TWO DIOCESAN ICONS CELEBRATE

St David’s Church, Mossman is consecrated

It should have happened in 1959, but it was on 8 September, 2019 (60 years later) that the Bishop came to Mossman to consecrate St David’s Church.

The church was constructed after the destructive 1911 cyclone, by the then Rector, Fr Edward Taffs and helpers. It took 40 years to complete, being delayed because of two World Wars and also the Depression. It was finished in 1952. A £6,000 debt meant that the church could only be dedicated at that time. The debt was paid in 1959. For reasons unknown the church was never consecrated.

People from the local area and clergy and parishioners from other parishes in the Deanery made the trip to be part of this historic occasion.

Br Robin celebrates 70 years of profession

Students, past and present, as well as many invited guests, gathered at All Souls St Gabriels School, Charters Towers, to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Profession of Br Robin as a member of the Bush Brotherhood of St Barnabas in North Queensland.

The guests at the service and the lunch which followed in Halse Hall included Bishop Keith and also Bishop Bill and Dr Robin Ray.

The Bush Brotherhood was a group of Anglican religious orders providing itinerant priests to minister to sparsely-settled rural districts in Australia. They were described as a "band of men" who could "preach like Apostles" and "ride like cowboys".

From the members of the Bush Brotherhood were priests who became bishops, serving in Carpentaria, Adelaide, Rockhampton, Riverina, Willochra, Bathurst, and Bunbury, as well as Bps Wilfrid Belcher and John Feetham of our own Diocese.

Br Robin is not just a loved icon of All Souls St Gabriels School, but also of the Diocese.

We give thanks for his long ministry both at the school and in the Diocese.
Dear Friends

Just over 20 years ago I was teaching business ethics at the Australian Catholic University. I was a relatively fresh-faced junior lecturer in my mid-30s and my students were generally straight out of school and in their early 20’s. At the start of the first lecture I asked them: “Why are you doing business?” The answer will probably not surprise you: “to make money”. I pushed a bit more: “Yes, but why do you want to make money?” Only about one-third of the students understood the question: they replied to me in terms which indicated that they understood that money was only a medium of exchange: the value of money is only in what it can be exchanged for. Some of them wanted to use the money to live the high life; others had more noble uses. But at least they got the point that money itself had no intrinsic value.

However the other two-thirds did not understand the question. They simply wanted money for its own sake. The aim of their lives was simply to make and possess money. It might be said that they worshipped money or loved money: for money had become the object of greatest desire. Now I loved money: for money had become the medium of exchange: the value of money is only in what it can be exchanged for. Some of them wanted to use the money to live the high life; others had more noble uses. But at least they got the point that money itself had no intrinsic value.

Indeed all of us are called to use our wealth responsibly. This includes the church as a whole. One risk for the church is to tie ourselves up in material wealth such as buildings, instead of using our resources for mission. Some churches become imprisoned by their wealth. Our buildings in North Queensland are generally old and need high levels of repair and maintenance, and also incur increasingly high insurance premiums. However they are often centres of great mission and a highly recognised part of the streetscape of the local community. As we move into the third decade of this century, we need to review how we use our limited resources and our church buildings. We need to be a church that uses its material resources, as well as its human resources, for building up the Kingdom of God.

Keith NQ

CURSILLO NEWS

An Ultreya was held in Atherton on the afternoon of 31st August 2019. Though only a week before her retirement and final service, Rev. Robyn Boyd, kindly agreed to be our witness speaker for the day choosing “God’s Faithfulness” as her theme and the reading of Psalm 21. We were blessed to have her share the comfort she had knowing that she could depend on God’s faithfulness to carry her in the past and into this new phase in her life. She didn’t need to fret about where she would go or what she would do as God would be there to guide her. She was able to let go of “stuff” and move on to her new life free of the possessions that quite often we think are necessary until we have to downsize.

There were numerous apologies from those unable to attend but those who were there had an enjoyable afternoon with plenty of singing, sharing and much joy in our love of the Lord. Our musician, Irene Brian added to our joy as her enjoyment of serving the Lord through her God given talent shines through in her playing.

We were also blessed to have Craig and Jenny Ray from Brisbane with us as they were in town to celebrate Craig’s father, Albert’s, birthday. That was one of those amazing God-incidences that show up in our lives. Craig was part of the team that brought Cursillo to this diocese. Albert attended that Cursillo weekend as a candidate. I hope to have some good news soon, so watch this space.

Blessings to all.

Marcia Hyde. (Diocesan Lay Director)

WELCOME FR PAUL

Fr Paul Hrynczyszyn started his ministry at St Margaret’s West Cairns on 8th September. Formerly a Roman Catholic priest in Canada, Fr Paul was received into the Anglican Church during the 50th anniversary service at St Margaret’s.

West Cairns has been without a Rector since the retirement of Fr Don Ford, and we give thanks for the ministry of various locums and especially Dn Denise Ireland during this time.

Sexual Abuse contact line: 1800 242 544 or 07 3835 2216
Focus on: AMUA Diocesan Conference

St Peter’s, West End, in Townsville was the venue for this year’s Diocesan AMUA Conference, based on this year’s theme of “Listening, Observing, Acting: in step with God”

In the opening address by Mrs Christine Brain, we were lead through the idea of being “in step with God”. Using well known examples of needing to be “in step”, the three legged race, a marching band, and even synchronised swimming, Christine showed us that as important as keeping in step in these activities is, keeping in step with God was far more important. Christine told us: “I’m told that those who want to succeed in a marching band, or choir or synchronised swimming or the like must do two things. They must first learn the skills and then they must keep their attention focused, not on what the person beside them is doing, but on the music and the directions of the conductor or the coach. If their attention wavers, and they start looking around, they become uncoordinated and before they know it, they are no longer in step with the conductor or with each other. If we want to be people who are in step with God let us all look to Jesus, our Good Shepherd, hear his voice and follow him.”

The great AMUA double act of Anne & Viv then led us through three sessions: one each on Listening, Observing, and Acting. In the AGM, which is part of each year’s conference, the new executive was elected (they take over in January) and Deane and Nancie were made life VPs.

Deane Bray and Nancie Irvin become Life Vice Presidents

It wasn't all work. Catching up with friends over a meal is an important part of any conference
AROUND THE DIOCESE

INNISFAIL/TULLY

AMUA MOMENT

One of the positive changes in the Wet Tropics Regions has been the formation of the Cairns Cluster.

Originally three Ministry Units had their own AMUA branch and with each working independently they were perhaps not as effective as they could have been. With the amalgamation of these into one cluster, the working together has had many positive results.

We have just come back from the AMUA Conference in Townsville, and the same thing has happened. Most of the branches have had their own MULOA workshops, thanks to the wonderful work of Anne and Viv, but at the conference we were all able to come together as one group and share our experiences, our knowledge and grow together.

And then there is also Lady Day and Mary Sumner Day where branches and friendship groups get together for worship and fellowship.

One of the things AMUA is supposed to be involved with is the promotion of family life.

Many families struggle and because of their struggle can often feel that they are isolated. What we have found in Cairns and in the AMUA conference this year has been the positive effects of coming together, sharing our highs and lows and supporting each other.

This could be a great model for the way we help support married life, especially when the people involved feel isolated.

Offering a time and place where people can come together, have a coffee, and some of the world famous Anglican egg sandwiches, could be just what is needed to help ease the burden of isolation which is too much part of our society.

It’s a simple thing to do, and one that we have learnt has great benefits through our own experience.

Does our experience in the Wet Tropics give you some ideas which might work in your region?

Maureen Mossman

Vice President

Wet Tropics Region

In Australia, Australian National Flag Day is celebrated on 3 September. It commemorates the day in 1901 on which the Australian National Flag was first flown.

The Commonwealth Star is the emblem of Australian Federation. Six points represent the states and the seventh all the federal territories which together constitute the nation, the Commonwealth of Australia. The constellation of the Southern Cross indicates our geographical location in the southern hemisphere. This constellation of stars relate to the various indigenous legends and remind us of our rich and precious Aboriginal and Torres Strait heritage.

The three crosses, St George, St Andrew, and St Patrick serve to represent the principles and ideals on which our nation was founded and is based on today; including parliamentary democracy, the rule of law, freedom of speech and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

Our Church at Innisfail tries to have this blessing each year and has done so for a number of years now.

A NEW FACE AT THE REGISTRY

We welcome to the Registry team, Mark Griffiths, who replaced Maya. A Townsville local who has returned after some time in Melbourne.

DATE CLAIMER - Kidzlink NQ

Some exciting news. Kidzlink/GFS is bringing Andrew McDonough to North Queensland next year - to Mackay on the 16th May and Townsville the 23rd May. Andrew is the author of the excellent 'Lost Sheep' series and has never visited this part of Australia. So mark your diaries now and plan on attending one of these Workshops. If you have any queries please contact Jennifer Buckley on 0414 807 179. Who doesn't love "Cecil the Sheep"?

Mark your diary NOW

ANGLICARE FOCUS FOR OCTOBER

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

Anti-Poverty Week runs from 13-19 October and aims to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty in Australia and internationally.

PATRONAL FESTIVALS IN October and November

In your prayers, please remember the following Ministry Units who celebrate their patronal festivals in the next two months.

October

4th St Francis White Rock
18th St Luke CATSIM
31st St Aiden Weipa

November

1st All Saints Ayr
2nd All Souls Darnley Island
16th St Margaret Gordonvale
30th St Andrew Kowalma

From the editor’s desk:

How dependent we are on the things with which we surround ourselves. I have just returned from a service on a property north of Mossman, where the family immersed the ashes of one of their members. When they first approached me to take this service for them, they pointed out that there were no roads in or out, and that the only ways there were either helicopter or boat.

Well, that was only part of the story. When I got there, there was no phone reception, there was no internet, there was no . . . . . . well, almost everything!

Actually, it was pretty idyllic, despite the reason the family had gathered there, and I survived the travel and the lack of communication.

How dependent we are on the things with which we surround ourselves. I am sure we can all remember a time when we didn't have mobile phones, or even the days when cars only had 4x60 air conditioning - 4 windows and 60mph on the open road. You can't even buy a non air-con car now.

Now there is nothing about me that you could describe as neo-luddite. I surround myself with technology. I think my kitchen has just about every known gadget. The only thing that keeps being kept is my wine collection. But I always need to question whether or not I am dependent on them. To find out if you are dependent on something, the test is easy. If someone told you to give something away, could you do it? If not, then that’s a concern. Take a look around your life and acknowledge the things that claim your dependence. It’s a great exercise to do.

Kenneth

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER EDITION is October 25, 2019
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