



## ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

### AD CLERUM

Dear Friends,

The 18<sup>th</sup> General Synod took place on the Gold Coast in Queensland, ironically for Victorians in a resort owned by the RACV, from 8 to 13 May. The synod had been the victim of several COVID-driven cancellations from its first scheduling in mid-2020. Indeed, the timing then was the reason I left the role of Primate on 31 March 2020 to give time for the election of a new Primate who could have carriage of GS 18 and responsibility for implementing its decisions. While the five-year interval between general synods might have provided more time for the 'rough edges' of proposals to be worked through, the COVID-related disruptions meant we had fewer opportunities for the General Synod Standing Committee and the National Bishops' Meeting to interact. Proposals for structured listening planned to take place at GS 18 across difference on the contested topic of marriage blessing were not carried through. Many members of synod encountered people from other parts of Australia they had not met before and did so in the quasi-parliamentary environment of the synod. This was certainly not the best environment to lower the anxiety levels of people who were already approaching the meeting with trepidation. I was grateful for Archbishop Geoff Smith's presidency of the synod and for the way it was received by members.

I was very pleased that GS 18 agreed to take up the challenge of combatting intimate partner and family violence. You will recall that a national study revealed that rates of harm among Anglican Church members was higher in some categories than the wider community. GS 18 showed its determination to change this reality by forming a Families and Culture Commission, along with allocating financial resources for programs to drive change. This initiative will be complementary to the diocesan work that is already under way, including the PVAW (Preventing Violence Against Women) program here in Melbourne.

It was clear in both conversation and the formal proceedings that rural dioceses face very difficult questions about their confidence and viability through very difficult questions of demographic change and redress. It is one of the sad realities of the Anglican Church of Australia that we have seen the loss of national efforts to address viability, particularly through the decline of the National Home Mission Fund, which is

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now receiving only legacy support and has fewer resources to share than it did when it was being actively promoted.

A number of topics were dealt with in motions, either calling for action within the Church or by government or by both. These included resolutions on climate change, the level of social security payments, funding of aged care and the National Disability Insurance Scheme, gambling and poker machines, and the incidence of suicidal and self-harm within the Defence Force veteran community.

The General Synod came together with the expectation that unity would be difficult to find around resolutions for statements that had been promoted by the Diocese of Sydney Standing Committee. They appeared to be framed on the basis that the doctrine of marriage of the Anglican Church of Australia had been somehow altered by the Appellate Tribunal decision concerning the application of the Canon Concerning Services by the Diocese of Wangaratta to make provision for the blessing of people married under the Commonwealth Marriage Act. There is vastly more that can be said on this proposition than I have the space to explore here. In any case, I regretted that use was not made of the provisions in our General Synod procedures to have such resolutions referred to a 'select committee' to 'examine and report' on the propositions before the synod. It seemed to me, and I told the synod, that we were not far from gaining agreement. What was needed was more work on shaping the resolutions in a way that could gain united support, something that had not succeeded through the means of attempted amendments from the floor of the synod. In my view content, form and process are each important in the promulgation of any statements that we seek to be authoritative. It was regrettable that GS18 did not grasp this opportunity.

Recently, Archbishop Justin Welby wrote, 'Resolution 1.10 of the Lambeth Conference in 1998 remains the latest expression of Anglican Communion teaching on the subject [of same-sex marriage]. It has not been rescinded. This resolution holds in balance the traditional understanding of marriage which is held by the Anglican Communion and the necessity to resist any form of homophobia and discrimination against homosexual people.' I know from personal experience and participation in the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion as well as several Primates' Meetings how sincere the Archbishop of Canterbury is in holding together these two perspectives. I have been involved in the drafting of resolutions from these bodies. I think that he has wisdom in restating his approach, not because it quickly takes us out of the complexities of living with difference but because it commends us to work across difference and to struggle with the incompleteness of our agreement while being resolved to build our unity.

I look forward to attending the Lambeth Conference of Bishops, itself a COVID victim of rescheduling. I attended the 2008 Lambeth Conference, and know how rich an

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experience it is to join with such an international community of bishops and spouses. We have had, in both the bishops' and in the spouses' programs, the benefit of online meetings to help us form community ahead of our time together in Canterbury. The great majority of attendees will be coming to a Lambeth Conference for the first time, and there are many changes in the leadership of the Church over 14 years. There are some resources in this Ad Clerum that offer you the opportunity to join us in prayer. Pray for Justin and all who are involved that this time of meeting may strengthen us in unity and mission.

## Lambeth

The Lambeth Conference theme of 'God's Church for God's World' reminds us that we are called as Christians to pray for the needs of the world.

When the bishops and their spouses gather for the Lambeth Conference next month, we will devote time for prayer and discussion about church and world affairs. Bishops will discuss a number of topics, including mission and evangelism, peace and reconciliation, the environment and sustainable development, discipleship, interfaith relations and more.

As the conference draws closer, I invite you to pray for the Lambeth Conference - and the impact it can have on the life of the Anglican Communion in the decade ahead.

This short prayer *guide* is for churches and communities that would like to pray for the conference and all those attending. It contains an outline of what the conference covers, and prayers from Anglican religious communities around the globe.

## In memory of Anne Bayton.

A memorial service for Anne Bayton, wife of Bishop John Bayton, will be held at St Peters Eastern Hill Church on Saturday 18 June at 11am.

The family was prevented from celebrating the life of Anne, who died aged 84 in June 2021, because of COVID restrictions, and is holding this service to commemorate her life.

Please RSVP your attendance to [cateallan65@gmail.com](mailto:cateallan65@gmail.com) to assist in catering arrangements.

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## Book Launch

***Acts of Cruelty: Australia's Immigration Laws and experiences of people seeking protection after arriving by plane*** is the work of Sister Aileen Crowe, a Franciscan nun, based on her refugee advocacy and PhD research.

The book is notable for its detailing and interweaving of personal story with the bureaucratic, legal and parliamentary frameworks and developments of our immigration system during this millennium, and includes the kind of analysis required to underpin improvements.

Sister Aileen's book is being launched in Melbourne on Thursday June 21. Please see further details [here](#).

## Mission to Seafarers

Sue Dight has been appointed as the interim Regional Director for the Mission to Seafarers Australia and Papua New Guinea until the end of January 2023

Mission to Seafarers is searching for a successor to Rev Canon Garry Dodd, who held this position for many years. Please see attached document [here](#) for further detail.

## Clergy Moves

### Just a reminder on the process to be followed when leaving a ministry.

When leaving a ministry, a cleric should give written notice to me as Archbishop of their resignation, and provide the date on which the resignation will take effect, using the prescribed "Notice of Retirement or Resignation" form available via [this link](#).

The form should be accompanied by a letter addressed to me.

As clergy hold the Archbishop's license, it is important that this courtesy be followed, regardless of whether the area bishop responsible or another person has been advised of the cleric's resignation.

This applies to assistant clergy also, even if they have provided written notice of their resignation to their ministry supervisor and/or parish council or another person or entity.

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## Clergy Moves for June 2022 edition of TMA

### Vacant Appointments as of 17 May 2022:

Holy Trinity, Bacchus Marsh with Christ Church, Myrniong and St George's Balliang  
St Martin's, Belgrave Heights  
Christ Church, Berwick  
St Edward's, Blackburn South  
St Peter's, Bundoora  
St John's Chrysostom, Brunswick West  
St Faith's, Burwood  
St Mark's, Camberwell (from December 2022)  
St Catharine's, Caulfield South  
St Alban's, Coburg West  
St Philip's, Collingwood  
St Michael's & St Luke's, North Dandenong  
Darebin South  
St Mark's, Dromana  
St Margaret's, Eltham  
Christ Church, Geelong  
St Stephen's, Greythorn  
Holy Trinity, Hampton  
St Martin's, Hawksburn  
St James, Ivanhoe  
St Matthias, Mernda  
Christ Church, Newport  
Pascoe Vale-Oak Park  
St Matthew's, Panton Hill  
St George the Martyr Queenscliff and St James Point Lonsdale  
St Mark's, Reservoir  
St Andrew's, Somerville  
St Aidan's, Strathmore  
Christ Church, South Yarra  
St Luke's, Sydenham  
St Thomas', Upper Ferntree Gully  
All Saints' Carlotta Tye Memorial, Selby  
St Thomas', Winchelsea with Holy Trinity, Barrabool and St Paul's, Deans Marsh  
St Paul's, Westmeadows  
St Matthew's, Wheeler's Hill (from November 2022)  
Christ Church, Whittlesea with St Peter's, Kinglake

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## Appointments:

**BEER**, The Revd Kathryn Elizabeth, appointed Assistant Priest, Parish of St Hilary, Kew/ North Balwyn / Mont Albert North effective 20 July 2022

**BEER**, The Revd Tavis Michael, appointed Assistant Priest, Parish of St Hilary, Kew/ North Balwyn / Mont Albert North effective 16 May 2022

**DUNCAN**, The Revd Ross Lachlan, appointed Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Wandin Seville & Mt Evelyn, effective 5 July 2022

**ELLIOTT**, The Revd Simon, appointed Extension of Priest-in-Charge, St George, Monbulk, effective 4 June 2022

**PETERS**, The Revd Graeme John, appointed Area Dean, Deanery of Monash & Kingston, effective 27 April 2022 and Incumbent from Priest-in-Charge, St James Dandenong, effective 9 October 2022

## Permission to Officiate:

**GRANT**, The Revd Warwick Alexander, appointed Renewal of Permission to Officiate within the Diocese of Melbourne, effective 27 April 2022

**PALAPATHWALA**, The Revd Ruwan, appointed Permission to Officiate within the Diocese of Melbourne, effective 15 May 2022

## Resignations:

**ALLINSON**, The Venerable Gregory, Incumbent, St Mark, Camberwell effective 12 December 2022 and Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry of Kew, effective 1 August 2022

**D'ALTON**, The Revd Craig, Incumbent, Christ Church, South Yarra, effective 10 September 2022

**RAIKE**, The Revd John Alan, Priest-in-Charge, St Philip, Collingwood, effective 13 June 2022

**PALAPATHWALA**, The Revd Ruwan, Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church, Whittlesea with St Peter's, Kinglake, effective 15 May 2022

## Obituaries:

**McCALL**, The Revd Anthea, 28 April 2022

**BANFIELD**, The Revd Thomas Harry, 3 May 2022

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus  
Yours sincerely



The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier  
Archbishop of Melbourne

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