
To The People

February 2020

There is a line in a funeral prayer that refers to 'the slenderness of the thread that separates life from death and the suddenness with which it can be broken.' I was reminded of this as we heard with horror and great sadness the news of four children in one extended family who had been suddenly killed whilst walking along a footpath in Sydney last Saturday night. The senior police chief was clearly affected and shocked as he outlined what had happened, describing it as one of the worst tragedies he had encountered. The father of three of the children, a Maronite Christian named Daniel Abdallah, movingly described each child as loved and special, adding that 'they were in a better place'. He gently included a plea for parents to love their children, the implication being it is important to make best use of the time we have because we never know what might happen next.

We think of these children, their parents and surviving siblings and cousins, the driver of the car, the police and paramedics, and the chaplains, like the Revd Wayne Warfield, who minister to those immediately affected by such tragic events. Paul reminded the Christians in Rome that whilst they were in danger of death 'at all times' he was 'certain' that 'nothing in all creation (including death) will ever be able to separate us from the love of God, which is ours in Christ Jesus.' The whole of that funeral prayer is as follows:

We remember, Lord, the slenderness of the thread which separates life from death, and the suddenness with which it can be broken. Help us also to remember that on both sides of that division we are surrounded by your love. Persuade our hearts that when our dear ones die neither we nor they are parted from you. In you may we find our peace and in you be united with them in the glorious body of Christ, who has burst the bonds of death and is alive for evermore, our Saviour and theirs for ever and ever.

The Bush Fires, and special services at the Cathedral, Dunsborough and elsewhere

It was wonderful to see the rain arrive in the South East, albeit some in golf ball sized hailstones. The fires continue, however, both in WA and the East. I spoke with the Rector of Bega, NSW, on Sunday where there are currently three active fire fronts. He had the senior Defence Force officer thanking people in their Sunday morning service for the response of the churches to the many people evacuated and affected by the Fires. A number of people in the congregation had lost their homes.

Canon Carol and Revd Sue Kemp coordinated a creative Cathedral service on Saturday 18 January, which was attended by the Mayor of Bunbury, senior police and fire officers and over seventy-five people. It was an opportunity to remember and pray for those affected and show our collective concern. \$1040 was donated in a retiring offering to Blaze Aid and people could also pledge directly to the same charity. Dunsborough had previously held a special service and later collected over \$800. Christ Church, Mandurah have also held services and collected donations and there may be others besides.

Please continue to pray for rain here in our diocese and across Australia. If you are seeking for prayers about the bushfires: <https://www.abmission.org/news.php/497/prayers-for-those-affected-by-australias-bushfires?bblinkid=200304343&bbemailid=18918680&bbejrid=1347119032>



(The service for the Bush Fires at the Cathedral)

Insurance Update

Steve and I met with Neil Bull, the CEO from AIRS (our Insurers), on 23 January. Neil told us that they had only been notified at the 11th hour that their insurers were changing and that the new imposed insurers were charging much higher rates than before. He negotiated a 22-day agreement in order to find other cheaper insurers and maintain cover for all the dioceses in the scheme. This explains why the figures we sent to the priests in charge, the Wardens and Treasurers fluctuated so wildly, but it also left us with a number of other questions. At present we have paid the full amount for this year up to the end of October at the much higher buildings rate. Earthquake cover is still in but subject, like flood, to an excess of \$20k. The excess for all other claims appears to remain at \$10k. We are continuing to examine our options and monitor what other dioceses are doing who have also been impacted by substantial increases.

The New Diocesan Website

The new Diocesan Website is only days away from completion. We will let you know the moment that it goes live. Special thanks to Julie and Marcus Baker, among others, who have been working hard on this.

The 2020 Prayer Diary

This is also due out shortly. It has been delayed as we have been waiting for the relevant information from Kapsabet, which has now come.

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES:

DIOCESAN ULTREYA When: Saturday February 15th, 2020. Where: Chapel at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School. Time: 12.30 pm Eucharist followed by the Ultreya.

New Diocesan Office Open Day – Tuesday 17 March – please see below

CURSILLO WEEKEND When: Friday July 10th, 2020 to Sunday July 12th, 2020. Where: Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School.

Primal Election

The news that Archbishop Philip Freier is not standing for an additional three years as Primate came as a surprise in December. As a result an election will be held for his successor on Saturday 14 March in Sydney, after the Bishops' Conference. Please pray for this election.



The New Diocesan Office

The sign has been moved from the old office, tables and chairs have been put up in the conference/training room, glitches with the NBN connection are being ironed out, photos of the diocese, by Canon Carol and the Revd John Jones, are adorning the previously bare walls, the diocesan coat of arms window has been installed, landscaping is complete, Vince Cooney has renovated a pew for the reception area at the Mens' Shed, all boxes are unpacked and we have almost found everything we moved!

The official opening is on Thursday 20 February. Archbishop Kay will formally open the new office after Trustees and Bishop in Council meet that day.

If you are able to and wish to, you are all invited to see the new office on Tuesday 17 March, anytime between 8.30am and 2.30pm.

Safe Church Audit 2020 on the Implementation of Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017

The Diocese was notified in December 2019 it had been included in the first round of the Anglican Church of Australia's 'Safe Church' Audits. This Audit is part of our compliance with the Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 which we adopted at Diocesan Synod in 2017. Of the four dioceses being audited at present we were one of only two that returned the required paperwork on time, as of 30 January.

The Audit process is comprehensive. It is initially checking on five areas of activity within the Diocese in relation to the Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017:

- Code/s of Conduct
- Screening
- Training
- Known Sex Offenders and People of Concern; and,
- Diocesan Safe Ministry Authority.

For each of these subject areas, the Diocese has to provide documentary evidence of policies, procedures, decisions, forms, guidelines and all the paperwork we use and have in place to monitor the implementation of our policies. This is required together with the explanation of our Quality Assurance system and Quality Controls, culture, practices, communications, storage and any commentary on the documentation gaps and work still to be done where we know we are not yet compliant, or areas of non-compliance with the Diocese and parishes which have yet to be started; and the steps we are taking to deal with non-compliance.

We had to supply all this initial material by the 31st January 2020 which we did on the 29th January. In February, the written material will be reviewed by the independent legal firm called Prolegis which is handling the Audit. Prolegis will then follow up with us to test possible non-compliance areas and see what work is in progress on our Safe Church documentary system to ensure it is as comprehensive as possible. A draft report will be provided for us to confirm the facts and details.

The second stage of the Audit by Prolegis will then see where the paperwork is aligned with our practices, our actions and behaviour, or where there are gaps between what we have committed to doing and what is actually done locally and by the Diocese. It will confirm any material variations and non-compliances. It will try to assess the extent of the non-compliance in each of the five areas of focus.

We will be hosting a visit by the Auditors in March and further reviewing and checking will be undertaken. A final report will be produced to which we can contribute and this completed Report will be published on the General Synod website as public information.

The independent auditing company which has been appointed by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia is Prolegis. It is a legal company with a great deal of experience in charities and NGO governance and support and who did a lot of work with churches and other institutions during the Royal Commission into the Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

This type of audit is a 'first' for the Anglican Church. This diocese is one of four chosen for the first round of auditing. Also in this first round is the Diocese of Perth, Ballarat and Gippsland. The auditing process used by Prolegis is normal and such audits are used in other industries and it is good to see the Anglican Church and our Diocese actively participating and contributing to this process for the safety of all our communities and individuals. Our Quality Assurance commitment and approach is focussed on 'continuous improvement' to encourage and enable people to participate and improve as we learn together and implement what is needed together.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev'd Dr Lucy Morris at the Diocesan Office as she responds to Prolegis and the General Synod office on behalf of the Diocese.

Safe Church and Governance Training for February and March 2020

The new training calendar has been issued on the website. **The first date (8th February 2020) is being moved to Saturday, 7th March 2020.** This training will be held in the new Bunbury Diocesan office meeting room at 11 Oakley Street, Bunbury.

The same training is also being offered on Monday, 17th February in Kojonup.

The training is being provided by the Diocesan Secretary, Rev'd Dr Lucy Morris and the training will include an update on Safe Church matters and will be of interest for any new Safe Church Contact Persons in our parishes; together with updates on policies and practices for Wardens and Parish Councillors.

If you would like to attend, please let Tiffany Della-Vedova in the Diocesan Office know on 08 9721 2100 or email: dosupport@bunbury.org.au

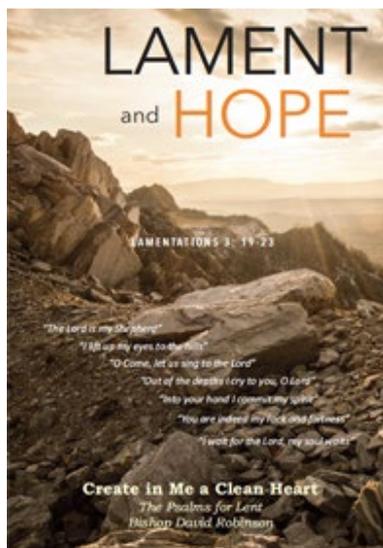
Domestic Abuse and Family Violence

A half day planning session has been organised for Tuesday, 25th February at the Diocesan Office from 10 am – 1.30 pm. Please bring along your own lunch; and refreshments will be provided. This session will be looking at what can be done in the Diocese on this issue and how we might work with the Anglican Church of Australia on these matters.

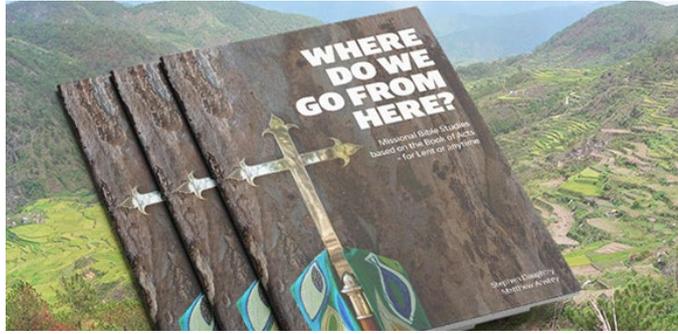
If you are interested in attending, please let Tiffany Della-Vedova in the Diocesan Office know on 08 9721 2100 or email: dosupport@bunbury.org.au

Lenten Resources

- The Revd Sue Lodge-Calvert's Lenten journey can be found at companionsontheway.com website
- We have received a Carbon Fast for Lent – please find attached.
- The Revd Cathie Broome has found this study: "Lament and Hope: Create in me a Clean Heart". A series of Lenten studies on a journey through the Psalms written by Bishop David Robinson and based on the Year "A" Lenten lectionary Psalms.



- St. Mary's, Busselton are thinking of using Stephen Daughtry and Matthew Anstey's *Where do we go from here?* This is a contemporary engagement with the Book of Acts and the Marks of Mission written for the Australian church in 2020. The 6 weekly studies are designed to get congregations talking about 'Where has God been with us?' 'Where is God now?' and 'What is God asking today.' www.abmission.org/lent



- Another suggestion is the Lent Course for the Church of England about our environment. Herewith the link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/lent-2020-church-resources>

Although, as Bruce Sherborne points out, this may be focused on the northern hemisphere and need a bit of translating.

The following are all online Lenten resources, for which we are indebted to The Messenger

Lenten Resources

Online Resources

Anglican Board of Mission

<https://www.abmission.org/resources.php?action=list-items&catId=28>

Coloring Lent: An Adult Coloring Book for the Journey to Resurrection

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Coloring-Lent-Christopher-rodkey/9780827205475?ref=grid-view&qid=1578968968646&sr=1-180>

Anglican Overseas Aid

<https://anglicanoverseasaid.org.au/news-and-resources/bible-studies-and-reflections/>

Bring Lent to Life: Activities & Reflections for your Family

https://www.bookdepository.com/Bring-Lent-Life-Kathleen-M-Basi/9780764820045?ref=pd_detail_1_sims_b_p2p_1

Church Mission Society

<http://www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk/CMS%20Lent%20Reflections%201.pdf>

Stations of the Cross

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Stations-Cross-Timothy-Radcliffe/9781472916761?ref=grid-view&qid=1578969003101&sr=1-2>

Common Grace

<https://www.commongrace.org.au/lent>

Meditations on Stations of the Cross

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Meditations-on-Stations-Cross-Cardinal-John-Henry-Newman/9781784690298?Ref=grid-view&qid=1578969073757&sr=1-6>

Books

Lent for Everyone: Matthew Year A

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Lent-for-Everyone-Tom-Wright/9780281062218?ref=grid-view&qid=1578968744069&sr=1-2>

Lent, Holy Week, Easter and the Great Fifty Days: A Ceremonial Guide

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Lent-Holy-Week-Easter-Great-Fifty-Days->

Leonel-L-Mitchell/9781561011346?ref=grid-view&qid=1578968858972&sr=1-114

Sacred Space for Lent 2020

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Sacred-Space-for-Lent-2020-Irish-Jesuits/9780829448986?ref=grid-view&qid=1578968836898&sr=1-87>

The Novello Book of Music For Lent & Easter

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Novello-Book-Music-For-Lent-Easter-Hal-Leonard-Publishing-Corporation/9781780388403?ref=grid-view&qid=1578968858972&sr=1-112>

Lent with the Saints: Daily Reflections

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Lent-with-Saints-Greg-Friedman/9781616361310?ref=grid-view&qid=1578968937249&sr=1-121>

The Art of Lent: A Painting A Day From Ash Wednesday To Easter

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Art-Lent-Sister-Wendy-Beckett/9780281078554>

Christ the King Foundation for Ministry Appeal - update

Since we published the figures in December and January a further \$1000 has been donated to these funds. We are very grateful to the church concerned.

Stop Press

I am pleased to announce that the Revd Ian Mabey has accepted my invitation to become the new Diocesan Spiritual Director for Cursillo, in place of the Revd Helen Barnard who has faithfully served in this position. Ian's Commissioning will be at the Eucharist ahead of the Ultreya on Saturday 15 February. Please pray for Ian in this important role.

Blessings,

