrated in the anniversary," he says.

"There are a number of creative ways in which that could be

done, a number of conversations that are underway about how the church, here is a body working in the community of SA seeking to make life better than it really is.”

He says that positive witness needs to bring into question and that creates an environment and a culture in which evangelism can flourish and for the betterment of the churches, for people to look again at their faith and to be deepened in it, to seek to live it more profoundly, in a more enriched fashion and if that happens, then God’s grace can work incredible things, not only in the church but in wider society.”

Fr Damian concluded by saying that he was in awe of what has been accomplished and at considerable personal cost to Bishop John and has been pleased to help him in some way.

“I love the relationship I have with the Diocese of The

Murray, not because of the Bishop but the friends I have made among the clergy and the lay people in the diocese. I think the diocese will miss my good friend Bishop John very much and I am awe of what he has since he has arrived in the Diocese.

“I would love to continue this relationship with the Diocese, I always hold this place very dear and pray for its ongoing flourishing and for the growth of the church and when I look around me, I see the diocese is in better hands.”

Fr Damian is the Parish Priest of Wolverhampton in the Midlands and is half time Diocesan Missioner for the Diocese of Litchfield. Previous to this, he was the Deputy Director of St Stephen’s Theological College in Oxford for 6 years.

*Fr Paul Devenport*

## Around the Diocese

### Order of Australia Medals Awarded to Several Anglicans in the Diocese



Four members of church congregations in the Diocese have been recognised in the Australia Day and Queens Birthday honours lists in 2019 for their services to the community.

Michael Bleby from Millicent, Ellen Traeger from Renmark and John Allan from Mt Gambier were awarded Medals in the Order of Australia on Australia Day, while Lynette Nitschke from Waikerie was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List.

Mr Bleby, a communicant at St Michael and All Angels, Millicent was given the award for decades of hard work and volunteer service.

He has been the Chairman of ac.care Board, a member of Diocesan Council and part of the Millicent/Penola Pastoral District Council for more than 30 years.

He has been a church warden, a pastoral assistant and holds the office of Lay Canon in the Diocese of The Murray.

“I was a member of Diocesan Council for 30 years and I still chair the board of the diocesan welfare agency, ac.care, a role I have had for over two decades.”

Mr Bleby says involvement in the governance of an agency such as ac.care means that we can have an organisation that strives to provide country people, in particular, with a safe home, enough money to live on and strong positive relationships.

Mr Bleby came to Millicent in 1983 following the Ash Wednesday bushfires, and worked with Forestry SA to help recover the Mt Burr Forest.

Mr Bleby says he had received satisfaction from serving the community by volunteering with various organisations and in diverse roles as a justice of peace, as the musical director of the local choral society and physically maintaining natural assets such as the Canunda and Beachport parks.

The second recipient, John Allan from Christ Church, Mt Gambier, was honoured in the Australia Day Awards for his service to the community of Mt Gambier, including his long engagement with his church’s activities.

Mr Allan who was baptised, confirmed and married at Christ Church, served on the Parish Finance Committee and turned the tables, by becoming the strong supporter of his wife Heather who ran the [still] highly successful cake stall at the Church Fair for many years.

His widespread community involvement included 21 years of voluntary service as a Mount Gambier City Councillor during which he was Deputy Mayor and an Alderman at various times.

He was also a member of Council’s finance committee for some years as well as various City and Regional Committees including the Limestone Coast Area Consultative Committee.

# Around the Diocese

## Order of Australia Medals Awarded to Several Anglicans in the Diocese

Mr Allan, an active member of Scouts SA for 50 years and Lower South East Commissioner for ten of those, also found time for Probus Men's Club [two terms as President] Lakes Rotary Club [a founding member] in which he also served as President and is a Past President of the Mount Gambier Retirees Group and he still serves as a Justice of the Peace, offering weekly voluntary hours.

Humbled and surprised by the award, he said there are countless people across the city who have enriched the community through voluntary service.

He proudly mentioned his sister, Vivienne Hutchinson, now in her 90s who has filled many and various important roles in the Parish over many years including leadership in Mothers Union [managing the MU's ac.care mission efforts] and as a long time convenor of the successful cake stall.

The third recipient, Ellen Treager is a member of St Augustine's, Renmark.

In receiving her OAM, Ellen was recognised for her long and dedicated service to the Riverland community.

The 71 year old has spent four decades heavily involved with local sporting and community clubs.

Mrs Traeger's community service stretches back to 1983, when she accepted a teaching position at Renmark Primary School.

She has chaired the Renmark Christian Pastoral Support Worker program until recently, and has been actively involved with ministry at the church with services, being part of the Renmark Church Management Committee and now ministry group, in fundraising and in supporting Carols in the Garden annually.

Ellen still volunteers at Renmark's visitor information centre and is the co-founder of the Caroline Bristow Wig Library based at Barmera Hospital since 2014.

Since then, she has assisted groups in Port Lincoln, Murray Bridge, Naracoorte, Jamestown and Bali establish their own wig libraries to support people suffering hair loss.

Another Riverland Anglican, Lynette Nitschke from St James, Waikerie, was given an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her dedication to victims' rights in the 28 years since the murder of her daughter Allison in 1991.

Mrs Nitschke established the Homicide Victim Support Group in 1994 and championed the rights of the victims of crime, as well as their family and friends.

The group is open to anyone associated with a person who has been murdered. She was the President of the Group until 2004 when she stepped down but she continues to be a committee member.

She was very grateful to the members of the Homicide Victim Support Group of SA for nominating her.

"I am honoured to receive the award and quite overwhelmed by all the wonderful responses I have had and I am very grateful to live in such a supportive community," she said.

Mrs Nitschke is also involved in a myriad of volunteer

organisations in Waikerie including Meals on Wheels and the local flower show, which was formerly a St James fundraiser. She was a member of the St James Church Council and is on the welcoming roster at St James.

Among her other accolades are Citizen of the Year for Loxton -Waikerie in 2016, Riverland Citizen of the Year in 2017 and Victim Worker of the Year in 2008.

A fifth person who attends the Anglican Church's monthly community lunches at Loxton, Howard Hendrick was also awarded an OAM for his recognition of service to the Loxton community.

Mr Hendrick, 95, is a World War II veteran who flew Lancaster Bombers over Germany, before he became a British Airways pilot.

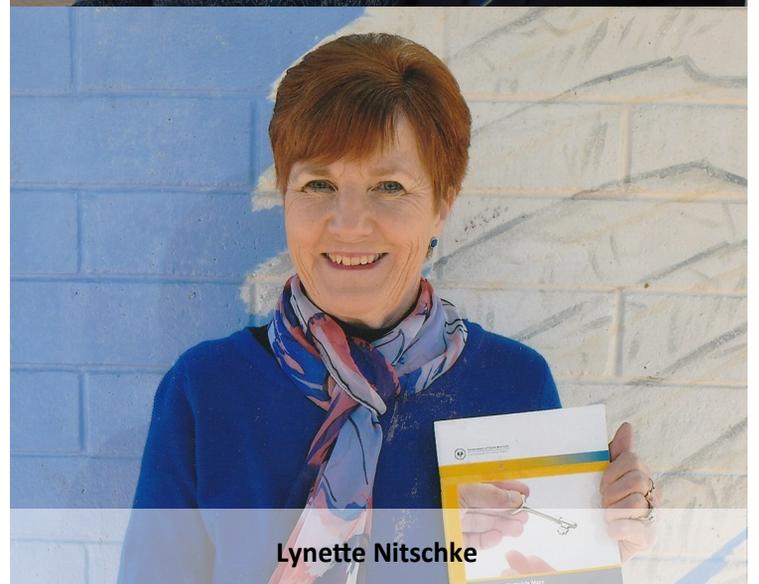
His community involvement includes volunteering at St Albert's Catholic School, being a visiting speaker, including at the Anglican Church lunches, and visiting ex-servicemen and widows.

Mr Hendrick is also an active member of the Loxton RSL sub-branch and Loxton Aero Club and a former Loxton Agricultural Bureau member.

*Credit: The South Eastern Times, Joan Tremelling, The Murray Pioneer, The Advertiser.*



Heather and John Allan



Lynette Nitschke

## Around the Diocese

### Lower South East Church Growth

Lower South East Anglican churches had higher than usual attendances at Easter, winning plaudits from Bishop John Ford who spent part of his pre-retirement time in the region.

Also highly delighted was Mount Gambier's Christ Church parish priest Fr Neil Fernando whose presentation of the Gospel was a most enlivening discourse on the love and shepherding of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Ford was farewelled at a well-attended luncheon on Easter Saturday at which Christ Church parishioners heard their Parish Council leaders outline the loving and supportive assistance Bishop Ford had offered in increasing the Parish communicants and confirmees.

Bishop Ford said his time in the South East parish over the years had been a joy to him and Mrs Ford [Bridget] and they would long remember the kindness and warmth they had experience.

Christ Church averaged 80 communicants at each of the two morning Eucharist services with 100 present on Easter Sunday while Millicent had between 20-25 for every service and Penola 15 to 20 with 25 adults and 10 children attending the Easter Sunday Eucharist. Churches at Kalangadoo Mount Schank and Port MacDonnell held to their usual levels.



### United Service of Prayer for Sri Lanka

Christ Church, Mount Gambier was filled to capacity on Sunday 28th April for a remarkable programme of remembrance Christian hope and love, when prayers were said for victims of the Sri Lanka terrorist bombing.

Ministers from various Christian denominations as well as former Sri Lankan citizens [including a Buddhist friend of Fr. Fernando now resident in Mount Gambier] This is the copy Senewere exhorted to 'love and forgive' in the manner of Jesus Christ who - dying on the cross- asked God to 'forgive them Father, for they know not what they do' Pastor Rudy Furlong began the service with prayers for the victims, their families and friends, for the general population of Sri Lanka and for world peace. Mayor Lynette Martin offered condolences to Sri Lanka on behalf of the people of Mount Gambier and district who, she said, had a long history of generous welcome to newcomers from many parts of the world. She said prayers would be offered by many sections of the Mount Gambier community in remembrance of those who lost their lives and those family members who mourned them.

Fr. Neil Fernando spoke of the children who died for Christ and referenced Matthew 10.25; Pastor David Sigley read from the beatitudes and Matthew 5 'love your enemies' mentioning his own change of life once he stopped hating and Dr. Roy described Sri Lanka as 'the pearl of the Indian Ocean.

Songs were offered by the Christ Church CMG'S, candles of remembrance were lit by members of the congregation and children led the prayers of the congregation. The gathering was described by many as one of great warmth and tremendous faith and support for the victims of the bombings. Pieces of rosemary were handed out as the large congregation arrived.



## Around the Diocese

### Parishioners Pastoral Ministry in Mt Gambier

Care for people is a strong motive behind a number of Raylene Milligan's occupations in Christ Church, Mt Gambier. As part of that motive, she co-founded a group with Robyn Sweetman, a monthly dinner quaintly titled 'Solos and Spares'.

"Basically the dinner was begun as a meeting place for single people to enable them to meet and get to know other parishioners but it is growing and we now have a few married couples attending from time to time" she says.

Encouraging discussions and a light-hearted dinner atmosphere 'Solos and Spares' is held at Mac's Hotel on the third Friday of each month with between 12 and 20 people turning out.

Raylene and Robyn are delighted by the support received from Mac's Hotel management and staff..."it has become a marvellous social gathering".

In another initiative, Robyn and Raylene with Darren Schuncke conduct Christian meditation classes between 5 and 6pm each Monday and Tuesday. These are quite well attended and the fellowship is great.

She also took up hospital visiting about a decade ago, when invited to do so by Bev Hamson; then, at Bev's retirement, was joined by Beryl Heard; each Thursday their visiting has them calling on patients, particularly the elderly, irrespective of whether they are regular church attendees.

Both Raylene and Beryl also help with Sunday church Services.

Raylene's involvement through 15 years has included being a sides-person, handling the eucharistic elements, helping with morning tea, two years on the Parish Council and running weekly tai chi exercise groups which 'balance wellbeing with lots of giggling' while raising regular income for the Parish...then there's the weekly walks.

The future? Raylene hopes this will include taking Holy Communion to the aged or house bound.



### Mission/Tour to Sri Lanka

More than twenty people will undertake a Mission Tour to Sri Lanka in August during which they will distribute 200 children's school back packs and winter clothing for people living in the high, cold, hills of the country.

Fr Neil says the mission tour will run from August 13th to 25th and will include 16 South East people and a number from Adelaide - those who wish may make donations to the Christ Church parish office for purchase of back packs.

### Gaol Mission in Mount Gambier

A move is being made by Mount Gambier's Anglican priest, Fr Neil Fernando to establish a Christian mission for the city gaol's 600 prisoners.

Fr Neil says there has not been a chaplain at the gaol in the recent past and he is pleased at the support he is receiving from the Chaplains of Adelaide and Mr Allen Bridges who is now Manager of Settlement.

Mr Allen's support has resulted in a suitable meeting place being provided in which Communion services and Bible study can now be offered on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month between 6pm and 7pm.

Fr Neil said "I aim to, ultimately, establish a full time chaplaincy at the gaol depending on the interest and demand from prisoners and the Parish's ability to gain additional chaplains."

### Kids to Benefit From 'We Care, Mount Gambier'

In another, ongoing, mission effort the Christ Church Parish established an ongoing and non-denominational group titled 'We Care, Mount Gambier' which will support kids in Sri Lanka and Kenya.

Winter weather has helped the parish gather 200 school bags and six boxes of clothes for children living high in the cold hills of Sri Lanka.

Parish priest, Fr Neil Fernando, says the school bags will hold various items of use to school children as well as a big variety of exciting 'lollies'. while the clothes will be for the varied sizes of the children expected to make good use of them.

These mission goods will be handed over to the Sri Lanka based groups dealing with needs of some of the country's people.

Led by well-known Mount Gambier businessman, Mr Brian Smith, the 'We Care, Mount Gambier' executive group also includes Ms Vicki Charlton, Mr Richard Miles and Mrs Elizabeth Hodges.

## Around the Diocese

### Lime FM Worship

Mount Gambier ministers are experiencing increasing interest in Lime FM [104.9] radio's weekly Christian broadcasts since 10 of their members have begun a roster of preaching. Set up by Fr Neil Fernando of Christ Church, Mount Gambier, a new member of Lime FM radio, the programme segments featuring the local preachers go to air at 3.00pm each Saturday and again on Sundays at 7.45 and Tuesdays at 9.50am. According to Fr Fernando, the sermons have caused great interest because they get to the point quickly during the seven minute broadcasts. Motorists are able to hear the Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday programmes without interruption and Fr Neil says this has caused a big jump in the Christian broadcast station's listening numbers.

### \$500 Table Tennis Table

Table tennis is a growing interest among Christ Church parishioners and their friends with regular Saturday evening gatherings in the church hall, as well as various card games and, just recently, ball room dancing lessons. A recent excitement was the 'official opening' for a brand new \$500 table tennis table donated by long time parishioner and sometime chorister, Wendy Monger, who must have been pleased by the delight expressed by those who will use it. Table tennis coaching is provided by Fr Neil and the ballroom dancing tutors are Caleb and Rachael Pullman.

### Confirmation Services in The Riverland

Bishop John Ford conducted two confirmation services in the Riverland on Sunday 17th February. At Berri, Callum Pankhurst was baptised and then confirmed with Aimee Smith, Ethan Cross, Nathan Fielke and Jacinta Williams at St Alban's, Berri. That afternoon, Joyleen (Joy) Pfeiler was confirmed at St James, Waikerie. It was Bishop John's last occasion to be in the Riverland, before his retirement.



### Chamber Philharmonia Cologne at St Augustine's Renmark

The Chamber Philharmonia from Cologne in Germany performed a concert at St Augustine's Renmark in March. Nearly 120 people packed the church to hear a wonderful evening of classical music enhanced by the Church's acoustics along with wine and cheese at the interval. The organiser of the concert and the musicians were wrapped by the hospitality before and after the concert at the Rectory, and the acoustics of the church. In fact, they said it was one of their best concerts of the whole tour. The orchestra has promised to make Renmark part of its next Australian tour!

The concert was held on the same night as two Shrove Tuesday pancake fundraisers at two other churches, The Church of the Resurrection at Loxton and at St Edmunds', Barmera. It was a busy night in the Riverland.



## Around the Diocese

### Efforts of Pastoral Care Team's Furriest Member Recognised

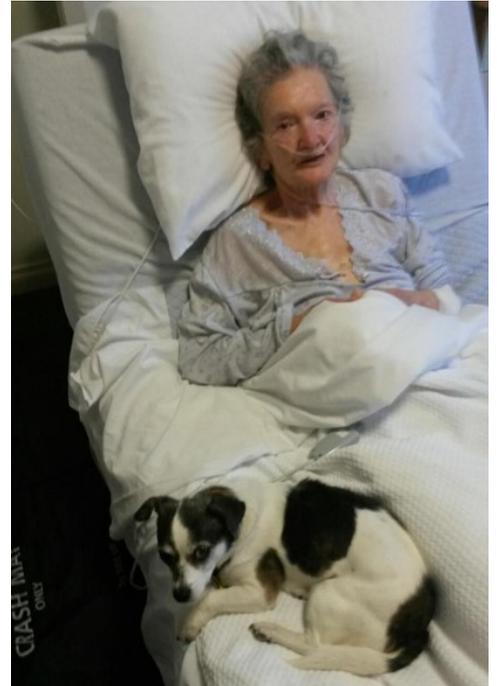
The Pastoral Care Team of the Strathalbyn Pastoral District works tirelessly within the area visiting private homes, hospital when needed and the towns two nursing homes, Estia and the High Street Nursing Home. They provide help in the form of transport to and from church services, Mothers' Union meetings and events as well as other activities or meetings.

By far and wide the most popular member of the Pastoral Care Team however is its smallest and furriest member, Tiny, the areas only Canine Pastoral Assistant. He regularly attends the church services in both nursing homes, as well as the occasional visit to Christ Church, Strathalbyn, on Sunday mornings where he is blessed for his continued work and ministry.

At Estia he is free to roam the complex off lead and is well known to both staff and residents, as well as their visiting family members. Tiny has even been described by many of the residents as their "favourite volunteer" and has even received a Certificate of Appreciation from the centre in recognition of the valuable work he, and the rest of the team, does in bringing some light and joy and love into the lives the people he visits.

Whilst visiting a parishioner in a nursing home at Hahndorf he was quickly invited to return at any time but at this stage Tiny and the team are being kept busy enough in Strathalbyn.

*Jan Payne*



### Sharing Life, Sharing Jesus

We share life with all sorts of people at all sorts of times and in all sorts of ways every day. A number of people in the Southern Suburbs Pastoral District meeting at St Aidan's have enthusiastically embraced the sessions to encourage us to have a little more intestinal fortitude (guts!) to actually talk to people about Jesus and what He means to us. John Warner encouraged us to take a closer look at John's Gospel that clearly outlines all the things we need to know to start a conversation about Jesus. Not about "The Church", which is often off putting to many people, but about Jesus and what he has done in our lives and could do for those folks we come into contact with every day. We are encouraged to list those we come into contact with on a regular basis. Neighbours, immediate family, friends, work, social/hobbies, community contacts, relatives and anyone else. It's really surprising just how many people we actually come into contact with on a regular basis, many who don't know about Jesus.

### Canon Theologian

A former Director of St Marks Theological College in Canberra, Bishop Stephen Pickard has been made a Canon Theologian for the Diocese.

Bishop Pickard was made a Canon Theologian at the Cathedral at Murray Bridge on Sunday 5th May in the presence of Bishop John Ford and Dean, Fr David Price.

He was the Director of St Marks between 1998 and 2007 and became Assistant Bishop for the Diocese of Adelaide in 2007 until 2010.

Bishop Pickard then went to the UK as a Visiting Professor Fellow at Ripon Theological College at Oxford in 2010 and 2011 and was then at Canterbury Cathedral until 2014.

Bishop Pickard returned to Australia and was appointed an assistant Bishop for the Diocese of Canberra Goulburn and assisted during the vacancy of the Bishop until the enthronement of Bishop Mark Short recently.

He will sit in the stall in the Cathedral at Murray Bridge bearing the name of one of the greatest teachers and preachers in Christian history, John Chrysostom.

It was hoped that Bishop Pickard would be in his position as Canon Theologian to be able to assist the Diocese in the future with theological training and in lectures.



## Around the Diocese

### Islamic Q & A

'Common values during testing times' was the theme of a talk given by Mr Sadik Ensari, an Islamic scholar from Sydney, working on a PhD with Charles Sturt University, Sunday afternoon, 28th April. Sadik's talk was sponsored by the Anglican Churches of Kingston and Robe and the Dialogue Institute of Australia. Under the heading of **An Islamic Q & A**, this was an opportunity for the participants to get beyond the stereotypes and scaremongering which are often part of the media cycle. Sadik highlighted that too often Muslims who carry out violent actions, whether here or overseas, are often very illiterate in terms of the Q`uran and the teachings of the Islamic faith. He also sought to highlight the common values concerning ethics and morality which Islam and Christianity share, beyond the theological differences. He also reflected upon the horrors of the events in Christchurch and in Sri Lanka.

Following the talk, participants were able to ask questions and explore further in terms of the varieties of Islam, the status of women, the differences between the practice of Islam under authoritarian regimes in the Middle East and here in Australia, and the confusion which exists between



social customs and Islam in many parts of the Islamic world. The co-sponsor, the Dialogue Institute of Australia is one of a number of organizations in Australia inspired by the Turkish teacher, Islamic scholar and philosopher Fethullah Gülen, whose movement seeks to promote dialogue, the value of education and democratic processes. If other parishes or pastoral districts wish to host a similar event, don't hesitate to contact Fr David, Kingston-Robe.

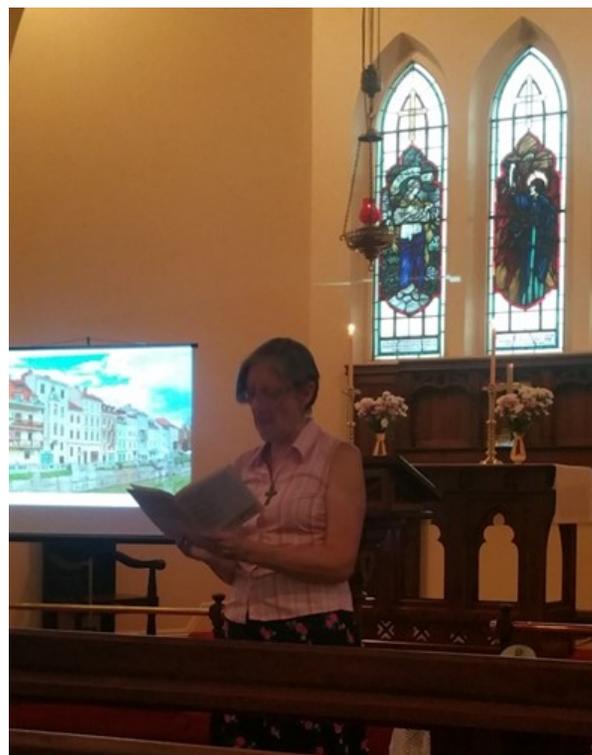
### World Day of Prayer Celebrated in Milang

On a hot and balmy Friday evening on 1st March, around 20 people from the township of Milang braved the stifling conditions to gather in St Mary's Anglican Church in Milang to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for 2019. The service, which was put together by women from the country of Slovenia and was led by local deacon Margo Holt. Throughout the service we were able to hear the voices of a range of women from Slovenia describing the challenges they faced in their daily lives, the fears they held for themselves and their families as well as the hopes they cherished for the future.

This theme was picked up on by Pastor Doug Schultz from the Milang Church of Christ, in his sermon on the text of Luke 14:15-24 and its description of the invitation of the ignored and marginalised of society to the banquet table of God. Pastor Doug spoke about the way that in the ancient world people would only give from a sense of expected reciprocity and, in bringing forward the details surrounding the meal in which this parable was told, how the generosity of God surpasses all our understandings and expectations. He encouraged all those present to allow themselves to "get grubby" with God on a daily basis in God's work of reaching out to those around us.

The service finished with an offering, where a generous sum was raised for the continued work of supporting women in need, and prayers of intercession and thanksgiving, before we prayed for the women of Zimbabwe, who will be putting together the service for 2020 around the theme: "Rise, take your mat and walk!" and then shared in a time of fellowship around a generously filled table.

Many thanks go to all those who helped to make the event possible, the women of Slovenia for putting the service together, Deacon Margo Holt for leading us all in worship, Pastor Doug Schultz for his reflections on the scriptures, Marlene Potts for playing the organ, Fr Alex Stone for his technical expertise around setting up and running the audio visual equipment, Brian Landseer for his continued care and maintenance of St Mary's in Milang and for the women of Milang who loaned their voices so that we might hear from the women of Slovenia.



Dn Margo Holt leading the combined Christians of Milang in the World Day of Prayer.

## Around the Diocese



It was a joy to baptise Kathryn, and confirm her with Sarah-Louise, Cooper, Joshua and Nicholas at the little church of St Christopher at Mount Compass. The first confirmation there in over 20 years. Good news!

### Visiting Bishop to The Diocese

The Bishop of Mandalay in Myanmar (Burma), Bishop David Nyi Nyi Naing, and his wife Mary came to the Diocese in June, as part of a provincial visit to South Australia organised by the Diocese of Willochra in association with the ABM.

He and his wife spent the first two weeks in June in the Diocese of Willochra, which is in a sister relationship with the Diocese in Myanmar.

Bishop John Stead took them around the Diocese during that time to hear more about the mission partnership with both dioceses and God's mission in the Mandalay Diocese.

He and his wife then came to Adelaide on Friday 14th June where there was a welcoming reception for them.

On Sunday 16th June, in association with the ABM, he travelled to Mt Barker where he preached at Christ The King. He returned to Adelaide in time to preach at St Peter's Cathedral on Sunday night.



## Around the Diocese

### Theological Award

When Deacon Peter Chapman first knew God was calling him into Ministry, he knew preparing for the future meant Theological Training. A couple of years ago a door opened up for him to enrol in St Barnabas Theological college commencing at the beginning of 2018.

Walking off a building site and stepping into Theological academia was a very big step to take. Bishop John reminded him that he felt unsure of how he would cope. Peter had a lot to contend with; full time, 6 subjects gave him Student allowance, yet it did not provide an adequate income. He needed to keep working in the building industry so to make ends meet but on a reduced scale so as to allow for time to study.

Peter stresses that he believed the practical application coupled with his studies are an essential foundation for any future ministry the Lord may lead him into. He continued to take services in Aldinga, Yankalilla and Delamere along with baptisms, funerals and assisting in Confirmation training and the writing of liturgies for these services.

Peter's schooling was dismal. He has Dyslexia, a reading and writing disability and this made learning difficult. He repeated second class primary and until he repeated for the second time in year ten high school, he had not passed a subject. Nevertheless, knowing God had called him to study theology and he had no doubt about this. Throughout 2018 he thoroughly enjoyed the study, the lectures, the research, putting together his assignments, all 16 of them along with composing sermons, intercessions and prayers. He found it great sense of discovery and revelation. During the year, Heather had a badly broken arm and his Step-mum of 40 years sadly passed away.

The faculty and community of St Barnabas were a magnificent encouragement and support all along the way. The whole community of the College were so welcoming and friendly and he quickly felt that he was part of the whole network there.

Peter had no illusions that study would be a struggle, friends kept telling him Ps mean pass, that is all you need to worry



about. Despite the circumstances his hope was to do the best he could.

So it was hard for him to realise that he would receive the St Peter's Cathedral Award for Best Commencement Student on average points for 2018. At first he thought it meant best on ground like in footy, like they liked his involvement. It did not really dawn on him that it was an academic achievement until the night of the 2019 commencement service. He was not told the award was based on the overall marks averaged throughout the year. This was announced on the night and Peter nearly fell over in near disbelief, "did they make a mistake?"

Peter's motivation is to be a positive representative of The Murray Diocese, He knew studying beyond his Diocesan border meant he was an ambassador.

Peter says he is so thankful for Bishop John in his discernment for ordination; for Fr Peter Carlsson, diocese education facilitator, whom he could share with during his studies; for Fr Simon, his Parish Priest and for their guidance and support. The encouragement and support from the good folks at St Ann's, Aldinga, his home church, was truly uplifting. Without their love he may not have started this journey which as truth would have it started some 20 years ago.

### Know your Prostate

Friday 8th February saw 20 men from the Southern Suburbs Pastoral District gather at lunch time in St Aidan's, Aberfoyle Park, for their bi-monthly fellowship blokes group. They gather for a time of Christian Brotherhood to share yarns whilst enjoying a BYO lunch and listen to a guest speaker. This time it was Ian Wagner from the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) who gave a very enlightening talk about our prostates. Prostate cancer kills more men in Australia than breast cancer in women. Ian's talk included the basic nuts and bolts, no pun intended!, about how all the bits work, how they go wrong and the consequences if you don't do the right thing and have regular check-ups. He also outlined some of the myths and misconceptions about what the prostate does and how to prevent prostate cancer getting any worse if a problem is detected. It was an eye opener to realise that blokes aren't bullet proof and as Christians we are responsible to care for the bodies that we are blessed with. There are no early signs and symptoms of prostate cancer and the only way of early detection is to have regular Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) tests and the rectal digital examination.

If any other blokes groups would like to hear what Ian has to say, he is happy to spread the good word amongst the men of our Murray Diocese. Please contact Fr Peter Bourne on peter.bourne266@outlook.com or 0427 914 940 and he will facilitate your contact.

## Around the Diocese



### Food Donation to The Riverland

Boxes of food have been donated by the Parish of Onkaparinga Valley to help those in need in the Riverland. The Parish, taking in Balhannah and Woodside, collected the food over several Sundays.

The food has been in part distributed and will be also be used as the Loxton Church begins a food pantry in association with Foodbank in the Riverland. The concept has been adopted by Christ Church, O'Halloran Hill.

### Diocesan 50th Anniversary Celebrations In 2020

Plans are already being considered for the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Diocese in 2020 and a Diocesan Committee has been formed to consider ways the anniversary can be celebrated across the diocese.

The idea was first mooted at the Clergy Chapter with Fr Damian Feeney in February, where clergy were asked to think of evangelistic events to help celebrate the milestone. Fr Damian urged them to give themselves and their ministry teams plenty of time to prepare for such an event, so that all could be well prepared for the celebrations during the year.

One of the suggestions is to utilise the vessel *Etona*, now in private hands at Echuca. Contact has already been made with the owner and he is receptive to the idea, given some work needs to be done to the vessel and river flows.

The boat was used in the 1800s and early 1900s for ministry along the River Murray, in evangelising the river towns with services including baptisms and weddings.

Some thoughts at the clergy chapter and since have been individual events in each of the seven towns along the River Murray where there are Anglican Churches, as the *Etona* makes its way upstream from Goolwa to Renmark. They include dinners, exhibitions and Welcome Back to Church services and associations with the Mannum, Cobdogla and other museums. As well, a celebratory book with recipes has been suggested.

Another is to make a direct request to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby for a grant for the upgrade of the vessel. The *Etona* needs to undergo some renovation before the celebrations. The boat was partly funded by Eton College in Berkshire in England, of which Archbishop Justin Welby is a board member. There is a possibility the Archbishop may also be coming to Australia in October next year. As a result, there has been a suggestion to invite him to be part of the celebrations, given his wishes to visit rural dioceses.



## A Prayer For Our Bishop-elect

O God, eternal shepherd of the faithful, who tend your Church in countless ways and rule over her in love, give us thankful hearts as we pray that Keith your servant, whom you have called to be our bishop, may by word and example, be of service to those over whom he presides so that together with the flock to be entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

# Birth of a Diocese

## Murray Diocese Decided

It could be a legendary Thomas walking the mystical path, remote in an India of innumerable cults and experiments of faith: It could be a persecuted Peter or Paul, tired and fearful from the Appian Way, moving like wraiths by the Castle of Rome, to leave the Forum on the left, and slipping through doorways obscure to descend into the catacombs. It could be a Columba or Patrick whirling in a coracle crossing the Irish Sea. It could be a Hildebrand in the power of the Lord outfacing his Germanic tribes. It might even have been an early Australian Bishop churning the endless reaches of the Murray River in the slow paddle boat, Etona. It was, in fact, the Holy Spirit, speaking with many tongues, for and against, for and against, 'till forty reasons swirled the brain: The Holy Spirit in the Parish Hall of Christ Church, North Adelaide, Wednesday the 2nd of October, 1968. He was guiding a Thomas of later vintage, and less of legend, to help the determining Synod to decide. That was the Birth. The begetting was a full hundred and thirty years before in a Service under sail canvas by the gums of the new Adelaide's plain. The pre-birth of a Diocese and Province is no short-time nine months affair.

Beyond all time, the Word is uttered by God. Then comes the light. 'Tis seen by God as good. Comes then the Light of Lights, that Light which Lighteth every man that comes into the world.' And He, the Light of Lights is the All Good who rests not day nor night until His perfect beauty, the everlasting Beatitude reaches beyond His partial utterance in man to His becoming the fulness of men as the son of God. Then and only then is the travail of His soul most truly satisfied. What travail, as He hangs upon, the Cross until the

lonely cry 'Tis finished.' And what travesty we make of that far cry His Church through the ages still conveys, if we leave out His unfathomable agony for the least of these His little ones — those who cannot find their way in this life's journey. For His travail extends from the spearpoint of Calvary to the world encircling agony of sin, calamity and death. Aye, still, that Light advances over this too deeply shadowed earth. The eternal Christ utters His creative summons, 'Come,' and men now building the ghastliness of new global suicide, despite themselves are being drawn afresh towards the Light. That Light, not merely an oft repeated creed, shines with ever increasing warmth. The universal living Lord restoring to life poor universal fallen man. So, a diocese is born, to continue the development and disclosing of the sons of God. 'Tis born for the laying on of strong hands for the strengthening of faith, for the outshowing of God's suffering-saving glory is unconquerable goodness on the earth. May all of us in this new Diocese of Murray bow in joyful and strenuous travail of His, The Christ's, advancing truth. The river birds piping on the distant flats, the blackbirds carolling from the ghost gums on the banks, God's black-men listening enraptured, squatting spellbound, attentive to every note, all tell us to pause and listen to earth's echoes of the heavenly truth. If we don't heed we may machine ourselves beyond His saving call, offering deaf ears and frozen hearts, preoccupied, to Him whose only wish and command to us is to open our hearts that He may enter and restore.

— From W. Johnson. Rector, St. Augustine's, Victor Harbour.

*Victor Harbour Times (SA : 1932 - 1986),  
Friday 11 October 1968, page 5*

## Bishop For Diocese Of Murray

The Rt. Rev. Robert George Porter is the Bishop designate of all parishes of the Murray Diocese, including the South Coast. He was appointed to the position last week, but his name was not released until Sunday night by the Bishop of Adelaide, the Rt. Rev. Dr. T. T. Reed. Bishop Porter comes to the Diocese with good experience both at the pastoral and administrative levels. He is the sort of person who can relax and meet his clergy and lay people on friendly, straightforward levels. But he can also maintain discipline and order. The late Bishop Johnson, of Ballarat, recalled Robert Porter from the mission field of New Guinea, where he had been awarded the O.B.E. for rescue service in the disastrous Mt. Lamington earthquake. He was brought back to be Archdeacon of Ballarat. In that office he was later to administer the Diocese for some time.

Later, chosen to be assistant Bishop, he showed himself very loyal and capable in that office. Many of the clergy of the Murray Diocese first met Bishop Porter at the clergy retreat of the Adelaide Diocese some ten months ago. His obvious concern for persons and his ability to get on the 'right wave length' impressed them considerably. No doubt their experience at that retreat was a big factor leading, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to the choice made at the Mount Gambier meeting last week. Members of the General Synod and Australian Board of Missions committee also intimated that Bishop Porter was an outstanding young Bishop on the bench of Bishops. The new Bishop is young enough to be able to move around a rather unwieldy area; he has had war experience and will have few illusions; his missionary experience will ever keep Anglicans mindful of the world church; and he comes to what is essentially a missionary Diocese. He has come not to an imposing cathedral or Bishop's Court, to a very keen body of clergy, most of them young and ready to serve to the utmost. Whether young or old, clergy or lay people, all wish Bishop Porter well in his new and strenuous appointment.

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