

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 6th to March 19th)

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 6 th	Day off	Attend the Bishops meeting in the Gold Coast
Tuesday 7 th	Open the Hamilton City Council meeting with a bible reading; lunch at St Paul's Collegiate; various other meetings throughout the day	Travel back from the Gold Coast; attend an extended Senior Leadership Team meeting
Wednesday 8 th	Attend the International Women's Day Breakfast; Various other meetings throughout the day (with Archdeacon Val in Morrinsville; and meet with Waikato school chaplains)	Attend the 170 th Anniversary Purangi Event
Thursday 9 th	Open the Hamilton City Council Planning Meeting with a bible reading; Various meetings throughout the day; Attend the Te Awamutu Health Shuttle Opening and Blessing Ceremony	Attend the 170 th Anniversary Purangi Event
Friday 10 th	Writing and Research day; Travel to Gisborne for the Episcopal Ordination of Rev'd Don Tamihere	Travel to Gisborne
Saturday 11 th	Attend the Episcopal Ordination of Reverend Don Tamihere to the office of Bishop of Te Tairāwhiti	Attend the Episcopal Ordination of Reverend Don Tamihere to the office of Bishop of Te Tairāwhiti
Sunday 12 th	Return from Gisborne	Travel home to New Plymouth
Monday 13 th	Day off	Preparation and office day
Tuesday 14 th	Various meetings throughout the day	Various meetings throughout the day
Wednesday 15 th	Travel to Wellington for the Tikanga Pākeha Ministry Council meeting	Travel to Wellington for the Tikanga Pākeha Ministry Council meeting
Thursday 16 th	Attending the TPMC meeting	Convene the TPMC Plenary meeting
Friday 17 th	Writing and Research Day	Various meetings throughout the day
Saturday 18 th	Preparation day	Day off
Sunday 19 th	Parish visit to Whangamata	Chair the Holy Trinity Fitzroy AGM

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

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**. Clergy are invited to robe in alb and red stole. Refreshments will be provided.

Sunday Gospel thoughts

Sunday March 12th, 2nd Sunday in Lent (John 3.1-17)

John's Gospel always invites us to delve deeper in our journey with Jesus. So when we read that Nicodemus came to see Jesus 'by night' we know that there is more to these words than the darkness of that late hour. There is a deliberate contrast between Nicodemus' limited understanding, and Jesus' much broader perspective on the Kingdom of God, and the dynamic presence of the Holy Spirit that generates fresh understanding and perspective is to be found throughout. Nicodemus asks three questions of Jesus, and each answer gets progressively longer, again encouraging us into deeper realms of knowledge and wisdom. Interestingly we often use the language of being 'born again' to describe a renewal of faith or an encounter with faith for the first time. It's worth pointing out that in John the Greek used here generally means 'from above' though 'again' is perfectly correct. Nonetheless it reminds us of the connection beyond ourselves that we find in our relationship with God, whether that be above, below, around or within!

As we journey in Lent, what questions do you have for Jesus?

Can you think of a time when you experienced a renewal of faith? What happened and can you communicate that story to one other person this week as a witness of faith?

Sunday March 19th, 3rd Sunday in Lent (John 4.5-42)

This is an incredibly rich passage, with many possible avenues to follow! Many commentators look at the radical way in which Jesus boldly breaks boundaries in his dealings with the Samaritan woman as a reminder of the way in which the Gospel constantly breaks down barriers. Again as with the previous Sunday's Gospel reading, there is a sense of dynamism and movement: water while it can be still is by its nature fluid and changeable; life-giving and a reminder of our Baptism in Christ. One commentary that I looked at recently illuminated this story afresh for me, and helped me see the narrative in the perspective of this season of Lent, and that is about the way in which Jesus knows the woman. Raymond Chapman writes: 'Not to be understood seems to be undervalued, unappreciated, another wound in the painful feeling of alienation. To be understood rather too well can also be uncomfortable. There is a secret core in each of us which we would like to keep from even our dearest. God knows it all.' Lent gives an opportunity to not only be real with God, but raw. As we examine ourselves in God's presence, we bring to God those things we regret and seek an opportunity to start again. All that is always possible of course, because of God's infinite love and mercy, but we have to 'come to the party' and be prepared to commit to the long-haul of discipleship. The Samaritan woman does this, and even more, she goes on to share the story of Jesus with others. May it be so with us, that we have the courage to share the news of Jesus this Lent.

Do you feel 'known' by God? Is that comfortable or uncomfortable, or maybe both?!

What good news story about Jesus can you share this coming week?

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