

ANGLICAN CHURCH *of* NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA



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PRAYER NOTES: FEBRUARY-MARCH 2008

My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Psalm 84:2

THANKING GOD:

- The provision of locums over recent months: Bob & Di Mirrington in Carnarvon, Ron & Lesley Campbell in Shark Bay and George and Judy Thomas in Northampton.
- The year-long ministry of Laurie and Sylvia Skilton in Northampton and their safe return to the Parish in April after their ministry trip to India.
- Refreshment and relaxation for many of our Ministers and members of congregations after Christmas.
- Generous partners who have contributed to various aspects of ministry in our Diocese over recent weeks.
- The arrival of the Rev Brian & Annie Fyffe in Carnarvon in January, as they've taken up their ministry in that Parish.
- The generous provision of friends of the Diocese coming to do some repairs and maintenance on some of our buildings.
- For the decision by Eldred and Geraldine Royce and Diane Neil from the Bluff Point Congregation to commence studies at Bible College this year. Please pray for them.

ASKING GOD:

- Provision of a full-time Minister for the Exmouth Parish following the withdrawal of the offer of Adam and Kay Ling Chessum, for health reasons.
- Provision of a couple for a church-planting ministry in Wickham.
- The Northampton Centenary celebrations February 16 and 17.
- The deputation ministry of David & Maureen Mulready in February/March in the Parishes of Dunedoo/Coolah (Bathurst Diocese) and Dural and Gynea (Sydney) and an opportunity to meet with students at the Sydney Missionary Bible College.
- The tour of the Pilbara Parishes by road for David and Maureen in April/May.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE FOR THE BISHOP'S LETTER



A Letter from the Bishop

Dear praying friends of the Diocese,

The new year is under way and most things are back to normal. You in your patch and we in ours have the great privilege of rejoicing in being friends with God through faith in Jesus Christ. We also have the privilege and responsibility of making Christ known in our 'patches'.

Since my Ordination in 1971, I've had the joy of serving in Parish ministry in small rural communities and larger rural towns as well as in city Churches. In all of those appointments, with the exception of Walgett in the north west of NSW, the congregations were reasonably stable. Occasionally church members would move away from the district or sadly, go church shopping. We also had the joy of welcoming new members who had become Christians or who had moved house and were looking for a church to join.

How different life is in many of our Churches in the North West, particularly in our mining towns! Our Hedland Ministers, Bill and Philip, were telling me recently that they'd lost 50 church members in 2007. Les and Jenny in Karratha tell me that they have a turn-over of 48% each year. John and Carol in Paraburdoo/Tom Price have seen so many great church members leave in their first year in the Parish. These folk leave our towns to take up other jobs in the mining industry. These parishes lose their Parish treasurers, wardens, Sunday School teachers and others who have a ministry in their church. Sometimes they're replaced but it takes a while for new members to find their feet.

*This mobility of church members is a terrific strain on church life. Just imagine if half or more of **your** church family left each year! How would that affect you and your church? The church not only loses able workers and givers but you lose your friends as well!*

Please pray for our Ministers and church members as they cope with this strain on church life.

May the Lord encourage you as you serve Him where you live as well as serving Him by being partners with us in our huge chunk of remote Australia.

Every blessing,

David Mulready