

# The weekly note from the Rector

## **Congratulations:**

Congratulation to Bernice on your 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday! I recently received a note from Richard Dalziel. Richard wanted everyone to know that Bernice finally turned 100 on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August. Bernice has been in lockdown at Greenwood for over five weeks, and her family were not permitted to visit her. The family held a zoom session with her at morning tea when the staff gave her balloons, letters, cards, and cake! Bernice was smiling and happy and seemed to enjoy all the fuss and cake. Bernice required gentle reminding of who the family were. The staff read her letters & cards to her, and the family were pleased with the morning tea.



## **New Dean swaps Wollongong for Sydney**

The Archbishop of Sydney, Kanishka Raffel, has appointed Canon Sandy Grant, of St Michael's Cathedral Wollongong, to be the new Dean of Sydney. Sandy will be the 13th Dean of Sydney, a post with a history stretching back to 1858 when William Macquarie Cowper was appointed as the first Dean. Canon Grant has been the Senior Minister of St Michael's in Wollongong since 2004 and will take up his ministry at Sydney's St Andrew's Cathedral in December.

"Sandy is known and loved by his congregation and in the wider Wollongong Region for his evangelistic heart, his thoughtful and carefully applied preaching, and his wise and attentive pastoral care," said Archbishop Raffel, himself a former Dean. "Sandy is diligent, passionate and thoughtful. He is a person of conviction but humble and servant-hearted."



Canon Grant has been involved in a wide range of social issues in Wollongong and beyond. Sandy has chaired the Diocesan Task Force on Domestic and Family Violence over the last seven years and led the Diocese in addressing this critical issue, including through the adoption of wide-ranging policies and practices for responding to Domestic Violence in the

church. Sandy is a passionate anti-gambling advocate and has also promoted indigenous reconciliation locally in Wollongong and through the Synod, including as a member of the Diocesan Social Issues Committee. Sandy was also a central figure in the recent 'Jesus is...' mission in the Illawarra.

"Sandy understands and appreciates the role of St Andrew's Cathedral as the central church of the Diocese as well as having a sense of the community and civic role of a Cathedral in

the life of the City. He has a personal appreciation for the music ministry of the Cathedral. Perhaps most importantly, he is an able, experienced, and a prayerful pastor-teacher,” the Archbishop said. “He is well suited to minister to the Cathedral’s ethnically and socially diverse congregation, while also engaging the unique evangelistic opportunity so distinctive of Cathedral ministry.”

“It is humbling to have the confidence of Archbishop Kanishka and the Cathedral Chapter to serve the people of St Andrew’s in the heart of Sydney,” Canon Grant said. “It has been a privilege to provide a voice to the city of Wollongong in the name of Jesus and his followers, and I look forward to trying to offer the same perspective to the great city of Sydney, where I grew up.” Canon Grant is married to Karyn and has three adult daughters.

## **Holy Communion:**

There are differing views of opinions regarding how to participate in Holy Communion during the Public Health lockdown. What are these various views? The first view would see this time of lockdown as abstinence. No one participates and receives the elements except those present during the Service. The other view is that people at home prepare wine, bread and then join in from home. Some may struggle with this latter view – Are the bread and wine consecrated? Others have no such a struggle.

I am now giving people at home the option to participate in the Communion Service, albeit at home. The key to what I am doing during the online Service – is the words: ***let us take this holy sacrament by faith with thanksgiving in our hearts.***

I would ask everyone to continue to extend grace to those who may hold a differing opinion. I respect the two differing views and understand the theological differences behind those opinions. I would draw your attention that the Roman Catholic Church has been providing the Service of Eucharist in Australia on mainstream television for decades.

If you are comfortable at home to have some wine & bread prepared before the live streaming of the Service, you are invited to participate in Communion at home.

## **The Clergy gathered together.**

On Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> of August, the Clergy of the Northern Region all came together through zoom. Bishop Chris Edward organised this event. Archbishop Kanishka led the Clergy through a Bible Study and spoke encouraging words to address the struggle of providing pastoral care during the time of lockdown.

During this gathering, we were allocated a ‘break-out room’. Which meant groups of five Clergy could pray for each other, then come back to the main group. Both Archbishop Kanishka and Bishop Chris desired the Clergy pass onto the people under their care that they were praying for you as a Region. Personally, I found the time encouraging and worthwhile.

Other Diocesan news: the session of Synod originally planned for September 2021 is now anticipated to be convened from 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2022.

## Please continue to pray:

*O LORD, the one true God, we humbly come before you and seek your mercy. We know you are our sure hope and defence. Strengthen those who have suffered due to this pandemic. We ask in your goodness to eradicate the coronavirus. We thank you for the skills and creativity you have given humanity, prosper their endeavours in working towards the total elimination of the coronavirus. We continue to place ourselves in your hands, confident that nothing can separate us from your love. We ask all this in the name of your Son, our Saviour – Jesus Christ. Amen.*

The Reverend Campbell was a very devout Anglican who was keen to see the people under his care, continue taking steps in Christ maturity. He had a broad Scottish accent. When we would meet for clergy gatherings, he would never fail to ask a similar question – How is your prayer life? The question never threatened me; instead, it gave an opportunity to talk about answered prayer. He also would share the mixed joys of his own prayer life. Reverend Campbell was ordained in the Diocese of Sydney. He served in the Diocese of Gippsland, where I first met him.

This leads me to ask the question; how is your prayer life? On Sunday, through the live streaming, my sermon will be reflecting on the LORD's prayer. After eight weeks of lockdown – with the possibility of another eight weeks I have been reflecting on the importance of drawing closer to God. There are many aspects of the Worship Services that we all miss. Yet, in God's providence, you and I can still draw closer to God through prayer while we live through a period of significant restrictions.

Everyone is welcome to join the meeting this week:

You are to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

### **Parish Meeting**

Every week on Tuesday evening, 7pm, until the 31<sup>st</sup> of August

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87882612754>

Meeting ID: 878 8261 2754

May the Peace of the LORD be with you all.

Fr. Robert  
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