



Archbishop's Letter July 2011

My brothers and sisters,

I am pleased to be able to advise you that I have invited Archdeacon Tim Harris to return to Adelaide as Bishop for Mission and Evangelism. Tim is presently the Dean of Bishopdale Theological College in Nelson and Archdeacon for Theological Education and Ministry Formation in that Diocese. Tim has done a wonderful job helping to re-establish Bishopdale College. He has become a respected figure throughout the New Zealand Church and it will be a joy to welcome him, along with Fiona and John, back to Australia.

While having some involvement with general episcopal responsibilities including confirmations and ordinations, the Bishop for Mission and Evangelism will focus on the development of “fresh expressions” of church, congregational planting and parish renewal. He will have a place in the academic life of St Barnabas College, lecturing in New Testament and will have an involvement in ministry formation, particularly around mission and “fresh expressions”.

We are planning for an episcopal ordination in St Peter’s Cathedral on Sunday November 20 (Christ the King) at 4.00pm. Please pray for Tim, Fiona and Jon as they prepare for farewells and look towards returning to Adelaide.

CLERGY GATHERING: SOME REFLECTIONS

The clergy gathering last week was very well attended and I am grateful to the Mission and Evangelism Ministry Unit for organising the visit by the Reverend Dave Male. The text of his presentation to the gathering is available at: <http://davemale.typepad.com/churchunplugged/>.

Our discussion after Afternoon Tea was equally important in that it provided the opportunity to share about some recent adverse media publicity following the resignation from the Parish of Semaphore of the Reverend Ali Wurm. I have made it clear that I have been unwilling to comment in the Media about the circumstances of an individual priest, but I was grateful for the opportunity to clarify some matters:

- That I had not required Ali’s resignation, nor sought it.
- That I had, nevertheless, made it clear that position of the Australian Church meant that I could not issue a new licence to a clergy person in a partnered relationship outside of marriage and that I could not issue a licence to a person who could not sign “Faithfulness in Service”.
- That in upholding the Lambeth 98 1.10 resolution about human sexuality, I was nevertheless very conscious of the affirmation of the Conference that all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ and that irrational fear of homosexual people is to be condemned.

In discussion at the clergy gathering, I made a commitment to ensure that there are some “safe-space” conversations on the issues of human sexuality facilitated within the Diocese before Synod 2012.

RETREAT – CHANGE OF VENUE

Please note that there has been a change of venue for the clergy retreat. The Retreat is now to be held at ‘Nunyara’, Belair, not at Wirrina Resort as earlier notified. ‘Nunyara’ was unexpectedly able to accommodate our altered dates, and there were considerable savings in costs.

The accommodation at ‘Nunyara’ will be in Symons House, in recently refurbished motel-type rooms with up to four beds (all new single beds and not bunks!). Therefore, this year there will be a limit of 24 residential participants, all in shared accommodation.

The Retreat leader is Bishop Richard Ellena, Bishop of Nelson.. The Retreat will commence with an evening meal on Monday, 5 September, and conclude with lunch on Thursday, 8 September. This is a Residential Retreat, however, if some participants wish not to be accommodated full attendance throughout is required please; on Tuesday and Wednesday, from 8.30am until after dinner each day, and until after lunch on Thursday.

SYNOD

It is time to be thinking about Synod. The Second Session of the Forty First Triennial Synod (157th Annual Session) will be held Friday 21 October – Sunday 23 October 2011 commencing with the Synod Eucharist on Friday 21 October 2011. Members of Synod wishing to submit reports for presentation to Synod, Notice of Motions, Petitions and questions for inclusion in the Notice Paper for consideration of Synod must lodge these matters with the Secretary of Synod **by Friday 19 August 2011.**

DEVELOPING THE GUARDIAN

The Guardian continues to be an important and much loved communication tool within the Diocese. But with the launch of our new website and the immediacy of online communications it is appropriate for the Guardian to take a more in depth features approach to current issues within the Diocese.

So, plans for the new-look Guardian are under way. It is going to be a smaller format 24 page magazine published every two months. With more pages and more time between editions, important issues can be analysed and presented in a broadly appealing way.

The publication dates for the first two editions will be adjusted because of advertising schedules and the need for a Christmas edition in December. Meaning that, for the rest of this year there will be two editions – one around September/October and then one in November/December. Going forward there will be six editions a year – February, April, June, August, October and December.

Parish and school news stories will be combined with fabulous photography and feature articles about important cultural and spiritual issues. Our hope is that the Guardian continues to be a publication that engages and stimulates the Diocese and beyond.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

The Reverend Catherine Pennington will be commissioned as Parish Priest for St Mary Magdalene’s Parish on September 8 at 7.30pm. I have asked the *Reverend Lucy Larkin* to assist part time at St Peter’s Cathedral, following the resignation of the Dean and before an appointment can be made. The death of *Bishop David Shand* occurred on July 8, with his funeral service tomorrow (Friday 10.30am) in St Paul’s Cathedral Melbourne. In 1973 he was consecrated as the last bishop of the Diocese of St Arnaud and from 1978 was a regional bishop in Melbourne until his retirement in 1988. The Reverend Dr *Phillip Tolliday* has began a period of sabbatical which will include a time in Germany. Phillip is also spending some time at “the School of Alexandria”, the Anglican College for the Horn of Africa in the Diocese of Cairo.

+*Jeffrey*

DIARY DATES - 2011

July	
6	Clergy Gathering
7	Anglicare SA Board meeting
9	Ministry Forum
14	Church in Society Ministry Unit
27	Resources & Administration Ministry Unit
27	Diocesan Council
August	
3	St Barnabas' Theological College Council
4	Anglicare SA Board meeting
11	Church in Society Ministry Unit
31	Resources & Administration Ministry Unit
September	
5-8	Clergy Retreat
8	Commissioning – Rev'd Catherine Pennington, St Mary Magdalene's
8	Church in Society Ministry Unit
11	Back to Church Sunday
14	Diocesan Council
17	Ministry Forum
21	Clergy Gathering
28	Resources & Administration Ministry Unit
October	
5	St Barnabas' Theological College Council
6	Anglicare SA Board meeting
11	Education & Formation Ministry Unit
12	Diocesan Council
13	Church in Society Ministry Unit
14	St Barnabas' College Valedictory Service
21 – 23	Synod
November	
2	Resources & Administration Ministry Unit
4 – 5	Ordination Advisory Conference
8	Church in Society Ministry Unit
16	Diocesan Council
26	Diocesan Ordination Service
December	
1	Anglicare SA Board meeting
7	Resources & Administration Ministry Unit
7	St Barnabas' Theological College Council
8	Church in Society Ministry Unit
10	Clergy Advent BBQ
13	Education & Formation Ministry Unit