



Seek you first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33



FROM THE BISHOP

This is a special edition of CQFirst, the "(new) Bishop's edition". The timing of this publication is due to a number of factors which the alert reader will glean from the text. I will aim to have CQFirst out bi-monthly, with input from many and diverse contributors, but for this one I thought I would share my own thoughts about being your Bishop for these last four months.

I thought I would wait until after Clergy Retreat to put these thoughts on paper, as I wanted to live out the Retreat Theme "Getting to Know you" before any communication was made public to our Diocesan family.

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13

I am very grateful to everyone's concern for my wellbeing and that of my family. The good news is that all is well. We are settling into our neighborhood, replete with our dog proof, now painted fence. My wife, Virginia is well and truly immersed in her work at a busy Vet Practice in North Rockhampton. We miss our three uni age children in Perth, not so much the distance but the Covid-uncertainty as well. Our two school age children are settling well and enjoying school at Rockhampton State High School. They are also getting into work, sport and youth group as appropriate. We all attend the Cathedral for church, however, I am on the road every second Sunday.

I have made a point of visiting all clergy in their natural habitat these last few months. This has a number of advantages, getting me out of the office and giving the Diocesan Staff a break from me, but also getting an appreciation for the real-life context of our clergy. I can report that the clergy are doing a great job, with parishes providing much encouragement. I love visiting Church services and, again, I have

been impressed with the dedication and enthusiasm of our churches, spread far and wide across our vast Diocese.

Likewise, I have had significant engagement with our mission agencies, AnglicareCQ and Gladstone Seafarers Centre. Both organisations are emerging from very challenging Covid environments with promising opportunities for growth. Thank you to all who give so much of themselves to contribute to the success of these agencies.

Of course, we have various operational challenges as a Diocese, the spectre of Redress and financial challenges are ever present. However, whatever big challenges we face, our good God is always bigger. So, in a nutshell, I am delighted to be your Bishop and am settling into the role well. I appreciate and covet your prayers and support.



The Rt Rev Peter Grice