



Christ Church Cathedral Newcastle

Newsletter, 1 September 2013

From the Dean ... The Vision Splendid

Joan Murray's wonderful history of the Cathedral, *The Vision Splendid*, was published in 1991 and has informed and inspired visitors and parishioners ever since.

The title of Joan's work aptly describes the sense of visionary adventure that created our magnificent Cathedral. The building and its collection of art works and historical memorabilia are truly dazzling.

The people of the parish are likewise treasures of the Church, whose prayerful and loving commitment shines every bit as brightly as the light through the glorious stained glass windows.

Perhaps you have heard the old story of the child who, when asked "what is a saint?" and, looking at a church window, responded "a saint is someone the light shines through". We are blessed with a strong and saintly community of faith at the Cathedral.



Fr Stephen & Sue welcoming parishioners to Open House at the Deanery on Sunday 30 June.

These are not easy decades in which to be faithful Christians. Sometimes this is because the Church has 'messed up' and sometimes simply because the world has in many senses lost its way.

To members of the parish who feel they have been hurt by the failures of the Church, and there will be many, I want to express compassion and hope that we can all move on together. Moving on is a project that requires patience and forgiveness and sensitivity to one another, but it is at the heart of what we are about in the Church.

The *Vision Splendid* did not stop in 1991, but continues to inspire us as we contemplate the years ahead of us. The story of the Cathedral may be venerable but no one who has worked to build it intended us to be simply nostalgic. To honour our history is to take hold of the future, to be energised by vision for the future as well as thankfulness for the past.

- The *Vision Splendid* is a Cathedral which is available to the people of this city and beyond, to help nurture the soul of our City, to be a place where Newcastle can celebrate its aspirations and achievements and gather in times of grief.

- The *Vision Splendid* is a Cathedral which is hospitable and inclusive of all, that proclaims and models the Servant ministry of Christ towards the poor, the lonely, the homeless and the outcast.

- The *Vision Splendid* is a Cathedral which is a home to everyone in the Diocese, and where the great moments of Diocesan life are celebrated.

- The *Vision Splendid* is a Cathedral which models the sharing of the Gospel with those who have not heard it.

- The *Vision Splendid* is a Cathedral where our offering of worship is always of the highest quality in music, teaching, rite and ceremony.

- The *Vision Splendid* is a Cathedral which is a sign of vibrant Anglican life but which enriches the life of the whole Body of Christ, and can be a potent sign of Christian unity.

- The Vision Splendid is a Cathedral where anyone who enters the building will be inspired and supported in their search for God, where people encounter the holy.
- The Vision Splendid is a Cathedral that celebrates intellectual life, music and the arts, and where dialogue can help build a civil society.

There is a fresh enthusiasm in the Cathedral Parish and a renewed sense of excitement in the City as we work to encourage Newcastle to support its great old friend and principle symbol of the City's life. This is a very exciting time to be Dean of Newcastle!

As we move from where we are in terms of our story to a fresh beginning we seek to rule a line under anything that holds us back, in order to move forward. One of those things is money.

For its whole history, money has been scarce for the Cathedral yet, through hard work and faithfulness, we have always been here for the City and the Diocese and the Cathedral has been lovingly and skilfully beautified and preserved by succeeding generations.

We are challenged to meet today's needs with the same generosity that has marked every other decade of the Cathedral's life.

The music in our Cathedral is magnificent. Last Sunday at Evensong one person said 'I shouldn't say this, but it was better than being at the Opera'. Another said 'It made my spine tingle'. Our Cathedral music is just one of the strengths on which we build and just one of the reasons why we need to let everyone know how good it is to be here!

God bless you all as we move on together.



- INVITATION -
OPEN HOUSE AT THE DEANERY

*Feast of Saint Michael & All Angels
 Sunday, 29 September,
 You (and your angels) are invited to
 Open House at the Deanery
 After the 9.30am Eucharist
 A time to enjoy being together - just come!*

Stewardship

Stewardship is the name we give to the practical expressions of our faith.

We choose to worship at the Cathedral. It is therefore our responsibility and privilege to support the ministry of the Cathedral and the wider church by being faithful Stewards.

- . **Being faithful Stewards of our money means that** - our stewardship envelopes are dated and numbered reminding us, that even when we are not at Church, the ministry of the Cathedral is continuing and still has to be paid for.
 - . **Being faithful Stewards of our money means that** – We need to consider prayerfully how much money we will give.
 - . **Being faithful Stewards of our money means that** - we carefully choose how we give our money i.e. by cash, by cheque or electronically.
 - . **Being faithful Stewards of our money means that**- we need to know that the money we give is being used to pay for:
 - the ministries of the Cathedral – our Staff (ordained and lay) pastoral care, children's ministries, the music and our daily services.
 - electricity, candles, Communion wine and wafers, repairs and maintenance of the buildings and the needs of the Parish office.
 - . **Being faithful Stewards of our money means that** - there has to be accountability for the monies received. Therefore, unless you tell me otherwise, a six monthly letter will be sent to you detailing how much money has been received.
 - . **Being faithful Stewards of our money means that** - we need to be assured of confidentiality - and this I can guarantee.
 - . **Being faithful Stewards of our money means that** - we need to know that ministry costs are paid for by the Parishioners. The Parish does not receive government assistance.
- May we all continue to give faithfully, generously and regularly.***

Audrey Clark, Director of Stewardship.



Ann Morisy

Ann Morisy was keynote speaker for the Diocesan Convention and Diocesan leaders' Conference and Special Preacher at the Cathedral on Sunday, 25 August. Ann has written the following message for us:

Carry on Cathedral!

I have so much enjoyed my encounter with your Cathedral in Newcastle that I feel I ought to say so!

I know that Australia is very much a place of laughter, fun and lots of smiles but such things don't usually get associated with Cathedrals. However, along with other more obviously holy sentiments laughter, fun and lots of smiles have shaped my recollections of Christ Church Cathedral up on the hill in Newcastle.

My first evening in Newcastle coincided with the Cathedral choir enjoying pizzas plus in the Deanery and bringing with them the most unusual hymnody. There was an offering especially for the new Dean: The *Cathedral Procedural Psalter* sung to the tune of Psalm 151. This was swiftly followed by a peon of praise to everyone who contributes to life of the Cathedral sung to that Flanders and Swan tune that more usually extols the virtues of a 47 horse power London bus! What a great night it was to help a stranger like me feel at ease and sense that Newcastle Cathedral was a welcoming and talented place and with fun and laughter alongside the many other precious offerings that are part of the Cathedral's life. I, like so many, had that special and uncommon experience of awe and wonder evoked by the majestic, yet intimate space of your Cathedral. I hope that you as 'regulars' forever find your hearts 'strangely

warmed' as you enter through the doors. However, you, like me will long for more and more to join you Sunday by Sunday. People don't know what they are missing, not realising that up on the hill there is a glorious space, generous in its openness and sustaining in its holiness. Equally, few will have any inkling of all the effort, organisation and commitment that is called for in keeping the Cathedral in every sense 'on song'- but please believe me, your efforts are really worthwhile. And so to my thanks: for fun, laughter, creativity and the holy – all are part of your gift, and for these things I say a very deep thank you. For sure, despite the troubles of our world, or perhaps because of them, more and more people will make the effort to climb the hill and come through the doors of your Cathedral. They likewise will find themselves saying 'thank you' in response to what they discover. As you hear the stranger and the tourist and the worshipper whisper their words of thanks, please be sustained by the wise insight of that thirteenth century mystic and teacher, Meister Eckhart. He encouraged us to be confident that if the only prayer that you or others ever say in the whole of our lives is 'thank you'- it will be enough. Thank you everyone, both past, present and still to come.

Ann Morisy



At the Installation of the Dean - 23 June 2013.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR 2014 INCLUDE:

FLOWER FESTIVAL - FIRST WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER

SCOTTISH CEILIDH – 28 JUNE

DINNER IN THE CATHEDRAL – Date TBA

CATHEDRAL LUNCHES

The Cathedral Community cares about those who are vulnerable. Cathedral Lunches (fortnightly on Sundays) cater to folk who otherwise would spend a hungry and often friendless day. Thank you to all who help, including students from Newcastle Grammar School!



Enjoying our hospitality at the Cathedral Lunch

RECENT APPOINTMENTS & ELECTIONS

Thank you to all who have accepted Leadership ministries in the Parish.

Synod Representative - Judy Wotton

Dean's Warden - Claire Foster appointed.

Work, Health and Safety Officer – Robert Gummow

Safe Ministry Officer – Claire Foster

Stewardship Director and Recorder – Audrey Clark

Treasurer – Claire Foster

Finance Committee - Dean, Wardens, Treasurer, Jayne Drinkwater & Fr John Southerden

SPECIAL SERVICES COMING UP INCLUDE

Police Remembrance Day 10.30am, 27 Sept.

Blessing of Animals 6pm, 6 Oct.

Breast Cancer Awareness 6pm, 20 Oct.

Mental Health Week Candlelight Vigil 7pm, 27 Oct.

Kids' Ministry

Kids' Holiday Fun Activity

- second week of the school holidays on Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th October from 2.00 to 4.00pm each day.

Christmas Kids Fun Activity

- Thursday 19th, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st December, from 2.00 to 4.00pm each day.

During the 9.30 service

- more focus placed on the children who attend Sunday School, with an opportunity to share what they do with the congregation.

Weekly Family Service 5pm Saturday evenings.

Family Services begin again on Saturday 8th December - followed by a BBQ.

Christmas Eve Family Service - 6pm

CATHEDRAL SHOP

Susan Edwards and all our Shop volunteers, along with Guides and Chaplains, are the face of the Cathedral, and their welcoming, smiling greeting of visitors is remembered by people long after they have gone away, perhaps to the other side of the world.

We can be very proud of the lovely things we have to sell, and of the way that the shop is made so attractive even though space is limited.

We are especially admiring of their hard work on cold winter days and of the way that they care about people. Some went to the Diocesan Convention to open the Cathedral shop there and this was appreciated by attendees, as well as raising impressive revenue.

The Cathedral needs every dollar we can raise, and the Cathedral Shop is a consistent contributor to fundraising. Thank you.

CATHEDRAL FLOWERS

Thank you to Suzanne Evans and the Flower Team, and to parishioners who donate flowers for memorials or thank-offerings.

Thanks also to David & Mary Stewart

who generously donate the flowers each week in memory of their son Thomas, to be placed in the St. Nicholas Chapel.

Thanks also to Peter Herd who supplies flowers for our Cathedral at a reduced cost.

The Vision is Happening!

The Cathedral is uniquely placed to connect with the life of our City at just about every level.

In worship and music, art and historical significance we are able to offer the City high quality experiences and opportunities to nurture the spirit, to be the soul of the City.

You can bring other people into the Vision Splendid, to gather them into the Cathedral's mission.

Some of these people will be those who love the Cathedral and whom we haven't seen here for a while. We need you to invite them to our celebratory festival of Christ the King, to the refreshments that follow the Orchestral Mass and to the Festival Luncheon.

Others will be people for whom worship isn't a priority but they are a significant part of the Cathedral family as well – people who share in the Flower Festival, volunteer in the Shop or are Cathedral Guides are good examples.

Finance

In order to achieve our Vision we need to have our financial house in order. Financial governance is a major priority for Parish Council.

We know that we need two Priests, a Director of Music, Verger and an Office Administrator.

Everything we want to do hinges on moving out of 'survival' mode into 'mission' mode.

Being in 'mission' mode lifts our game towards fulfilling our Vision for the Cathedral.

At the moment we're running behind to the tune of about \$6,000 per month. Obviously that can't continue.

What are we doing about it?

1. The Parish Council has established a Finance Committee including people who know about money professionally. It is their task to help us work through what we WANT to do, and what we NEED to do and then steer our financial life according to what we AFFORD to do. We are expecting outstanding audits to be completed within the next 4 -6 weeks.

The Cathedral Finance Committee

Membership:

Dean, Wardens, Treasurer, Jayne Drinkwater,
Fr John Southerden

Reporting to: Parish Council

Terms of Reference:

To have oversight of Cathedral Parish finances

- by ensuring appropriate systems, protocols and long term planning are in place;
- by regular review of finances;
- by offering such direction as will ensure integrity, accountability and financial sustainability of the Cathedral Parish.
- by making recommendations to Parish Council about Cathedral Parish finances, including Parish Stewardship and Fundraising.

2. The Parish Council has appointed Audrey Clark to be our Stewardship Director and Recorder.

Audrey is an acknowledged Stewardship leader throughout the Diocese and our goal is that our Stewardship giving through the Offertories is maximised.

Our giving through the Offertories will grow as people see their money bearing fruit.

An increase of 15 -30% between now and the end of the year is not too much to hope for. This is the level we need to aim for in order to fulfil the Cathedral's mission.

People need to see how their giving enables the Cathedral's unique mission. We need to know that every cent received is accounted for carefully and spent wisely. **Every parish in the Diocese is contributing sacrificially & pay our almost \$100,000 Insurance costs.**

3. Events such as the Flower Festival (first weekend in September) provide bread and butter finance for the Cathedral. Your support in getting these events up and running successfully in 2014 is crucial.

4. We are imagining ways that the Cathedral can help 'pay its own rent' – increasing visitors' programs and use of the Cathedral space for civic, non-worship events provide another income stream. God will use all these contacts and connections!

Music Dates

Sunday September 29

- Feast of Michael and All Angels

9:30am Eucharist: Festive Mass (Matthias)

6pm Evensong: Collegium Regale (Howells)

3pm - SPECIAL EVENT: CD LAUNCH

"An Organ Celebration" - a new recording of solo organ works by Peter Guy

Sunday October 6

Visiting Choir - St Swithun's Pymble

Saturday October 12

Music Fundraising Trivia Night

Details: veronicabutcher@exemail.com.au or
0434 555 418

Sunday October 27

3pm: Organ Recital - John Keys (UK)

Sunday November 10

3pm: Christ Church Camerata with Chris
Duncan and Catherine Strutt

Saturday November 23

5pm: Organ Recital - Prof Martin Setchell (NZ)

Sunday November 24 Feast of Christ the King

9.30am Orchestral Mass

Advent Sunday December 1

7pm: Advent Carols Service

Sunday December 8

Handel's Messiah presented by Christ Church
Cathedral Choir and Christ Church Camerata,
directed by Peter Guy. Soloists to include Anna
Sandström, Paul Morris and Christopher Allan.

- INVITATION -
DINNER & TRIVIA NIGHT

6pm, Saturday, 10 October.

At Cathedral Hall

(Cost \$10pp - tables of 10)

Phone Veronica Butcher 0434 555418

Imagine!

Imagine that every school child in the Region visits the Cathedral in the same way they visit Parliament or the War Memorial in Canberra.

Imagine that everyone in the region who cares about the ANZAC story brings their children and grandchildren to the Warriors' Chapel in 2015 - the 100th anniversary year. The Cathedral is custodian of the most significant War Memorial in Newcastle.

Imagine that every Cruise Ship in the Harbour brings tourists to the Cathedral as THE preferred option!

Imagine retirees and older folk from all over the region coming to the Cathedral in the bus-loads!

Imagine that we are able to respond to every request for a tour AND provide tea and scones!

It's all possible.

Step one in realising the dream is to increase the number of Cathedral guides.

Thank you to Dr Rosemary Barnard who has been the coordinator until recently.

Guides enjoy the experience and they meet fascinating people from all over the world.

Maybe you would like to be a Cathedral Guide and maybe you know someone else.

Guides don't have to be parishioners – they just have to love the Cathedral and enjoy meeting new people. Training is provided.

To become a Cathedral Guide contact Lisa in the Cathedral Office and she'll take it from there.

- INVITATION -
HIGH TEA

*At Saint Luke's Wallsend
2pm, Saturday 21 September.*

Bring your friends

(Cost \$30)

Phone the Church Office

Have you visited the refurbished Cathedral Office?

Office hours (until we can afford more!) are as follows:

Monday and Wednesday : 9:00am – 4:30pm

Thursday: 9:00am – 1:00pm



Our Office Administrator, Lisa Cater, in the newly refurbished Cathedral Office.

**- INVITATION -
A BACK TO THE CATHEDRAL
SUNDAY**

*For our Feast of Title,
Christ the King,
Sunday, 24 November,
you are invited to COME to the Cathedral.
Bring your friends and celebrate our
Festival with us.*

7am Eucharist

8am Eucharist with hymns

9.30am Orchestral Mass

*followed by refreshments in the Cathedral
and Parish Luncheon at Western Suburbs*

Leagues Club,

88 Hobart Road, New Lambton.

(Cost \$50)

Phone the Church Office



Choir members at the recent Deanery Choir Party

From our Civic Leaders

A message to the Cathedral from Cr Jeff McCloy, Lord Mayor of Newcastle.

During my 30 year career, I have studied what makes different cities around the world successful. And now as Lord Mayor, I know that many cities would love to have a cathedral the calibre of ours. Not only is it a wonderful place of worship and connectedness for our community, Newcastle Cathedral is an icon at the heart of who we are as a city, both physically and spiritually. During the remainder of my term, I have committed to work with the Cathedral's staff, clergy, and parishioners to help create a higher profile for the Cathedral.

A message to the Cathedral from Sharon Claydon, Federal Labor Candidate for Newcastle.

From the modest slab hut that occupied the site in 1812 to the iconic Gothic revival Cathedral that dominates Newcastle's city skyline today, Christ Church Cathedral has maintained a deep association with the people of Newcastle throughout our rich history. Today the Cathedral is rightfully regarded as one of Newcastle's finest buildings.

Worship Schedule & Contacts

*Newcastle Cathedral is open for worship every day.
Visitors are always welcome.*

Our Sunday Worship

7:00am Eucharist (1662 Rite)
8:00am Eucharist
9:30am Solemn Eucharist (choral service)
6:00pm Choral Evensong

Our weekday worship

The Eucharist

Monday - Friday 7:30am
Tuesday 10:30am
Saturday 8:00am

Morning prayer

30 mins before first Eucharist daily

Evening Prayer

Monday to Thursday at 5:30pm
Friday at 5:00pm

Cathedral Clergy

Dean of Newcastle

The Very Reverend Stephen Williams
0412 661 585
sebsue@ozemail.com.au

Canon Pastor

The Reverend Canon Mark Watson
4929 2325 or 0434 431 400

Postal address

PO Box 221 NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
cathedral@newcastlecathedral.org.au

Office Administrator: Mrs Lisa Cater
4929 2052

Mon & Wed 9.30am-4.00pm, Thurs 9.30am-1.00pm
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