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AMUA LADY DAY AND CONFERENCE



Lady Day was celebrated at four places across the Diocese: Thursday Island, Townsville Mackay and Yarrabah. Fr Kenneth, as Diocesan Chaplain was able to attend two of the services: Yarrabah and Mackay.

Quick on the heels of the Lady Day services though was this year's Conference which was held at the Cairns Colonial Club and attended by over 50 AMUA members from across the Diocese.

The theme of this year's conference was "High Five" and during the course of the three days we looked at the Five Objectives of Mothers' Union: To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding; To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the church; To maintain worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer worship and service; To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children; To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

Different members of the executive led the sessions, where we looked at things that were happening in different Ministry Units: Café Connect at Ingham, Messy Church and Mainly Music at St Peter's West End, Op Shop

and Market at Mossman.

The conference was blessed with two spectacular speakers.

The Rev'd Anne Kennedy, Provincial President of AMUA, whose quiet manner led us through the session on the first of the objectives and also provided some thoughtful reflections during the after dinner speeches.

The other guest speaker was Bridgetta Makoti who works as a Clinical Nurse at Lotus Glen Prison, and is the wife of the Uniting Church minister at Atherton. Her infectious enthusiasm for both her background her family and her faith kept us all spellbound for all of her time.

As usual the Diocesan Executive held one of its quarterly meetings after the Conference and we thank Maureen Mossman for hosting this at St Luke's.

Missing from the photo below are Dr Robin Ray, Rev'd Dr Barry Paterson OP, and Fr Kenneth (behind the camera).



The two guest speakers at the AMUA Conference: Revd Anne Kennedy (above) and Bridgetta Makoti (below)



Dear Friends

The year is marching on. It is hard to believe that it is nearly Ascension Day already. This year we celebrate the Ascension on 10th May.

At a school holiday programme I was leading some years ago, I was talking about the Church Year. I recall a young person asking me, "Does the Ascension always fall on a Thursday?" The answer is yes. The next question was "Why?" In the opening chapter of the Acts of the Apostles we read:

"In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God". (Acts 1:1-3)

So, because Ascension Day is forty days after Easter, it will always fall on a Thursday. Yes, the date of the Ascension is different from year to year, but that is because the date of Easter changes each year.

Some Ministry Units celebrate the Ascension on the actual day, but many celebrate the Ascension on the following Sunday. It is important to celebrate the Ascension as it is a key doctrine (belief) of the Church. In the Apostles' Creed we state, "On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven". In the Nicene Creed we proclaim, "he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father".

The 101st Archbishop of Canterbury, the late Donald Coggan said there are two key themes to the doctrine of

the Ascension. They are king and close. Jesus Christ is our king and we are called to serve our king and live by his teachings. Serving our king is not defined by ceremony and pageantry, but by serving others in Christ's name. Our king is a servant king and we are servant people living according to the way of Christ. In Matthew 25:31-40 we read that we as servants of Christ our King are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the strangers, clothe the naked and care for those in need.

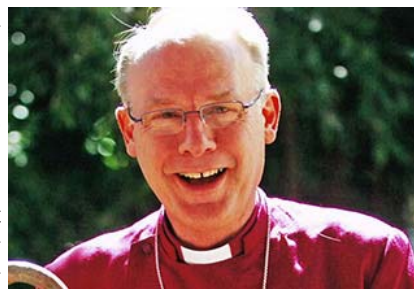
In the Sermon on the Mount we are called to love our neighbour, and Jesus went onto say, "love your enemies, bless and pray for those who persecute you". (Matthew 5:43-48)

While Jesus was here on earth, he was only able to be in one place at one time. This is our reality. However, because of the Ascension, Jesus reigns in heaven, Jesus is able to be with us at all times. We know the closing words of Matthew are so true, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age". (Matthew 28:20b)

Let us spend some time this month reflecting on the doctrine of Ascension and may it equip us to serve our servant king more fully.

Yours in Christ,

+ Bill, N.Q.



CURSILLO DATES TO REMEMBER

Exciting news is that it will be 20 years this year since Cursillo was gifted to North Queensland Diocese. I remember the excitement in Brisbane Diocese when this happened.

We are holding a Celebration Ultreya on 25th August 2018 at St. Margaret's Church, Cairns. It will be from 3pm to 5pm with a cuppa afterwards. This date was chosen as the National Secretariat will be meeting in Cairns that weekend and they had expressed a desire to be present. Bp. Bill will be attending as our Diocesan Episcopal Overseer and Bp. Ian from Bathurst will also be attending as National Episcopal Overseer along with Secretariat members from other Diocese in Australia. If you wish to assist on the day please ring on the number below, your help will be gratefully accepted. Please place this in your diary as we hope for a full house on the day.



There is to be a dinner afterwards at Seville Conference Centre which you will need to book into at remwhyde1@bigpond.com or ring Robin & Marcia Hyde on 0409 129 201. The time has yet to be finalised. Be assured that the fact that people may wish to return home afterwards will be kept in mind. There will also be accommodation at Seville available but will be on a first in first served as it is limited due to National Secretariat already being accommodated.

Please keep a watch in Reef & Beef for more information next month. Any queries please ring or email at the above. We hope to have some of the original team from Brisbane also attending which could make for an exciting reunion.

Blessings, Marcia Hyde.
ADNQ Diocesan Lay Director

Sexual Abuse contact line: 1800 242 544 or 07 3835 2266

Focus on: AMUA Conference



AMUA banners at the Cairns Colonial Club at the recent AMUA Conference shows the breadth of membership across the Diocese
 Banners on the left hand side are for: North Mackay, Inter Parish Townsville, and Mossman/Port Douglas
 Banners on the right hand side are for: Yarrabah St Luke's Cairns, and Ascension Heatley
 Clockwise in the centre are: St Peter's West End, Atherton, Moea Island, and Ingham.
 It certainly was an inspiring conference.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

AMUA CORNER

Last year in November 2017, we had the privilege of welcoming 26 Mothers Union Members from the Diocese of Malaita of the Anglican Church of Melanesia. They had called themselves "The Anglican Women in Faith" and their Theme was "Sharing God's Love within our Families". They wanted to visit the Diocese of North Queensland which was to be Cairns. They wanted to visit St Luke's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Church, the Children's Kindergarten, the Elders Home for the Aged and the Health Service Centre here in Cairns. They had travelled across the Sea and Land to visit us with their Love, Prayers and Fellowship from their Culture to our Culture. It was their Act of Faith that had brought them safely to our Diocese of NQ and back to their Solomon Island home again. We have recently held our own AMUA Conference in Cairns and pray that we too as "Women in the Faith" will be able to show our Faith by sharing our Love, Prayers and Fellowship in Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Maureen Mossman
(Wet Tropics Area V/President).



MOSSMAN/PORT DOUGLAS

Following on from a brief paragraph in a previous edition, a couple of us had attended Messy church in a few different locations in order to get a better idea of how it worked in other communities. Three of us even attended a workshop held in Mareeba. It sounded like a great idea, but in other ministry units. We could not see it working in our church, our Sunday school has four regular children, with a visitor thrown in here and there.

Mossman is a very small town, and the biggest weekly event is our local markets, held in the grounds of St David's church every Saturday. During one of the meetings our local ministers regularly hold, they came up with an idea to have a church stall in the markets. Different churches would run a stall every week. We don't really have a name for what it is - market stall, messy church, craft morning... We do know it is working.

Every month we have about thirty children pop in to do a few crafts, hear a bible story, and put their name onto a display which is then moved into the church for the month. Our volunteers do half a morning each, so it is not a huge time burden, and in fact it is all great fun. A week before we have a half hour meeting to discuss crafts stories etc, and then we each do our little bit to make it happen. We have found a way to expose our little ones (and their parents) to bible stories and church community in a non threatening way. The idea of messy church might look different in your community too!

WEBSITES AND FACEBOOK

There are still a few of these which are not up to date. The internet and social

media are an important part of life these days, and although not wanting to be seen as "trendy" it really is important that any online content we have is current.

SYNOD 2018

Synod this year will be held in June at the Cathedral School.

The Synod timetable is:

Saturday 9 June 10am – 9pm

Sunday 10 June 8am – 10am St James' Cathedral (Diocesan Eucharist)

Sunday 10 June 10.30am – 12.30pm

On the Saturday afternoon of Synod, The Archdeacon as Administrator, will Lead a session in regard to the election of new Bishop for the Diocese from 2pm to 4pm.

JULIE KEYS TO LEAVE

The Bishop has announced that his PA Julie Keyes will be leaving Townsville.

The Bishop said: Julie will conclude her time with the Diocese on Friday 29th June next. Julie's husband Brett will be taking up a new position in northern New South Wales.

Julie will be greatly missed. She is the longest serving member of the Registry Staff and has a detailed knowledge of the Diocese. I thank Julie for her work over the years. I could not undertake the various ministries without Julie's careful attention to detail. I have been so blessed. On behalf of the Diocese we wish Julie and Brett well for the future.

PATRONAL FESTIVALS IN May and June

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

May	25th	St Augustine	Forsayth
June	11th	St Barnabas	Julia Creek Ravenshoe
	22nd	St Alban	Innisfail Yarrabah
	24th	St John Baptist	Richmond
	29th	St Peter	Collinsville Kewarra Beach Kubin Normanton West End

From the editor's desk:

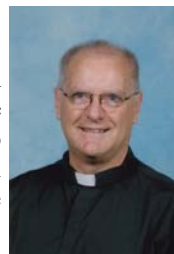
There seems to be a fair amount of coming and going at the moment, though it seems to be more going than coming. In the recent past and in the coming future many Dioceses have had to farewell their bishops. We do that at the end of September. Also in our Diocese there are some up coming retirements on the horizon: Wayne and Valmai Connolly will retire, and so will Don Ford. We are also going to lose Julie from the team that runs the Diocese (the people who work at the Registry!).

When things like this seem to pile up it's easy to express some concern about the future, and start questioning where we are heading. Well, that's not a bad thing to do at any time, but it's all too easy for concern to become worry, and that's not a good thing.

I find myself wondering why the transition from concern to worry happens so often. And I think that it has something to do with who we think is in control, who is in charge. When it's "us" whom we think is in control then we worry. "What are we going to do?" "Why is this happening to us all at the same time?"

But surely, we as practicing Christians need to put into practice our understanding that God is the one who is in charge. Of course we are concerned about the future, but it's a concern about not fully understanding the path God has before us, not worrying about what we are having to do. How about it? Does that make sense, or does it sound like something that is good in theory, but doesn't work in practice?

Kenneth



DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE EDITION

is May 25, 2017

eMail to nqdiomag@gmail.com

or post to

The Editor

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