

Via Media

March 2020

“Via Media” is the Newsletter of Anglicans Together Inc, Sydney NSW Australia.

The title is “borrowed” from Anglican Church Reformers who sought to walk “the middle way”.

Anglicans Together includes a diverse membership of people from within the Anglican Diocese of Sydney who seek to work together in order to maintain, foster and develop our common life in the Diocese and the wider Anglican Communion. We are a “broad” group with a diversity of beliefs and practices, reflective of our Anglican Church. We promote unity and co-operation with one another, and encourage one another in mission.

From Ashes to Fire

From the Pastoral Letter of Bishop Mark Short, Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn (3rd Jan 2020): *“To you, O LORD, I cry. For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and flames have burned all the trees of the field. Even the wild animals cry to you because the watercourses are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.”* (Joel 1:19-20). The words of God’s prophet express the cries of our hearts. We grieve with and for those who have lost property and loved ones. We groan with and for creation as it waits for rescue. Parts of our country still long for quenching rain and relief.”

With our brothers and sisters in Christ we too cry and yearn, holding in our prayers all who are affected by fire and drought across our nation, and pray for wise actions and policies to bring about change and stewardship of all creation.

As we enter Lent we recall that out of the ashes and fire, new life is made possible through Jesus Christ, and so we particularly pray for those faithful people (ordained and lay) who minister in those communities and towns where people seek to recover and rebuild their lives.

It has been wonderful to see the generous responses of many across our Churches. We give thanks for the work of the many agencies of our Church, noting the efforts of Anglicare (Sydney, NSW South East) and Anglican Aid in raising funds and providing assistance on the ground.

A prayer for Our Country, in drought and fire.

Our heavenly Father, creator of all things and especially the creator of this land and its original peoples, we call out to you in these desperate times as fires have swept across several parts of our country. Our hearts cry out to you for those who have lost loved ones, and those who have lost properties in the wake of these ravaging fires. Father we pray, in your mercy, restrain the forces of nature from creating catastrophic damage; in your mercy protect human life.

Guard those volunteers, rural fire service personnel and emergency services who selflessly step into the breach to fight these fires. Guide police and authorities who help evacuate and shelter those who are displaced. Bring comfort and healing to all who suffer loss.

Remembering your promises of old that seedtime and harvest will never cease, we pray that you would open the heavens to send refreshing rain upon our parched land. In your mercy, we pray for drenching rain. We pray that despite the forecasts, in your miraculous power you would bring forth rain to quench these fires and to bring life back into the earth, so that crops may grow and farmers may bring forth the harvest of the land again.

We bring these requests before your throne, in the name of your Son, who died and rose again for our deliverance, Amen.

(Written by The Most Rev’d Dr Glenn Davies)



Membership of A.T.

Membership of Anglicans Together affirms your desire to be a part of a diverse Anglican Church in the Diocese of Sydney, working together across our Diocese to share the good news of Jesus Christ, who is the one that unites us.

You can join our movement through an annual membership subscription of \$35 (\$30 concession). This can be paid by Direct Deposit (Anglicans Together Inc, Commonwealth Bank, 062165 10123708. Please include your name in the 'description'). You can register your details at: www.anglicanstogether.org/files/page_membership_application.html

Or you can be "old school" and send a cheque payable to 'Anglicans Together Inc.' to: Secretary, Anglicans Together, PO Box 162, Spit Junction NSW 2088.

St Nick @ Hunters Hill

The Parish reported that the Service that is growing the most at Christmas is Christmas Eve for Families which includes Holy Communion, traditional Carols, a Nativity Play by the Children and a visit from St Nicholas. St Nick joins in with Holy Communion, sharing with the children his love of Jesus as the reason why he delivers gifts, and following the service he remains for a light supper. The Parish used a funny "meme" to advertise this service, which was well received.



Stormy Start to Lent at St Luke's Mosman

On Shrove Tuesday over 60 people "nourished-up" for their 2020 Lenten discipline on a meal of savoury and sweet pancakes. This annual event attracts regular parishioners and visitors for an evening of fun and fellowship.

On a sadder note, the St Luke's Mosman Fincham organ sustained severe water damage during the recent February storms. The organ will need to be completely removed and repaired before reinstallation. It was originally installed in St Philip's Presbyterian Church, Newcastle in 1905 before being refurbished and installed in St Luke's, Mosman in July 2013. The St Luke's Mosman Music Association Inc. has established an Organ Restoration Appeal.

Epiphany in the Mountains

St Luke's Enmore parishioners travelled by train and car to Leura on 11th February on pilgrimage. Arriving, they were greeted by a typical mountain mist - not smoke from the fires burning in the valley! There was a warm welcome from parishioners Lea and Don, the hosts for the occasion. Fr Philip celebrated an intimate and reflective Epiphany Eucharist in their lounge room. Following the Service, a truly gourmet lunch was served by the hosts, followed by Noel's especially home baked 'epiphany' cake.

Then, sadly we left the clear mountain freshness to return to the smoky plains of Enmore.

St Paul's College, Sydney – Installation of New Warden

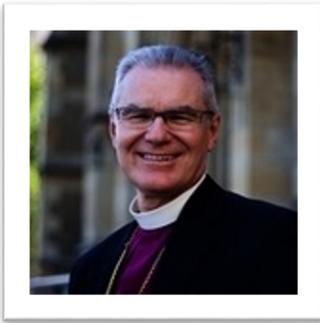
The Reverend Dr Ed Loane was installed as the 12th Warden of St Paul's College by the Right Reverend Dr Michael Stead, Bishop of South Sydney, on Saturday 29th February. Dr Loane was raised in Wollongong and completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Sydney, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science. He went on to complete his graduate studies at Moore College, followed by a PhD at Cambridge University.

An Old Pauline, Dr Loane has recently lectured in Theology and Church History at Moore College and has been a Fellow of the St Paul's College Council. Other current Fellows of St Paul's College Council include past Anglicans Together Presidents the Reverend Andrew Sempell and the Reverend Philip Bradford, together with our current President, the Reverend Dr Max Wood.



Do you have a short story and a picture of an activity or event in your parish? We'd love to hear about it, and share it, send to admin@anglicanstogether.org

Primates Resignation



The Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, the Most Rev'd Philip Freier of Melbourne,

announced that he will not seek re-election as Primate and will stand down on 31 March 2020. Archbishop Freier was elected Primate in June 2014.

His successor will be elected by a Board of Electors who held a telephone conference on 23rd December 2019, prior to their scheduled upcoming meeting on 14th March. The Board comprises Diocesan Bishops and representative clergy and laity from across Australia, elected at General Synod.

The election of the Primate will be pivotal in terms of our National Church, which is scheduled to meet at General Synod from 31st May to 5th June this year at Maroochydore. The Primate usually chairs these Synods.

Appellate Tribunal

On 5th September 2019 the Primate referred to the Appellate Tribunal questions relating to the blessing of marriages under the Marriage Act 1961 (Regulations 2019) in response to determinations made by the Synod of the Diocese of Wangaratta. Since that time the Diocese of Newcastle has also passed similar Ordinances, awaiting consent from their Bishop based on the outcomes of their self referral to the Appellate Tribunal.

It is understood that the process for all matters are still in the stages of obtaining and reviewing submissions. It is uncertain when the matters will be determined.

Diocesan Episcopal News

Vale Bishop Ivan Lee

In October 2019 the Archbishop announced he was seconding Bishop Ivan Lee to work on strengthening church growth in the Diocese, in a new portfolio. Bishop Lee has faced significant health issues in recent years and sadly he succumb to them on 4th March. We pray for his all who grieve, especially Virginia, Rachel, Sandra and Jessica.



Bishop Gary Koo

On December 20th 2019 the Rev'd Gary Koo was consecrated in St John's Parramatta as a Bishop in the Church of God and given episcopal oversight by the Archbishop of Sydney for Western Sydney. Bishop Koo follows on from The Rt Rev'd Ivan Lee (above). Please uphold him, his wife Pearl and children Tomas (16) and Annabel (14), in your prayers, and the Western Region of our Diocese.



Archbishop Glenn Davies

Our Archbishop, The Most Rev'd Dr Davies, will retire in July 2020 (before his retirement age) to allow a special election Synod to take place from Monday 10th to Friday 14th August 2020. There will be an opportunity to give thanks and say farewell at our AT Eucharist and Lunch on 23rd May 2020 (see over).

Lambeth 2020

The Lambeth Conference is a hugely significant event in the life of the Anglican Church. It brings together active bishops and their spouses from the worldwide Anglican Communion – that's more than 165 countries. The aim is to seek God's direction for the future of the Anglican/Episcopalian Church for the decades ahead.

The Conference is taking place in July and August 2020 in Canterbury, UK. The theme is "God's Church for God's World: walking, listening and witnessing together".

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has sent personal invitations to every eligible bishop and spouse. "It's my prayer that, inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Lambeth Conference will reinvigorate the Communion with the vision and resources to bring the transforming love of Jesus Christ to every level of society. It will be a time of addressing hurts and concerns; of deepening existing relationships and building new ones; of grappling with issues that face the Church and the world. We will listen to each other; we will seek God's wisdom to find ways to walk together; we will build each other up as leaders."

It is noted that at the time of printing of this newsletter that none of the leadership of the Diocese of Sydney have taken up the invitation to attend.

You can find further information at www.lambethconference.org/.

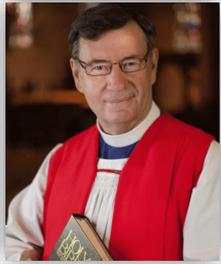


Inaugural Anglicans Together Eucharist & Lunch

Join us as we celebrate the Feast of St Augustine of Canterbury,
World Anglican Communion Sunday
and Farewell our Archbishop with two special events.

11:00am 23rd May Holy Communion @ St James King Street

President & Preacher: The Most Reverend Dr Glenn Davies, Archbishop of Sydney
Music: Combined Churches Choir



12:30pm 23rd May Anglicans Together Lunch
City Tattersalls Club, Two-Course Luncheon, \$60pp.
Speaker: Archbishop Glenn Davies.

Luncheon tickets from www.trybooking.com/BJAWU or send a cheque with your contact details to Anglicans Together, PO Box 162, Spit Junction NSW 2088.



Mission in Myanmar

Lyn Bannerman

I was privileged to travel with a small group of ABM staff and supporters, from Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra, who visited Myanmar for two weeks in February. We visited projects in villages and towns, funded by ABM (Anglican Board of Mission), and Bishops, clergy, staff and parishioners across a number of Dioceses. We saw for ourselves how deep the poverty is in this country, but how incredibly resilient the people are. The travellers were truly blessed by the warmth of welcome and hospitality.

The country is just 5 years out of being under total Military control, which lasted 50 years. It is strongly asserted that the Military spent primarily on themselves and their families. The needs across the country in both towns, and

especially rural areas, for basic infrastructure including electricity, accessible water supplies, and for access to health and education services, are overwhelming. Progress in five years across these basic areas of life, while visible, is very slow. While the people rejoice in "democracy" (75% of Government are elected representatives), the Military seem to still dominate well beyond their reduced numbers would suggest. The people look forward with hope to a further election (no date yet set) when the power of the Military will hopefully be further reduced.

The ABM projects we visited included water and sanitation provision to a remote village, a farm which trains men in sustainable, organic farming (livestock and crops); and the first pre-school in a major town, which is teaching English (the need for bilingualism is immense as no other country in the world speaks

Myanmar). At each of these projects, we saw how ABM seed funding brings whole communities together, working to grow the projects beyond the original limited plans.

We also visited the Holy Cross Theological College in Yangon and St Peter's Bible College at Toungoo, both recipients of ABM support. This growth in theologically trained local people will foster the work of the Church in Myanmar. It was a wonderful and truly life-changing experience.



Editorial Policy: We aim to publish a wide range of views and opinions in this newsletter. Publication should therefore not be read as necessarily endorsing or approving a particular view or opinion.

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