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IN MARY SUMNERS' FOOTSTEPS

God's Blessings to you all for a wonderful new year. I would ask you to keep our Diocesan Executive and myself in your prayers please, as we begin this new year of MU. I know many groups have begun their programs for the year and are keen and enthusiastic about their plans. The Diocesan team are also planning some great things for this year.

We extend our sincere thanks and best wishes to Carolynn Ford who recently tendered her resignation as the Diocesan Education and Promotion Coordinator. Carolynn has served on the Diocesan Executive for an amazing 37 years, in many positions including Diocesan President. Well done good and faithful servant. Rev'd Don Ford has also tendered his resignation as our Diocesan Chaplain and we thank him also for his love and care for us during his time as Chaplain. Bishop Bill Ray has appointed the Rev'd Kenneth Lay as the Chaplain to AMUA in the Diocese of North Queensland from January 2018. We are very happy to welcome Fr Kenneth to our NQ team. We are also pleased to welcome a new Treasurer as from 1 April this year. This



is Mrs Althea LeRoy from Church of the Ascension Branch in Townsville. Althea is not new to this position as she was Treasurer during the time that Jenny Gough was Diocesan President. We welcome Althea to our NQ team once more. With Carolynn Ford's resignation, we have a vacancy on our Diocesan Executive. Please consider if you might be called to the position of Education and Promotion Coordinator for the Diocese. If you feel this is something that God is calling you to, please be in touch with me.

We are holding our AMUA Diocesan Conference from 27 to 29th April this year. We are delighted that our Provincial President, Rev'd Anne Kennedy will be our Guest Speaker for the Conference. It will be held at Cairns Colonial Club Resort, Cannon Street, Manunda, and all Sessions and Workshops will be

held at this venue. The Conference theme is "High Five" as we will be focusing on the AMUA 5 Objects. It would be wonderful if YOU could be there.

Late last year it was my pleasure to be able to present some members of the Ascension Branch at Heatley with membership achievement badges. These were given to Margaret Graham (60 years), Dorothy Murray (62 years), Doris Moore (65 years) and Betty Rath (68 years). It was humbling for me to be able to honour these women who have given so many years service to our wonderful organization. God bless you all.

I have chosen the World and Australia theme "In Mary Sumner's Footsteps" as the theme for North Queensland as well. We cannot falter if we continue to follow in the footsteps of our founder. She was an amazing woman - even though she was shy and retiring she listened to God and found the courage to establish an organisation that continues to encourage, strengthen and support families throughout the world to this day.

Anne Watkins, Diocesan President

Dear Friends

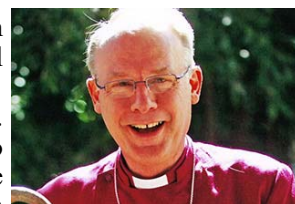
Life seems to be getting busier. I often hear people say that they cannot believe that it is this time or that time already. The liturgical seasons such as Advent and Lent seem to come and go before we know it. In terms of the Church Year there is a real risk that before we realise, Lent is over and Easter is upon us. So let us make a concerted effort to make the most of this Lent so that we can celebrate Easter with joy and thanksgiving.

Easter is early this year. As a result Ash Wednesday is early as well. To gain the most from the Lenten season it is important that we start planning now as Ash Wednesday is about ten days away.

For Lent people often take on some additional discipline. Some of them for you could be:

- ◆ Read a particular Biblical Book in one sitting each week.
- ◆ Read or re-read a particular book that has had a positive influence upon your faith.
- ◆ Spend some time each week in additional prayer, waiting on God, allowing God to speak with you.
- ◆ Praying for our fragile and somewhat broken world, for the leaders of the nations, those who seek to bring about peace.
- ◆ We need to pray for those who are seeking to stop human trafficking, who are seeking to rehabilitate refugees and for other's acts of human kindness.

- ◆ Some people fast and this can have both spiritual and physical benefits.
- ◆ Take up a particular practice. One year I decided to write to people who had a positive influence on my faith development.



In the book of James (2:17), we read, "So faith by itself, if it does not have works is dead".

I have written a Lenten Study book for Grassroots Resources. The title is "Our World Today..! Christians can make a difference". To make a difference we have to grow in our Christ likeness in all that we do. The season of Lent is the Church's gift to us so let us use it wisely so that we can continue to grow in faith.

When I was a Vicar the Regional Bishop preached on Easter morn. He said "if you are in the same place this Easter as last Easter, you have cheated God". To draw on this comment, if we are in the same place this Easter Day as on Ash Wednesday we have wasted the Lenten season.

I pray that you have a holy, blessed and a faith filled Lent and that you will truly grow in your faith in the areas we plan to address. So I invite you to join me in being intentional this Lent for the good of our spiritual health.

Yours in Christ,

+ Bill, N.Q.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

AMUA CORNER

From the Treasurer, Ed Bray
Welcome to 2018!

Anglican Mothers Union Australia, (AMUA) North Queensland, wishes you all a happy and prosperous year. It will be a busy and exciting year in Branches and Areas. Our overall theme for this year is "In Mary Sumner's Footsteps".

There are two main Conferences for members to attend this year:

- North Qld Conference in Cairns, 27 to 29 April at Cairns Colonial Resort Our theme for the Conference is High Five with activities based on the 5 Objectives of AMUA.
- State Conference in Rockhampton, 9 to 12 August with Dr Robin Ray as guest speaker.

Details on both Conferences will be distributed shortly.

In addition, Branches will organise various programs for members and their local community.

AMUA members are always keen to work closely with people in Ministry Units and the local Community. Together let us share the Good News of the Gospel with people we meet every day.

We have been searching for a new Treasurer for two years. I am very pleased that Mrs Althea le Roy from Ascension Branch in Townsville has volunteered to take on this important role as from 1 April.

Membership fees from Branches are due by 28 February. Please forward these to Ed Bray, 27 Benson Avenue, Mt Pleasant Q 4740. Can we break the 250 barrier this year?



GOD - SPOTTING in FNQ

Nursing homes are not often the places where people think of miracles- rather they tend to think of them as places where miracles failed to happen. But there are miracles aplenty when I look.

Recently, I came across two people, both very incapacitated and totally dependent on others. They were not noticeable; silenced in fact, by a world too busy to stop and listen, too busy to notice them as individuals made in the image of God. They were brought to a service.

We talked as much as was possible for those with limited speech. But we didn't really need to talk. Both were positively aglow, radiant, with the joy of Christ streaming through them. The joy transformed them and filled the room. They had both experienced and were experiencing the presence of God at a profound level.

The presence was palpable; and the presence poured out to us. I had goosebumps. And what did they do, these two forgotten people? They spent their day praying for others: praying the presence and love of God into the sad and the lonely around them.

The Gospel for that day was discipleship- I saw before me two disciples, mighty messengers of God, powerfully active in building God's kingdom. Miracles happen. They were not 'cured' in the body- they didn't have to be. They were totally well and whole- atoned in the Spirit.

The miracle was seeing God bursting into our frail vulnerable material world in a certain way to encourage people to know the glory of his love and to turn to him. Miracles aren't something done for our personal benefit, but for the upbuilding of the whole Body of Christ-

to build his kingdom.

We talk about ministry to nursing homes. But real ministry is when we are blessed by seeing God at work in another. God is always ahead of us in ministry, calling us to see him as Simon and Andrew were called away from their own busyness to see God at work in other people.

Nursing homes are the mission fields of God where miracles happen. The first shall be last and the last shall be first. Come and see!

YARRABAH



Bishop Bill commissioned Rev'd Annette Woods as the new Priest at Yarrabah. This is a half time appointment as she will also continue half time as Chaplain at Cairns Base Hospital. This is an exciting step forward in the life of Yarrabah.

PATRONAL FESTIVALS IN March, 2018

In your prayers, please remember the following parishes who celebrate their patronal festivals in the next months. There are no Patronal Festivals in February across the Diocese.

March

1st	St David	Mossman
		Mt Garnet
25th	St Mary	Atherton
		Gargett
		Mabuia

From the editor's desk:

Well, it's better than nothing. Having already had one abandoned issue because of lack of support, at least this time we have a half issue (mainly for the same reason).

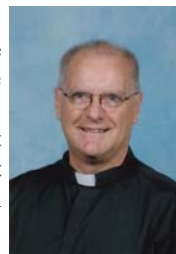
It's difficult to believe that in such a vast diocese of so many different ministries, that nothing exciting happens. I guess things do happen, but we are just not into the habit of jotting down a few lines and send them in (preferably with the picture, which we all know is worth 1000 words). So how can we get into the habit? For those in the northern region it's a little easier, because they see me face to face at Area Deanery meetings and other places, which prompts the memory. I guess it's not so easy for the rest.

Here's a suggestion, which I actually suggested a couple of years ago. Maybe it's possible to elect/appoint someone in the Ministry Unit to be the media person, whose main task is to send things off for the magazine (after speaking with the Parish Priest of course)

It's AGM time in the ministry units right now, so perhaps that can be a local election/appointment made at that meeting.

You might think that what you have to say is nothing special, but it could just ignite a spark in someone else's mind and set new things going in another place.

Sharing our stories with each other is also a great way of growing our relationships together. How about it. Wouldn't it be great if the March edition was so full that it needed to be six pages



Kenneth

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH EDITION
is February 24, 2018
eMail to nqdiomag@gmail.com
or post to
The Editor
PO Box 1032, Mossman, 4873