



Bishop's News

July 2013

Bishop's Letter

Kia ora Family

Greetings from Wellington; where the sun is shining again after another battering storm. Jenny and I have particularly enjoyed our last month of visiting Parishes – we are constantly amazed by the wonderful diversity we experience.

As I visit I have been reflecting again on the life of Judas. I find Judas' life fascinating and tragic. The fact that he walked, lived and breathed with Jesus and the disciples for three years yet still missed the Kingdom coming. Judas heard all the sermons, was part of the disciples ongoing debriefs, observed the miracles, and followed Jesus wherever he went for three years. But somehow he didn't observe God's Kingdom breaking in! He saw it all and at the same time didn't recognise it. I am constantly praying, God help me to see Your Kingdom coming wherever I go.

As I move through our Diocese with eyes to see, I am not disappointed. Visiting St Andrew's in the Paddock was a faith-filled time, with the service being lead totally by the children of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Watching these children be empowered to own their faith in an appropriate way, and to watch the young ones recognise the wonder of God during the service was a privilege. The Kingdom was certainly present in these young ones for those that had eyes to see.

Similarly when visiting St Mary's, Whitby I listened to Parishioners testify to God moving in their wider community during the week. I was humbled again to recognise in so many ways how people were responding to the lost, the last and the least in their locations. The same Spirit that was moving in St Andrew's in the Paddock was obviously moving in Whitby as well.

Can I encourage you to ask God to help you recognise His Kingdom work afresh in your lives. We must turn our back on our conditioning to look for the bigger, spectacular and flashy, and therefore miss joining in the mustard seed revolution of Jesus.

May your eyes be opened once again to the wonder of His Kingdom.

Blessings

+Justin

Bishop of Wellington

The Venerable Robert McLay, Vicar General and Archdeacon for Ohariu and Wellington Archdeaconries

The Venerable Robert McLay will be concluding his ministry as Vicar General, and Archdeacon for Ohariu and Wellington Archdeaconries on Wednesday 31 July 2013.

I am appointing the Venerable Julie Rokotakala as Vicar General, and Archdeacon for Ohariu and Wellington Archdeaconries as from 31 July 2013, in addition to Julie continuing as Archdeacon for Kapiti.

The Marriage (Definition of Marriage) Amendment Act 2013

You will be aware that the Government recently passed this Act which allows same sex couples to enter into a marriage relationship. This is a significant step and has been the source of much debate in the community. It brings great rejoicing to some and is the source of great concern to others.

I have also received the following notification from the Registrar General in relation to the changes that will be made as a result of The Marriage (Definition of Marriage) Amendment Act 2013 which will come into force on Monday 19 August 2013.

It is important for us to remind clergy who are Marriage Celebrants of our situation.

Anglican clergy (Priests) receive the legal power to conduct weddings by being placed on the Registrar General's Marriage Celebrants' List by virtue of our denominational affiliation. We are not Independent Marriage Celebrants. Thus we must work within two sets of parameters: those established by law by the Marriage Act, and those established through our Church's Canons and Formularies. The latter defines marriage as being between a man and a woman. **There is not provision for Anglican clergy to conduct same sex marriages in spite of the change in civil law.** There are no authorised services for doing so.

At the same time we wish to reassert the welcome which we seek to extend to all people in our churches, including those in the gay and lesbian community, as we seek to establish our best pastoral response to them.

Let us continue to show Grace to one another in the midst of our differing aspirations about this matter.

Blessings

+Justin

Bishop of Wellington

Some Helpful Links

Questions and Answers (these will be updated as required over the next 4 months):

- [Marriage Amendment Act - Questions and Answers](#)

Media statements issued to date:

- 16 April 2013 [‘Bride’ and ‘bridegroom’ choices expected to remain on marriage forms](#)
- 17 April 2013 [Marriage Amendment Act changes set for August](#)
- 22 April 2013 [Marriage Amendment Act in effect by 19 August](#)

Bishop’s Diary for July and August

Please uphold +Justin’s ministry in your daily prayers. Along with the day to day meetings in the Bishop’s Office, the following is the diary for July and August:

July

Thursday 18	Commission Cursillo Team at El Rancho Wellington City Mission Annual Gathering
Saturday 20	Wairarapa Archdeaconry Regional Meeting
Sunday 21	The Epiphany, Masterton
Monday 22 to Saturday 27	On leave
Sunday 28	St James’, Lower Hutt Installation of the Reverend Ben Johnson-Frow as Vicar in the Parish of Johnsonville
Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31	Clergy Conference in Masterton

August

Thursday 1	Clergy Conference in Masterton
Friday 2	Youth Leaders
Sunday 4	St Mark’s, Wellington Installation of the Reverend Cath Growcott as Priest in Charge in the Parish of Porirua
Tuesday 6	Diocesan Leadership Team Board of Nomination
Wednesday 7 to Friday 9	Anglican Schools Conference, Northland
Sunday 11	St Aidan’s, Miramar-Seatoun-Strathmore
Tuesday 13	Anglican Missions Board to meet Dean of Jerusalem

Wednesday 14	NZ Defence Force Chaplains at Ngatiawa
Thursday 15	Wanganui Collegiate School, Wanganui Youth Leaders
Friday 16	Diocesan Board of Trustees
Saturday 17	Urban Vision Formation Day
Sunday 18	Churton Park Parish 20 th Anniversary Celebrations
Wednesday 21	Nga Tawa Diocesan School, Marton
Thursday 22	Sprott House, Karori
Friday 23 to Sunday 25	Base Camp 3, El Rancho, Waikanae National Youth Training, El Rancho, Waikanae
Monday 26	Hadlow School, Masterton
Wednesday 28	Youth Leaders
Thursday 29 and Friday 30	Manawatu Archdeaconry Retreat at Ngatiawa
Friday 30 and Saturday 31	Diploma in Anglican Studies Residential Retreat

Acts of the Bishop

Confirmations

Parish of Shannon-Foxton held at The Venerable Bede, Shannon on 16 June 2013

Christine Toms

Parish of St Matthew's, Masterton held at St Andrew's in the Paddock, Masterton on 7 July 2013

Emma Paige Bassett
Georgia Annis Petrie
Anne Charlotte (Lotte) Willemstein
Darroch Henry Mason George-Bodle

Renewals

Parish of Shannon-Foxton held at The Venerable Bede, Shannon on 16 June 2013

Zola Bannister
Joan Bassett
Subhardra Edwards
Cherry Schouwenaars

We are family, we are disciples, we care for the lost, the least and the last

Ian Bannister
Philip Murray

Bishop's Licence

Licence of a Priest Holding the Office of Priest Licensed to the Bishop of Wellington
Reverend Benjamin Pippin Johnson-Frow, BSc – 1 July 2013

Bishop's Letter of Authority

Letter of Authority for the Office of Prison Chaplain at Rimutaka Prison
Reverend Martin Charles Robinson, BDiv, BA, DipJour, GradDipTchg – 19 June 2013

Letter of Authority for the Office of Children and Family Worker in the Parish of Upper Hutt Responsible for the Timberlea Community
Glenis Bisset – 1 July 2013

Bishop's Permission to Officiate

Reverend Annette Charlotte Cater, BTh, Grad DipTh, BA – 3 July 2013

Bishop's Medal of Service

Janice Viles in the Parish of St Peter's, Palmerston North – 23 June 2013

Parish Vacancies

Chinese Anglican Mission – Fulltime Pastor

Expressions of interest and CV to:

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