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Religious Press
Association

REEF & BEEF



(a publication of the Diocese of North Queensland)

OCTOBER, 2018

REEF & BEEF

Volume 2018: Number 9

THE SEE IS VACANT



St Matthew's Day, 2018 and Bishop Bill "lays up his staff" (church-speak for "retires") in a service which saw St James' Cathedral full of church and community people who had come to say "thank you" for eleven and a half years of faithful service, not just to the Diocese of North Queensland, nor even the Province of Queensland, but to the whole Anglican Church of Australia.

All the Provincial Diocesan Bishops were present: Archbishop Phillip Aspinall from Brisbane, Bishop David Robinson from Central Queensland, and Bishop Greg Anderson from Northern Territory.

In his sermon, Archbishop Phillip spoke of the great contribution that Bishop Bill has made to the national church as a teacher, a ministry that has been his focus as a Bishop, as a Priest and also as a layman before that. He mentioned that this service being held on the Feast of St Matthew, was very appropriate because of the teaching that Matthew's gospel has given to the church over all its life.

After "laying up his staff" Bishop Bill was joined by his wife, Robin, as they walked down the aisle together. The initial silence of this solemn procession was soon overpowered by continued applause as those present showed their great appreciation for the ministry which they had both given.

The evening continued with the top carpark turned into a wonderful venue for some speeches and socialising.

Until a new bishop is consecrated and enthroned, the Diocese is under the leadership of Archdeacon Chris Wright, and we assure him of our prayers.



BISHOP BILL'S FINAL LETTER

Dear Members of the Diocesan Family

Robin and I want to thank you most sincerely for all your support over the last 11½ years.

Last Friday evening's worship has drawn many positive comments from around the Diocese and outside the Diocese.

You may not have been aware, but the service was live streamed and is on Facebook where people can access the service that way. I am not up with these things, but I was told that there were about 350 hits by Saturday morning (now over 1440).

Following the service, refreshments and an opportunity for fellowship was provided in the carpark.

I want to thank everyone who was involved in putting together last Friday evening. It was a great occasion and I know it would have taken a lot of work. Robin and I want to say thank you very much to each of you - you know who you are. I don't want to start listing names, as I am sure I would overlook someone.

Robin and I were deeply moved to receive your very generous travel voucher. I can assure you that it has been greatly appreciated and I will let you know how we spend it.

Also we would like to thank all those who have sent us cards and gifts cards for us to purchase other items. It is very kind and generous of you.

Several people have asked, how I felt on Friday evening after I laid up my staff. I have to say that it was a very lonely experience, walking from the Chancel down to Robin. Then with everyone around, it was a great moment of feeling surrounded by the love of so many people. A couple of Bishops have phoned and asked how did I feel and I said I was absolutely surprised at that moment of loneliness, but it certainly made me realise that my time as the 10th Bishop of North Queensland has concluded.

Wishing you every blessing and once again, many thanks for everything.

Yours in Christ,

+ Bill



VALE: MARION TUNG-YEP

On the 16th of August 2018, Marion Tung Yep, beloved wife of Bishop George, passed away in Cairns aged 92. Her "occasion" was held at St Margaret's West Cairns on Friday August 31st and was attended by many people from all over the Diocese.

Bishop George and Marion had ministered in many places throughout the Diocese and Marion was a much loved and respected lady. Bishop George was Rector at All Saints Anglican Church Ayr from 1967 to 1973 with Marion by his side.

As a mark of respect and gratitude for their time in Ayr, where their service to God and the parishioners of Ayr and

district was so devoted, it was decided to hold a morning tea at the same time as her Farewell Service was held in Cairns. The morning began with our parish Priest Father Dway Goon Chew's prayers, giving thanks to God for Marion's remarkable life and her service to God and all people.



THERE'S ALWAYS WORK FOR RETIRED BISHOPS

Early in September at the Yarrabah Ministry Unit, Dean Bone and Brenton Miller were confirmed during the usual Sunday service.

Bishop Bill gave Permission for Bishop Arthur to confirm them.

It was a great celebration service.

It's good to know that ministry continues after retirement, even for Bishops.



Well done, good and faithful servant

On Sunday 26th August, we thanked the Reverend Vic Hall for his 26 years of ministry in the St Matthew's Ministry Unit, and especially at The Good Shepherd Home. At a Sunday morning service at The Home, more than 40 residents and their family members, thanked Vic for his care of them over so many years. A card and gift were given during the service, as well as a lovely morning tea was enjoyed by the residents and family members who could stay back. "It was important to recognise Vic's many years of service to the residents, family members and staff" said St Matthew's Rector Stephanie Patching.

At St Matthew's Mundingburra, we are also thankful for Vic's pastoral care of our people for the last 26 years. Vic will continue to serve God and us as Chaplain at Townsville's Mater Hospital. Well done good and faithful servant! Then on Thursday 6th September, at the Third Order Franciscan's Renewal of their Vows' Service, he was presented with a Bishop's medal for over 25 years of ministry as an Anglican Priest. The Reverend Vic Hall has been serving the Townsville community for more than 26 years and will celebrate his 25th anniversary as an Anglican Priest at the end of the year.



Bishop Bill presents Vic with his medal

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

Focus on: Bishop Bill's Ministry



With a ministry to the Diocese of over eleven years, Bishop Bill has seen many events: including centenaries & ordinations. Over the years he has spent time with so many people: royalty, other bishop's and especially children. For all of this time he has had beside him his wife, Robin, who despite her own career as an academic at the James Cook University, was always the support that was needed. As a Diocese we give thanks to God for the past eleven and a half years, and assure both Bishop Bill and Robin of our prayers as they move into the next phase of their life together and of their service to God.

THANK YOU!

CLIVE'S CORNER

Lots of people have their hearts set on a smug self-centred life of comfortable living. If they don't get it, they complain with bitter resentment. That does not make for a happy life. James understood the joy of suffering; he wrote: "Consider it pure joy when you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1. 2&3) It is hard to consider hardship pure joy. There is another way of looking at things. In the Psalm 119 we read, "It is good for me that I was afflicted that I may learn your statutes." (God's statutes) (Ps 119.71)

From Life, Blood and Love by Clive Brook

AROUND THE DIOCESE

AMUA MOMENT

Anne Watkins and I were blessed to be able to take part in the MULO A conference in Auckland New Zealand. We were able to meet with and gain knowledge from some amazing women from all over the Pacific Zone. Hearing first hand of the amazing work that is being achieved in some of the poorest villages, encouraged and inspired me. It made our Families World Wide come alive to know some of the women that we pray for. We heard stories about how they teach and encourage women to earn an income so that they can help support their families. It also gives those participating self-esteem and respect from other members of their families. MULO A is a program that has been designed by Mothers' Union world-wide to gather information about who as an organisation we impact, what we do and how we achieve our objectives of supporting families. By 2020, those from Mary Sumner House anticipate that they will, with God's help and direction, have exciting programs and a way forward for members all over the world to be more effective.
 Viv Feltham
 Education and Promotion



MACKAY

On Sunday afternoon, 9 September at 3:30pm, the Mackay Anglican Cluster held its first Messy Church at St Ambrose. The Team met at 3:20pm for prayer time, not knowing how many to expect – maybe a few families.

It was a pleasant surprise to see four generations coming together to worship. There was singing, with one song having actions and everyone on their feet; a role play based on Mark's Gospel 10:13-16; a prayer time where all the participants wrote a simple prayer on a leaf shape of green paper, which they then attached to a "Talk with God Tree".

Then there was craft time in the Hall. The group sat around four tables and talked, drew, water coloured, cut and pasted to create either a blessing plaque or a diorama of Jesus surrounded by children. It was a chance for grandparents and parents to revisit creative pursuits not encountered since their school years.

When time was called, we all made a circle around the outside of the room, joined hands and said The Grace. Some adults wanted to finish their projects, so did so, with their sausage, cheese and sauce in bread in one hand and a paintbrush in the other.

We will do this again in the Church, the Hall and in the grounds on 14 October – the 2nd Sunday of the month. We look forward to seeing you there.



WEST CAIRNS

A few weeks ago we had the pleasure of admitting Deacon Denise Ireland and her husband Ray into AMUA. Br. Barry as our Locum at St. Margaret's officiated and Maureen Mossman and other members were present to give support. Denise has supported and been interested in Mothers Union for some time so it was very nice to officially welcome her.

The Service was held on 5th August during our normal 9 am morning eucharist.

As well as being the Deacon at West Cairns, Denise also ministers at the Cairns Base and Private Hospitals.



PATRONAL FESTIVALS IN October and November

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

<u>October</u>		
4th	St Francis	White Rock
18th	St Luke	CATSIM Mount Isa Sarina Weipa
31st	St Aiden	Pentland
<u>November</u>		
1st	All Saints	Ayr Darnley Island Gordonvale Koumala
2nd	All Souls	Thursday Island Victoria Estate
16th	St Margaret	Croydon Magnetic Island Nebo
30th	St Andrew	West Cairns Cloncurry Coconut Island Port Douglas

From the editor's desk:

Just in case you have not noticed, the gospel readings set for the Eucharist over the past few weeks, taken from the Gospel of Mark, all have had something to do with children. This Sunday, Jesus uses a child again to teach his disciples about the importance of children to our growth in faith. "Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

Well what does that mean? Well as the people of Mossman/Port Douglas heard a couple of weeks ago: "Well, I might not have had any children of my own, but my experience of meek, mild and docile children, makes me wonder what they are up to, what they are trying to hide, what they want to get out of me, or other suspicious thoughts. Jesus never talks about good children. What this child-like thing is all about, has a lot to do with the normal behaviour of children: spontaneity, unpredictability and constant discovery of new things."

Is that how you receive the Kingdom of God? Is your experience one of spontaneity, unpredictability and constant discovery of new things. Are you willing to take your faith apart to see how it works and then try to put it all back together (with perhaps one or two pieces still sitting on the table after the reconstruction)?

A child-like faith (not a childish one) is essential for all of us. And children are essential to show us how to do it. As the Mossman/Port Douglas people should know by now, this is one of my soapboxes. So maybe more on it next month.



Kenneth

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER EDITION is October 26, 2018
 eMail to nqdiomag@gmail.com
 or post to
 The Editor
 PO Box 1032, Mossman, 4873