

Orange East welcomes Camerons

Bishop Ian Palmer commissioned the Reverend Bob Cameron as Rector of the parish of Orange East in a service in St Barnabas' Church on Saturday morning, July 15.

Bob Cameron and his wife Fiona have come from the North Sydney parish of Willoughby Park, where he has been rector for the past eight years.

A contingent of family and friends from his former parish travelled from Sydney and the Central Coast to attend the service.

"Bob and Fiona have a shared conviction that the Word of God, empowered by the Spirit of God, brings people to Christ and enables them to live for him, transforming them into his likeness," Bishop Ian told the congregation.

"They lived this passion in Sydney, building churches into outgoing, family-orientated places where people come to know about Jesus and grow as Christian disciples. I think that's a good fit with the parish of Orange East."

In his sermon, Bishop Ian picked up on a concept introduced to the diocesan clergy and lay leaders at a conference in the same church four years ago, when visiting English priest and theological college lecturer Rob Dayborn had spoken about 'hinge leadership'.

Bishop Ian explained that the term applied to a situation such as the one Bathurst Diocese faces at the present time, when it is moving from a past it cannot return to into a future it cannot know.

Reading from the bookmark he had produced for the occasion, Bishop Ian said: "Hinge leadership during a time of uncertainty is bolted firmly to Jesus Christ, his saving death and glorious resurrection, but keeps the door open ready to walk into all that God's future offers."

The service followed the pattern of recent commissionings in the diocese, drawing on the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church to summarise the mission of the church.

Five Marks of Mission

Explaining that the Marks of Mission had been incorporated into the Diocesan Mission Action Plan by Bishop John Stead in 2012, Bishop Ian listed them as:

- ♦ To proclaim the good news of the



LICENCED: Bob Cameron receives his licence as Rector of the parish of Orange East from Bishop Ian.

- Kingdom;
- ♦ To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;
- ♦ To respond to human need by loving service;
- ♦ To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation;
- ♦ To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

"Bob, this is the mission of God in Christ," the Bishop said. "It is the mission of our Diocese; it is the mission of the people of this parish; and it is your mission as you seek to serve our Lord in this community."

Representatives from the congregation then presented the incoming Rector with symbols representing these marks of mission, including:

- ♦ a Bible (proclaiming the Good News);
- ♦ a Prayer Book, water for baptism, and a chalice and paten (to teach, baptise and nurture new believers);
- ♦ a towel (to represent loving service);

- ♦ a cross (representing the call to peace and reconciliation rather than violence);
- ♦ and a bowl of earth (to symbolise God's call to care for creation).

Representatives of the community offered brief speeches of welcome to the new rector and his wife.

Background

Bob Cameron was born and grew up in the northern suburbs of Sydney, while Fiona was born in Auckland (NZ) but moved to Sydney when she was six years old.

They both lived in and attended school in Frenchs Forest, but Bob lived in Grafton for his last three years of high school. It was at St Alban's Anglican Church, Frenchs Forest that they met and were later married. Bob grew up in a Christian household and said that can't remember a time when he didn't know the Lord; Fiona put her trust in Jesus at an ISCF camp when she was 16 years old.

After theological training (1982-84) Bob worked as a youth minister for a few

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A question for our time and country

The recent 2016 census results showing that only 52% of Australians admit to being Christian has resulted in an avalanche of commentaries in our media – many of them predicting the demise of the church.

However, Jennifer Oriel in an article on 3rd July in *The Australian* “Faithless Australians may lose more than just God” wrote:

Despite the common belief that secular statehood, equality of opportunity, individual rights and limited government are modern creations, all took root in Christian scripture. Christ embodied a revolution against the social order of His day by recognising the worth of human beings was not dictated by bloodlines, wealth or race.

Rather, each human being had inherent worth by virtue of being created by God in His image. ... each of us is born equal yet with an individual purpose. The balance-between equality and individuality was set in scripture. Equality of opportunity (as we now call it), is necessary to manifest our unique God-given talents. ...

Despite the decline in professed Christianity, the core values of Western society are intrinsically Christian.

She concludes: *Christ gave us the soul of Western civilisation and the form of freedom. We owe Him more than our scorn.*

Both Paul Kelly and Greg Sheridan wrote articles in *The Australian* 9-10th July in which they too took up this theme.

In a carefully argued piece, Paul Kelly wrote about, “the almost certain link between the generational decline in the Christian faith as guide to the common

good and the collapsing relationship between the people and the political system”. Then, looking at the moral challenges our society faces, he went on to say that trust breaks down when Christianity breaks down. “The idea that our democracy is founded on core moral truths about human nature has collapsed.”

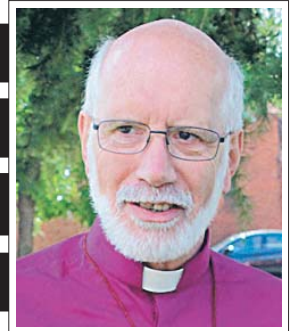
“The reality is staring us in the face. Yet it cannot be spoken, cannot be entertained, cannot be discussed because there is no greater heresy and no more offensive notion than that the loss of Christian faith might have a downside”

(Paul Kelly)

What this means is that when we ditch the idea that human life is intrinsically sacred, then legislation is advocated so that doctors don’t just save lives but end lives. Legislation is proposed that abortion is permitted up to full-term and those who would offer counsel and support (or even pray near a clinic) to save lives are demonised. Then our whole society is in trouble.

Kelly continued: *“The reality is staring us in the face. Yet it cannot be spoken,*

**BY
BISHOP
IAN
PALMER**



cannot be entertained, cannot be discussed because there is no greater heresy and no more offensive notion than that the loss of Christian faith might have a downside.”

Greg Sheridan rehearsed many things that are causing our society to implode and concluded with two fundamental ones:

That we are losing basic common sense. In the overload of information and “fake news” we receive daily we are losing the ability to distinguish truth from falsehood and we are losing a moral compass that gives voice to sound common sense.

Then secondly we are throwing out the bedrock of western civilisation – the Christian faith.

It took Donald Trump to nail it in a moving speech in Poland on Thursday 6th July. The media reminds us daily of Trump’s many failings, but ignores important things he says.

After speaking of the visit of Pope John Paul II to Poland in 1979 when a million people shouted with one voice, “We want God”; and rehearsing the many gifts of our civilisation, he asked, “whether the West has the will to survive. ... Do we have the desire and the courage to preserve our civilisation in the face of those who would subvert and destroy it?”

It is a question for our country and for our time.

+ Ian.

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years, following which he was employed in the life insurance industry for seven years.

After further study he returned to parish ministry in 1996 as a full-time lay assistant minister in the parish of Hoxton Park.

He was ordained in 2003 and served as an assistant minister in the parish of Killara for five years, following which he was appointed as the rector of Willoughby East (subsequently Willoughby Park) in 2008 where he served until the beginning of this year.

After school Fiona trained to become a registered nurse which she has now been for 34 years. She has specialised in rehabilitation and aged care nursing, and this continues to be her primary focus.

She took a number of significant

breaks from nursing to raise four children – Jessica, Hannah, Samuel and Rachel.

In the last two-and-a-bit years she and Bob have discovered the delight of being grandparents to two young boys, Charlie and Benjamin.

Both Bob and Fiona were active church members long before Bob entered into vocational ministry, and they have a keen desire to support the active involvement of others in a range of ministries within and outside the local church.

Their shared conviction is that it is the word of God, empowered by the Spirit of God, which brings people to Christ, and enables them to live for him and to “be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters” (Romans 8:29).

Anglican

e-News

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Workshops encourage lay ministry

□ Diocesan Camp offers training in prayer ministry, discipling and music ministry.

The annual Diocesan Camp at Ridgecrest Conference Centre in May offered campers a choice of three workshops to develop their skills in ministry and service.

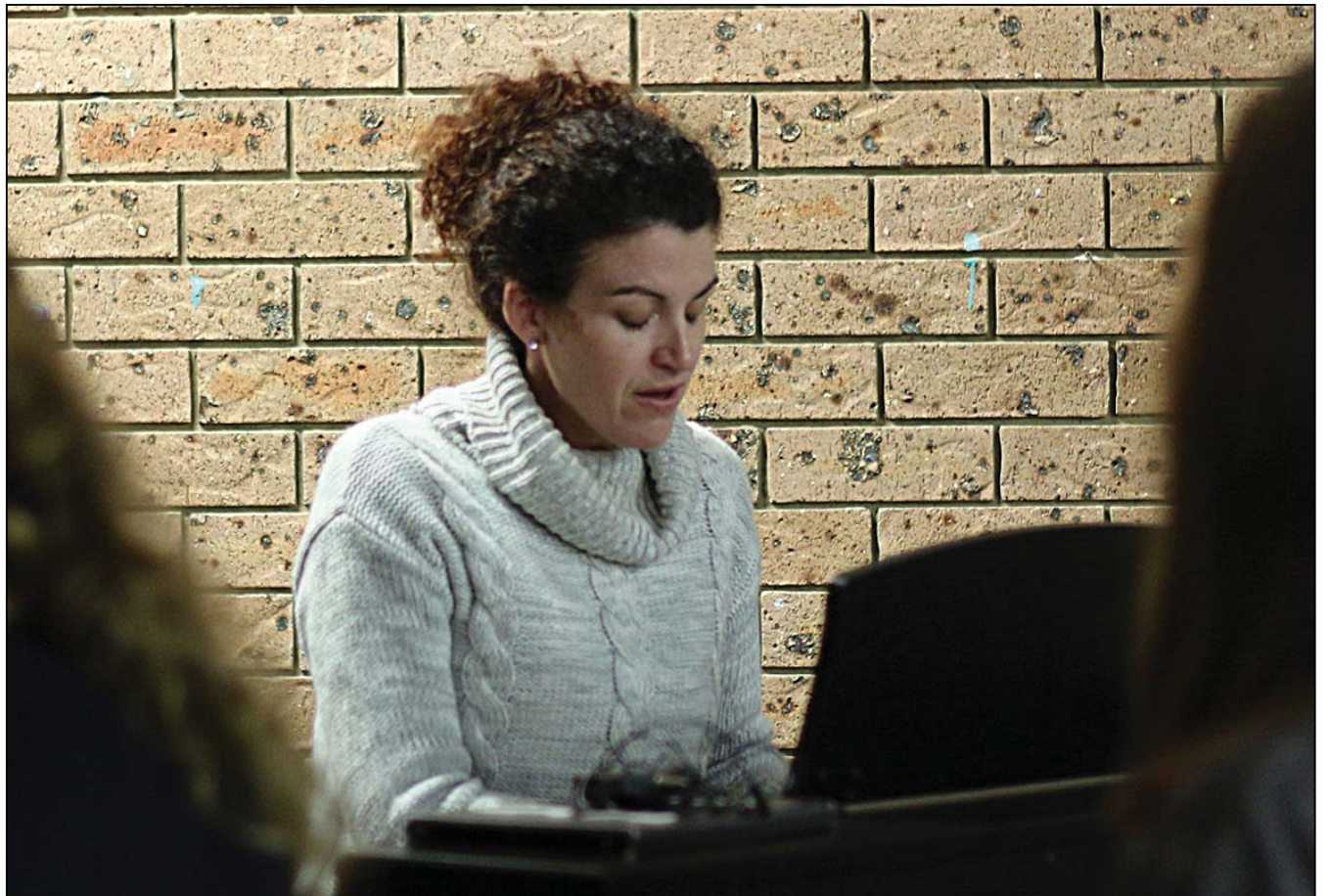
Guest speaker at the camp, Canberra-based singer and song writer Katie de Veau, led an inspiring series of Bible studies based on the Psalms.

During the Saturday workshop session, Katie also presented a lively and somewhat interactive workshop on music ministry, showing the importance of using music to help develop an atmosphere of praise and worship.

Discipling

Dubbo priest Brett Watterson's workshop on discipling drew on the style modelled by Jesus in training his disciples, and highlighted the importance of making disciples who can then go out to make more disciples.

Brett listed several books he has used as resources over his time in ministry, including Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Church* and *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry*; *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert E Coleman and *The Harmony of the Gospels* by Robert L. Thomas and



WORSHIPPING: In addition to her role as principal speaker at the camp, Canberra-based singer-songwriter Katie de Veau presented a lively workshop on leading worship and music ministry.

Stanley N. Gundry.

However, he said that the life of Jesus as presented in the Gospels was the most important resource for discipleship.

"That's the power of this ministry principle," he said.

Brett acknowledged that a one-hour workshop really only allowed time to skim over the main points of what was

really at least a two-day course.

After showing a time-line of the life and ministry of Jesus, he then showed how this time-line could be broken down into stages:

- ♦ firstly preparation or laying foundations;
- ♦ then building relationships and building a climate of expectation;
- ♦ Jesus then chose a specific group of followers, building a training team;
- ♦ he then sent them out 'two by two' to practice what they had seen him do, and then review their experience;
- ♦ and finally he gives them the Great Commission, promising the help of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

The third option in the workshop segment was an introduction to prayer ministry, and specifically praying for people.

Amy and Elizabeth Watterson outlined some basic principles of praying for others, then gave a practical demonstration before giving workshop participants the opportunity to put the theory into practice.

In groups of two or three, people were invited to pray for a specific need for one another - perhaps a need for healing, or some other situation of concern.



DISCIPLING: Dubbo priest Brett Watterson drew on Jesus' model of ministry in an introductory workshop on making disciples who will make more disciples.

Alpha team training in Dubbo

□ Holy Trinity gears up for a series of Alpha courses across the parish.

Holy Trinity parish in Dubbo is preparing to offer the Alpha course at several different times and venues within the parish over the coming months.

The preparation ramped up earlier this month when parish priest Brett Watterson invited Church Relationship Development representative for Alpha Australia in country NSW, Don Toews from Wellington, to present a training day for the various teams who will be hosting the program.

Don Toews and his wife Arlene have had quite a few years of experience in presenting Alpha courses in several Sydney parishes before moving to Wellington two years ago, and both show an obvious enthusiasm for the potential of Alpha to introduce people to the basics of the Christian faith.

Planning

Don's presentation highlighted the need for thorough planning in preparation for hosting an Alpha course, and he handed out a checklist commencing one to three months before the first Alpha event.

Preparation includes registering online with the national organisation so they can help promote your particular Alpha; recruiting a team and running



RESOURCES: Narelle Lloyd (Alpha Coordinator for Holy Trinity parish, Dubbo), Don Toews (Alpha Australia Country NSW representative) and Brett Watterson (Rector, Holy Trinity parish) discuss Alpha resources the team training day in Dubbo.

three training sessions; booking venues for the weekly sessions and the weekend or day away; planning meals; and prayer support.

He also offered some guidelines for Alpha group leaders. He pointed out that the ideal size for an Alpha group was 12, consisting of two hosts, two helpers and eight guests - although smaller groups

might only have one host, one helper and four to six guests.

Don handed out material defining the roles of hosts and helpers, and offering hints to make a group work better, and stressing the importance of just 'being yourself' rather than trying to play a particular role.

Cursillo Notes

Women's 48

The June long weekend saw a very successful Women's Cursillo at Shalom, Carcoar, when 16 candidates took part in what was obviously a powerful experience of the love of God through Christian community.

Hearing the brief testimonies at the closing service demonstrated for me once again the life-changing power of the three-day Cursillo experience, and I thank the team for their dedication and commitment to serving God and God's people.

I encourage table community members, as well as those who sponsored candidates, to stay in touch and continue to encourage the new Cursillistas.

Parkes Ultreya

Speaking of encouragement, we have a Diocesan Ultreya in Parkes at the end of

this month - Saturday July 29.

The Parkes Cursillo community have done their preparation, and I look forward to seeing strong support from Cursillistas in the central and southern parts of the diocese - and, of course, any from further afield who want to take the opportunity to hear an inspiring witness talk, join in some uplifting praise and worship and catch up with friends from other parishes.

And for those who are not able to be with us in person, can you please uphold in prayer all those taking part in the day.

Please note that the day is planned to start with a cuppa at 10.00am, and the program gets under way at 10.30. We're planning to be on the road by 3.30pm

Men's 45

As has already been announced, Doug Healey from Narromine will be leading the

team for Men's 45 Cursillo on the June long weekend next

year. Doug has chosen Ridgecrest conference centre at Burrendong Dam as the venue, and is currently working through the process of selecting the team.

Please pray for Doug throughout the preparation for the weekend, that he will be led to choose the team God has already selected, and that they will respond positively.

Pray too for candidates for Men's 45, and ask God to guide you in sponsoring the those who God is preparing for the three-day Cursillo experience.

Ultreya!

Lew Hitchick,
Diocesan Lay Director.

