

Bishops' Notes

Please feel free to print and display these notes on your noticeboard! Remember to check out the Diocesan website regularly for news, events and resources www.waikatotarangi.org.nz.



Bishop Helen-Ann is on Twitter - @h_ahartley and Instagram - @helenann1061;
Archbishop Philip is on Instagram - @archbishopphilip;
The Diocesan Twitter feed may be found at @PeaksCurrents.

Do also check out the *Anglican Taonga* website for other news and events www.anglicantaonga.org.nz. Don't forget our own Diocesan magazine and online edition of 'Peaks and Currents.'

Bishops' Diaries (March 20th to April 2nd)

Please note that if you wish to invite the bishops to an event or to make an appointment with either of them, it is very helpful if this can be done through Belinda Holmes (Taranaki, projects@taranakianglican.org.nz) or Jessica Perry (Waikato, bishopspa@waikatoanglican.org.nz).

Date	Bishop Helen-Ann	Archbishop Philip
Monday 20 th	Day off	Various meetings throughout the day
Tuesday 21 st	Various meetings throughout the day	Attend the NCLANZ meeting in Wellington
Wednesday 22 nd	Meeting with the Waitomo Archdeacon, Ven. Christine Scott; Various other meetings throughout the day	Attend the Way Forward/Motion 29 SWG in Auckland
Thursday 23 rd	Attend the MMRS meeting in Te Kuiti	Attend the MMRS in Te Kuiti
Friday 24 th	Writing and Research day; Preparation for LiFT	Day off
Saturday 25 th	Clergy Review Team Training morning	Attend meetings in Auckland
Sunday 26 th	Parish Visit to St Paul's Mangakino; evening attend 'Super Sunday' netball at Claudelands Arena	Parish Visit
Monday 27 th	Day off	Office day
Tuesday 28 th	Various meetings throughout the day	Lead Eucharist at the Cathedral, various meetings throughout the day.
Wednesday 29 th	Take the morning Eucharist at St Peter's Cathedral; attend Maadi cup at Lake Karapiro and host Craighead Diocesan School for dinner in the evening	Attend the Board of Development in Wellington; Attend the MRS meeting by VC
Thursday 30 th	Various meetings throughout the day;	Day off
Friday 31 st	Writing and Research Day	Attend the AMB Board meeting in Havelock North
Saturday 1 st Clocks go back tonight!	Preparation day	Attend the AMB Board meeting in Havelock North
Sunday 2 nd	Take a Baptism at St Peter's School, Cambridge (morning); Take the St Peter's Cambridge School, Boarders services (evening)	Parish visit to Tikorangi Host the NP Youth Ministry ream for afternoon tea

Bishops Notices

Lent 2017

Lent is underway! Bishop Helen-Ann has contributed to the Lenten study resource produced by Trinity Wall Street in New York in alliance with the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations. The series looks at the theme of 'Water Justice' and may be accessed here: <https://www.trinitywallstreet.org/sites/default/files/miscellaneous/TI2017%20Lenten%20Study%20Guide%20English%20PDF.pdf>

Bishop Helen-Ann has also contributed to a series of daily reflections for Lent published by Church House Publishing in the Church of England, details here: <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/books/9781781400043/reflections-for-lent>

Living Faith Today course 2017 (LiFT) leading to the Bishops' Certificate in Living Faith Today

More details may be found on the education hub on the online Diocesan Education Hub <http://www.dio-training.com/lift.html> for registration details. The response thus far has been excellent, and there is always room for more to join! LiFT will become the basis for all lay licensing in the Diocese, but is a discipleship course that is open to everyone regardless of whether they hope to seek authorised ministry in the church.

Diocesan Talanoa

The Bishops are encouraged by the response to this important process, and will be contacting participant parishes soon with some revised details. We are also encouraged that other parishes have taken initiative in adapting the process to suit their particular needs. The Bishops have also listened to some of the concerns raised. With these in mind, The Gathering this year will have aspects of the Talanoa process built into it, and we look forward to this opportunity for clergy in particular to participate and get a sense of the process. More details to come.

The Gathering : Te Huinga 2017 'Grace and Gratitude'

Please see the Diocesan education hub (www.dio-training.com/gathering.html) for more details and registration. We will gather at the New Plymouth Girls' High School over July 13 to 15. All licensed stipended clergy are expected to attend, and other as they are able.

Bishops' vision

2017 is the year of 'connecting to community'. Think and pray about how your parish, school or ministry unit can connect the immediate community of which you are a part. If others have good stories to share, let us know!

Chrism Mass

Please note that this year's Chrism Mass in both Waikato (St Peter's Cathedral, Hamilton) and Taranaki (Interim Cathedral, Peace Hall) will be held at **noon on Tuesday April 11th**. All license-holders are expected to attend; clergy are invited to robe in alb and red stole. Refreshments will be provided.

Sunday Gospel thoughts

Sunday March 26th, 4th Sunday in Lent (John 9.1-41)

Another lengthy Gospel reading from John, and a reminder that the whole chapter needs to be read as every detail matters! This is essentially a story about Jesus as the light of the world; that is the 'takeaway headline.' John, the Gospel writer uses irony to great effect as the passage develops. The Pharisees emphasise how much they can see ('we know...we are disciples of Moses'), yet they are gradually getting blinder and blinder, eventually denying that the miracle could have ever happened! By contrast, the man (the 'sinner') grows in understanding and ends up worshipping Jesus as Lord. Interestingly, Jesus is absent from the narrative in its middle section; his miracle is the subject of discussion. Jesus returns at vs. 35 onwards, and speaks of the actual judgement which will also be the Son of Man's final judgement. We note that Jesus uses the word 'blind' in two ways: inability to see, and unwillingness to understand.

In this story it is the outsider who perceives the truth about Jesus more accurately. Do we sometimes run the risk of thinking we are somehow 'better' and ignore the insights of those who have nothing to do with the church?

Sunday April 2nd, 5th Sunday in Lent (Passiontide begins) (John 11.1-45)

The raising of Lazarus is the seventh and most important 'sign' in John's Gospel, since it directly foreshadows Jesus' own death and resurrection. The story is built on contrast, light and dark, withdrawal and appearance, life and death, sorrow and joy. As one commentator writes: 'Jesus is at once vibrantly human in his affection for the three family members, and at the same time divinely exalted in his knowledge, power and control.' At 11.25 Jesus makes the extraordinary claim, 'I am the resurrection.' Jesus puts himself in the position of God at the last day, for that was the moment when God would raise the dead to life again. As we journey closer to Holy Week, may we grow stronger in our faith and confidence in Jesus, our risen Lord!

What do you think about death? Does it worry you, or do you anticipate it with a positive mindset? What can we do to help people reflect on their death?

The office of the Bishop of Waikato contact details

The Rt Rev'd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley
bishopspa@waikatoanglican.org.nz

Charlotte Brown House
104 Morrinsville Road
PO Box 21
Hamilton 3240

The office of the Bishop of Taranaki contact details

The Most Rev'd Philip Richardson
archbishopsea@taranakianglican.org.nz

Tikituterangi House
566 Mangorei Road
PO Box 547
New Plymouth 4371

Waikato Ministry Educator and Diocesan Director of Vocations

The Rev'd Stephen Black
stephen@waikatoanglican.org.nz