



THIRD ORDER FRANCISCANS



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NEW ASSISTANT BISHOP



Photo by Duy Pham on Unsplash

BODY MATTERS by Bishop Mark Short

Bodies matter to us, and to God.

In 1 Corinthians 12 the Apostle Paul describes the church as the body of Christ. One aspect of that image is the inter-dependence of the members of the body as we each exercise the diverse gifts of God's Spirit, including the call to particular ministries of leadership and oversight.

Since commencing as Bishop of the Diocese in April this year it has been my prayerful intention to see our episcopal and senior leadership team renewed, especially as Bishop Trevor Edwards moves towards a well-earned retirement in January next year.

I am therefore delighted that at its most recent meeting Bishop-in-Council concurred with my intention to appoint Archdeacon Carol Wagner as Assistant Bishop and Vicar General.

Archdeacon Carol currently ministers as Archdeacon of the Coast and Rector of the Parish of Bodalla-Narooma. She has a passion for the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and for encouraging communities of faith to serve God's kingdom in the power of His Spirit. In her new role she will have a particular responsibility for oversight of lay and clergy ministry development as we strive together to engage our world of difference with the love and truth

of Jesus.

God willing, Carol will be consecrated Bishop at St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn on Saturday February 22 and I hope to see many of you there.

I have been reflecting further on our bodies after reading the new autobiography *Metanoia*, by Australian actor and playwright Anna McGahan. The book's subtitle – *a memoir of a body, born again* – gives a clue to its contents. Unlike many testimonies which describe Christian conversion solely in terms of new beliefs or attitudes McGahan's work highlights the bodily impact of faith.

Here is her description of her baptism – 'the girl who had been struggling for freedom for twenty-four years fell into the arms of the water in a final embrace. The bond of self was severed – no longer me but still mine, she become my sister, my memory. As my limbs were raised to the surface, she remained, unwilling to leave the embrace. Her lungs were met with oxygen, her loneliness met with abiding presence. The body left at the bottom of the pool was at peace. A new body rose out of the water – so softly born this time.'

The book reminded me that my body matters to God – so much so that God's Son took on a body

Himself for the sake of its redemption and rescue. It matters to God when bodies are starved, or abused or tortured or subject to unjust imprisonment or detention. It matters to God how we use our bodies to serve Him in worship, to love and bless our neighbour and to express our sexuality. Conversations and

debates about any of these issues are always personal and sometimes difficult – not because they don't matter but because they do. Learning in Christ to talk well about our bodies and live well with our bodies may be one of the most powerful testimonies the body of Christ has to offer a watching world.

INTRODUCING CAROL



dearly and will miss them. Yet the call to serve at diocesan level is one I have responded to, believing God is in it. I look forward to serving with Bishop Mark and the team, and welcome the opportunity to support the churches and clergy of the wider diocese.'

'In his Synod charge, Bishop Mark spoke of providing 'fresh water-holes' as we share our faith with the wider world. This really resonated. Ours is a thirsty world and we have living water to share. We all pray that our drought will break in more ways than one!'

'I look forward to getting to know the Saints in the wider diocese, and helping to encourage leadership in these small and faithful communities.'

Carol and Jay have three adult boys, one of whom lives on the Sunshine Coast, and two in Canberra.

Carol enjoys kayaking, playing music and artistic pursuits.



Before becoming Archdeacon of the Coast and Rector of the Parish of Bodalla-Narooma Carol has previously served faithfully and fruitfully in a number of parishes in the Diocese since 2000, including Beridale and the Snowy Mountains, Taralga and North Goulburn and on several Diocesan Boards and Committees.

She holds an Advanced Diploma in Ministry from Australian College of Ministries, Sydney, and a Bachelor of Theology from Sydney College of Divinity, through Australian College of Ministries and St Mark's National Theological College.

As Carol said in response to her appointment:

'It will be a wrench to leave the beautiful parish of Narooma and Bodalla that I have been part of for the last nine years. The people are wonderful - faithful and generous, with a heart for sharing their faith with their community. I love them

Annual Retreat for the Third Order Franciscans



The Third Order of the Society of St Francis, NSW B/ACT Region, held its Annual Retreat recently from the 10th to the 12th October at The Gathering Place in Canberra. The theme of the retreat was 'Open to God moment by moment'.

The Gathering Place has been a Brigidine Convent in the past and about 30 years ago it was transformed into the Retreat and Christian Conference Centre that it is today.

Our region has now held its Annual Retreat at The Gathering Place for the past 15 years. As one walks through the doors of this place there is an intense feeling of calm, peace and God's presence in all we do and share in our time there.

We were so fortunate on our first evening to have our Provincial Minister Godfrey Fryar and Bronwyn with us as we shared a meal together. Godfrey and Bronwyn then shared about their recent trips to the US for the Ministers Provincial Meeting, Sri Lanka, South Korea, and Hong Kong with us. We were given a wonderful insight into how The Third Order is growing overseas.

The following day was devoted to the theme, led by Anthony Frost and Tim Narraway, allowing us all to ponder on and closely examine our encounters with God as we journey with Jesus in the company of Saint Francis on the road of life. We all were re-awakened by those experiences which initially led us to an

awareness of Saint Francis and a desire to be a part of The Third Order.

It was a wonderful time of refreshment and reconnection with those experiences that we maybe had forgotten.

Our final worship together was the Eucharist in the Chapel at which our dear sister Kay Pendlebury was Professed as a Tertiary of The Third Order. It was a wonderful celebration as Kay was officially welcomed into the great Franciscan family.

Following the Eucharist Anthony Frost was farewelled by the group

as he and wife Kim prepare to leave us to take up a position as Priest-in-Charge of East Burwood in Melbourne.

We wish Anthony well as God leads him on the next phase of his journey in the faith.

In all it was an excellent retreat at which 16 of us from many diverse locations (the South Coast, Cooma, Carcoar, Goulburn and Canberra) came together and shared together as one, on our faith journey.

*by Graeme and Kathy Dunn
Area Convenors*

Farewell to Jenni Roberts



On 3rd November a farewell service was held for Reverend Jenni Roberts at Berridale. Over 70 people from across the Monaro made the journey to Berridale to acknowledge nearly twenty years of ordained ministry for Jenni.

In the words of Archdeacon Paul Cohen who attended:

'It was a wonderful service of thanksgiving to our Lord for Jenni and her ministry, with a full church, and with people coming from all over the Monaro!'

Reverend Edith Mayhew preached

the homily from the story of Zaccheus in Luke 19:1-10, reminding those gathered to 'not be a taker; be a giver'.

Jenni presided over the Eucharist. Archdeacon Brian Roberts did a spectacular job of organising the event, leading the service, then MC'ing the speeches and presentation in the hall. Archdeacon Paul also gave a short speech and a letter was read from Canon Kevin Stone.

Thanks to Archdeacon Paul Cohen for the report and photos.



Clergy Moves

The Reverend Peter Bertram has resigned as Senior Associate Priest West Goulburn from 16.10.2019 and been granted an ATO (17.10.2019).

The Reverend Ann Burt has been granted an ATO (14.10.2019).

The Reverend Hazel Davies has been licensed as Hon Assistant Deacon, Charnwood (01.10.2019).

The Reverend Morton Johnston has been licensed as Hon Associate Chaplain RSL Lifecare Fred Ward Gardens on 25.10.2019 until 28.02.2020 and continues as an Hon Associate Priest Woden.

The Right Reverend Ian Lambert has been granted an ATO (14.10.2019).

The Reverend Adam Mannion has resigned as Assistant Minister South Wagga Wagga and Area Dean of Wagga Wagga and the SW effective from the end of December 2019 to take up a position as a full time Army Chaplain with 2nd Cavalry Regiment Townsville.

The Reverend Debbie Mazlin has been licensed as Chaplain RSL Lifecare Fred Ward Gardens from 25.10.2019 and Chaplain The Canberra Hospital & Calvary John James until the end of 2019 and continues as Hon Assistant Priest Woden.

The Reverend Erin Tuineau has resigned as Assistant Chaplain Radford College but will continue to teach religious education classes at Radford from 2020.

The Reverend Jenny Willsher has resigned as Rector of Woden Parish effective from 11 December 2019 to be the Chaplain at Canberra Girls Grammar School from 2020.

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On the Writing of Poetry



John Foulcher, a retired teacher from Burgmann College, who is married to Jane, the Deputy Director of St Mark's National Theological Centre, recently won the Australian Catholic University Prize for poetry for his poem Revising Casuarinas, so we thought we'd find out a little more about him and his craft.

Can you tell us the story of how you began writing poetry? (Was it just a natural thing for you to do?)

I started writing poetry at school but didn't show it to anyone – it was a kind of catharsis for me then. When I got to university, I took a unit called Literary Craftsmanship, which was about the craft of writing poetry. It was a real eye-opener – until then, I thought poems came naturally, that a first draft was good enough, but this course (led by a really fine poet named John Couper) showed me you had to work at it and that you'd fail a lot more than you'd succeed.

Are there any poets who have particularly influenced you, in being a poet or in style of poetry?

I was originally drawn to poetry by Auden and Eliot, whose use of language seemed so vivid and contemporary. After a short period of admiration for more florid poets like Dylan Thomas and Gerard Manley Hopkins, I came to like poets who used more colloquial, ordinary language, like Philip Larkin or Robert Lowell. They remain the greatest influences on my writing, along with the wonderful American poet, Elizabeth Bishop. When I first started publishing, I was fortunate to be mentored by two of Australia's greatest poets – Les Murray and Robert Gray. I once asked Les what I needed to write really good poetry. 'That's easy,' he replied, 'you'll need a really big wastepaper basket because, like all of us, you'll write an awful lot of rubbish before you write something of note, and you have to be smart enough to recognise it!'

Do you have any thoughts on poetry, art and creativity as a response to being made in the image of God?

Yes, I remember someone saying to me when I was about eighteen that God was the ultimate artist, having created this little thing called the universe, and that God's spirit of creativity is embedded in all of us. I've come to see the truth of this. For me, writing is a way of being fully human as it's my outlet for this God-given creative impulse. But some people think artists and writers are more creative than other people, more in tune with that aspect of God's character. I don't think that's true. My wife Jane and I are renovating an old church at the moment, and it's been such a joy to watch the builder at work with this strange old building. His creative approach to the problems he comes across – well, I don't see a difference in what he's doing and what I'm doing when I'm writing a poem, except that he's a lot more useful than me!

Studies show that both sides of the brain are involved in writing poetry and can be affected by it, and poems deal in metaphor and subtlety and depth. Are there particular things you believe poetry has to say to or teach us, or that you see as its value, today?

Poetry teaches us that nothing is what it seems and everything is exactly as it seems. It's about helping us to live with paradoxes and the subtleties of truth. In a world where we seem to be increasingly forced into 'camps' or tribes, poetry

teaches us to distrust ourselves, to distrust dogma. When I sit down to write, I have to be a poet first and a Christian second. Some Christians have difficulty with this, but you're not being true to the calling or the art (or to God) unless everything is on the line every time you write, and this includes our most deeply held beliefs. Otherwise, you end up writing propaganda and truism. It was significant that Plato wanted no poets in his ideal republic – he knew that poets were the troublemakers, the ones who would always say, 'Yes, but ...' He seemed to prefer a smoothly functioning society over a reflective one, but perhaps that's a little unfair.

When I sit down to write a poem, the poem is always in control, not me. It will go where it wants to go – I just tag along for the ride.

What was it you taught at Burgmann Anglican School and others?

I taught English and Drama, and ended my teaching life as Deputy Principal at Burgmann. I was the first Head of Senior School there. I liked Burgmann a lot – every school has its problems, but I always found Burgmann a kind school, a school where the kids were more important than the results they got.

I loved teaching, I loved the way constant contact with young, enquiring minds kept me in touch

with the turning world. It drained me but inspired and enlivened me – another paradox! I miss it, but I'm grateful for this time to concentrate more deeply on the inner life.

You have now retired and are renovating an old Catholic church to live in, which would be a special project. Can you tell us about the project and what prompted it?

The church was an impulse buy. We were on our way down to the coast, saw that it was for sale and dropped in to see it and our response was immediate – we have to buy it. That was over ten years ago – while we would have liked to have completed the project earlier, life got in the way and we had to learn patience. Yes, we intend to live there, but it will always be a church: you can't take a hundred and fifty years or prayer out of those walls, decommissioned or not. We hope it will be something bigger than us; we're hoping to have readings and recitals there, and for it to be a place of peace and retreat not just for us, but for many people. We have to wait now to see what will come of it, we have to wait on God.

Do you have any particular writing projects in mind for the future?

Nothing except the desire to write more poems. I've got a new book coming out next year called *Dancing with Stephen Hawking*. Beyond that, well, who knows?

Bible Study

I sit outside in the cold and listen to the wind
ruffling the hair of the trees. Further out,
through the forest, it's like a storm
approaching, though there is only
a thin gauze of cloud, and percolating light.
I run my fingers along the black cover,
the gold lettering, thinking about time
and so on.

In these pages, there is shadow
and dust. Echoes and incense, a fusty cold,
worn stone, worn aisles, footsteps and whispering.
Someone confessing to a priest who hunches
like a weightlifter, as he crosses himself
and compels a casual penance
that will make things new, that will erase
all hurt. The wind is getting stronger now,
the grass is a restless shuffle. A bleached sky. Winter.

~ from *A Casual Penance* (Pitt Street Poetry 2017)

A Day to be Inspired



On All Saints' Day St Saviour's Cathedral welcomed the Anglican Historical Society (AHS). Members and friends from across the Diocese experienced a Choral Eucharist followed by two tours led by Dean Phillip and Cathedral Restoration Architect Michael Fox. The day was enjoyed by over 60 people and closed with a beautiful Choral Evensong.

Those who attended went away astounded by the many historical facts and stories as well as the wonderful vision for the building's future.

Canon Kevin Stone (President

AHS) and Dean Phillip hope similar events will be held at the Cathedral in the future.

by Reverend Canon Anne Wentzel, Sub-Dean St Saviour's Cathedral & Tours Officer AHS



Pictures show Michael Fox, Restoration Architect, and Dean Phillip discussing features of the Cathedral.

Changing of the Chaplains at Fred Ward Gardens



On 25th October, the Reverend Morton Johnston was farewelled in a service at Fred Ward Gardens, after 14 years as Chaplain, and the Reverend Debbie Mazlin was commissioned as the new Chaplain.

Morton will continue in an Honorary chaplaincy role till February 2020.

Both Morton and Debbie will continue to be Honorary Associate Priests at St Alban's Woden.



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