



FOUR RIVERS

(a publication of the Diocese of Riverina)
*A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden
and there it divided and became four rivers.*

Autumn 2018

FOUR RIVERS

Volume 19 Number 07

Bishop Rob Gillion announces his decision to retire

I have decided to retire as Bishop of Riverina when my present visa expires on 3rd August 2018.

I have reached the retirement age set in most other dioceses so I believe that the time is right for me to retire.

Serving as your bishop has been a most fulfilling ministry. I have no regrets about accepting the call to serve as your Bishop. It has been challenging and I believe we have achieved much together.

I have been well supported by Bishop in Council, the Trustees, my Vicar General and Dean, the Registrar, the Registry team, the Chancellor and our great team of clergy and lay leaders. Together we have clarified the financial situation and improved the structures of the Diocese. The parishes have been warm and welcoming.

Over the next six months I look forward to visiting many of you to continue our work together, express my thanks and say farewell. I believe the Diocese is in good heart and ready for a new chapter under the oversight of the next Bishop.

In these last four years I have encouraged the parishes to focus on prayer, evangelism and stewardship, to be Confident in Christ, Compassionate in Community and Creative in Ministry and Mission. It has been a challenge and at times a struggle but I have seen exciting evidence of growth in many areas, especially in the training and ordaining of local deacons and priests.

The Royal Commission has focused on child abuse in Institutions including the Australian Anglican Church, and we have worked extremely hard to implement their recommendations. The rolling out of the safe ministry forms has not been easy. I hope it will not be long before



it is simply seen as good and common practice to protect the vulnerable in our midst. It is an ongoing process and commitment.

I have been delighted to have implemented our Theological Study Centre at the Cathedral, to have ordained both priests and deacons with the support and expertise of our Dean and the encouragement and support of Ridley College in Melbourne.

I have experienced and been blessed by the support of the parishes who have warmly welcomed me. I will always treasure the opportunity to show the vitality of the Diocese through the ABC 'Landline' programme entitled 'Outback Bishop, Divine Stage'.

I do not have any plans at present but will return to live in the United Kingdom and will then take some time to consider our future.

As I make this announcement I acknowledge the enormous contribution that my wife Janine has made to ministry here in Riverina. I acknowledge her willingness, which was costly, to leave her full time ministry in the UK and take up the ministry here as your Bishop's wife. She has embraced the challenge with charm and cheerfulness.

I want to emphasise that it has been a blessing working with you and Janine and I leave with great admiration for your life, your work and your commitment to Christ. We both feel that my retirement at this time is the right decision. I wish every blessing for the Diocese into the future. Both Janine and I would value your prayers for the next stage in our lives.

+Rob Riverina

Bishop Rob is laying up his staff at a Service in St Albans Cathedral Griffith on Saturday 21st July at 10.00am

Bishop Rob's Easter Message



This is the shout or acclamation to welcome the joy of Easter!

The Lord is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!!

The resurrection joy is God's reassurance to the world of new life in Jesus.

The humble Easter egg is a wonderful symbol of this reality. The often hard shell of life is broken open to reveal new life, even though it may be a struggle!

It also represents the stone rolled away to show the empty tomb. Jesus to be found amongst the living.



This new birth in Christ conquers death, transforming darkness into light, today's fear into tomorrow's joy, and hopelessness into hopefulness. The wonder, love and praise we feel when we experience the love of God freely gifted in a spirit of renewed hope and optimism is truly indescribable. Easter comes after the forty day Lenten observance which includes Holy Week, characterised by a period of fasting, prayer, bible study and penance.

We are given the opportunity to journey with Jesus in his experience of the loneliness that so often accompanies human despair. We see him as a victim of the abuse of religious and political power in a classic demonstration of the travesty of justice. Although, his experience was a result of the forces of darkness, the profound message of Easter to the people of the world is that out of darkness comes light, and out of death emerges life abundant.

However, Easter demands something of us, a call for a change of heart, a reminder to turn to God, a

shift in ways of thinking and behaviour toward each other.

Easter is also a visible reminder that when we allow the Spirit the opportunity to breathe through the cracks of our broken lives how much more we are able to enjoy healing, restoration, reconciliation and new reasons to live again, and prosper as individuals and community of faith. I encourage the light of Easter be felt in every corner where any semblance of darkness is found.

I invite each of us to rise with Christ this Easter, and as we do, pray the Spirit to release any stone that may be rolled in front the tomb of our heart in order to create space for Christ to occupy our lives to the full. Jesus' resurrection is true, so we rejoice in faith, knowing that he is alive, and we are alive with him, and that's what makes the difference. ***WE ARE THE EASTER PEOPLE!!***

This is the acclamation to worship.

The Lord is here!

His Spirit is with us! Alleluia!!

The Right Reverend Rob Gillion



1 Peter 1:3, NRSV

PARISH EASTER**ARIAH PARK—ARDLETHAN****Good Friday 30th March**

11:00am Gospel Walk in Coolamon Street, Ariah Park Lay Ministry

Easter Sunday 1st April

8:00am MP St. John's, Barmedman.
9:00am HC St. Augustine's, Ariah Park.
11:00am HC St. Mark's, Ardlethan

BARELLAN—St Clements**Good Friday 30th March**

11:30 am Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday 31st March
7:30 pm Easter Vigil ceremonies & Mass

BARHAM—St John's**Maundy Thursday 29th March**

5:00pm St Johns

Good Friday 30th March

6:00pm St Johns

Easter Sunday 1st April

9:00am St Johns

BROKEN HILL & THE FAR WEST**Palm Sunday 25th March.**

8:30am St Peters, Lane Street.
10:15am St James, Wilson Street.

Maundy Thursday 29th March.

5:30pm St James, Wilson Street.

Good Friday 30th March.

8:30am St Peters Lane Street
10:15am St James Wilson Street.
5:00pm Combined churches Stations of the Cross service in Sturt Park.

Easter Sunday 1st April.

8:30am St Peters, Lane Street.
10:15am St James, Wilson Street

COLEAMBALLY—DARLINGTON POINT**Palm Sunday 25th March**

9:00am HC St Mark the Evangelist, Coleambally

Good Friday 30th March

9:00am MP St Paul's Darlington Point
3:00pm Stations of the Cross St Mark the Evangelist, Coleambally

Easter Day 1st April

9:00am HC St Mark the Evangelist, Coleambally
11:00am HC St Paul's Darlington Point

COOLAMON—GANMAIN**Maundy Thursday 29th March**

5:00pm St Peter's Ganmain

Good Friday 30th March

10:00am St Andrew's Coolamon Service of reflection

Easter Sunday 1st April

10:00 am HC St Peter's Ganmain

COROWA**Maundy Thursday 29th March**

7:30pm St Thomas' Howlong;

Good Friday 30th March

10:00 am St John's Corowa

Saturday 31st March Easter Vigil

7:30pm St Mark's Bungowannah

Easter Sunday 1st April

8:00am at St Thomas' Howlong
9:30am at St John's Corowa.

SERVICE TIMES 2018**CULCAIRN—HENTY****Maundy Thursday 29th March**

6:30pm Seder Meal, Culcairn Church Hall

Good Friday 30th March

9:30 am St Paul's Culcairn
9:30am St Barnabas' Henty

Easter Day 1st April

9:30 am St Matthew's Rand
9:30 am St Paul's Culcairn
11:00am St Barnabas' Henty

DENILQUIN—St Pauls**Good Friday, 30th March**

8:00am Liturgy at The Cross.
10:30am Ecumenical Waring Park.

Easter Eve Saturday 31st March

7:00pm Lighting of New Fire and Easter Candle, Readings and Mass.

Easter Sunday 1st April

6:00am New Light at Ute Muster Gates
8:00am Renewal of Baptismal Vows and Mass.

GRIFFITH—St Albans Cathedral**Holy Tuesday 27th March.**

11:00am Service of the Oils at St Alban's

Maundy Thursday 29th March

7:00pm HC (*Foot washing and Vigil*)

Good Friday 30th March

9:30am Solemn Liturgy of the day.
11:00am Combined Churches Pilgrimage
3:00pm Stations of the Cross

Easter Day 1st April

6:30am Service of the First Light and HC
9:30am Sung Eucharist
9:30am MP at St George's, Yenda
5:00pm HC at St Luke's, Rankins Springs

HAY—St Paul's**Maundy Thursday 29th March**

6:30pm Holy Communion

Easter Sunday 1st April

9:00am Holy Communion

HILLSTON—Christ the King**Palm Sunday 25th March 10:30am**

Easter Sunday 1st April 10:30am
Combined Churches Service followed by a BBQ lunch.

LEETON—St Peters**Palm Sunday 25th March**

6:00pm (*Saturday 24th*) Blessing of palms & Vigil Mass

9:30am Blessing of Palms, procession

(*Mountford park*) and Solemn Sung Mass

Maundy Thursday 29th March

8:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper and Watch

Good Friday 30th March

8:00am Mattins & Litany
9:30am Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
11:00am Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at Mountford park

5:30pm Evensong

Holy Saturday 31st March

8:00am Mattins

6:00pm Evensong (*Not an Easter Liturgy*)

Easter Sunday 1st April

6:00am Easter Vigil & Solemn Sung Mass
9:30am Procession & Solemn Sung Mass

LOCKHART**Palm Sunday 25th March**

9:00am St Aidan Lockhart

10:00am St Philip Urana

Wednesday 28th March

3:15—5pm St Aidan's Hall—Kid's Club

Maundy Thursday 29th March

10:00am St Aidan Lockhart

Good Friday 30th March

9:00am St Aidan Lockhart

Easter Sunday 1st April

9:00am St Aidan Lockhart

MOAMA—St James'**Holy Thursday 29th March**

6:00pm Washing of Hands & Feet, Mass and Vigil.

Good Friday 30th March

10:30am Liturgy at The Cross.

Easter Sunday 1st April

9:00am Lighting of Easter Candle and Mass.

Holy Cross Mathoura.**Good Friday 30th March**

9:00am Liturgy at The Cross at Uniting Church.

Easter Sunday 1st April 10:00am

Lighting of Easter Candle and Mass

NARRANDERA—St Thomas'**Maundy Thursday 29th March**

7:00pm followed by the last supper

Good Friday 30th March

8:00 am Service of reflection

Easter Saturday 31st March

5:00pm Holy Communion

Easter Sunday 1st April

8:00 am Holy Communion

THE ROCK—St Peters**Easter Day 1st April**

9:30am Holy Communion

TOCUMWAL—FINLEY with JERILDERIE**Good Friday 30th March**

8:30am St Albans Tocumwal

10:00am Holy Trinity Finley

Easter Sunday 1st April

8:30am St Albans Tocumwal

10:00am Holy Trinity Finley

5:00pm St Stephens Jerilderie

WENTWORTH—St John's**Good Friday 30th March**

9:30am Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Day 1st April

9:30am Eucharist of the Resurrection

LAKE CARGELLIGO & WEETHALLE**Maundy Thursday 29 March**

7:00 pm The Epiphany Lake Cargelligo

Good Friday 30 March

8:00am & 3:00pm Lake Cargelligo

9:30am St George's Tullibigeal

12:00noon St Christopher's Weethalle

Holy Saturday 31 March

7:00pm The Epiphany Lake Cargelligo

Easter Sunday 1 April

9:00am St George's Tullibigeal

10:30am The Epiphany Lake Cargelligo

2:30pm St Christopher's Weethalle

**DEACONS RETREAT MELBOURNE
Led by The Right Reverend Rob Gillion**



Photo: The Most Reverend Philip Freier, Bishop Rob & Deacons at their Ordination at St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne

ORDINATION AT ST BARNABAS' HENTY.

Local business-man Ken Dale was ordained Deacon in St Barnabas' Church Henty on Thursday 25th January on the feast of the Conversion of St Paul the Apostle, the Service was conducted by the Bishop The Rt Rev'd Rob Gillion.

Ken's ordination was supported by the attendance of many people from Henty and beyond, his fellow congregation members also helped pack the church to overflowing. Past residents of Henty made the journey to attend as did ten Riverina Clergy and local clergy from other denominations. Ken's proud parents, Les and Mary Dale sat in the front row surrounded by their extended family.

Ordination was not something Ken sought for himself. Ken has been a faithful Anglican Christian and member of St Barnabas' congregation all his life. During his teenage and subsequent adult years Ken dedicated much of his time and energy to help maintain worship at St Barnabas' Church. When the late Fr Colin Wellard was Rector of the Parish of Culcairn-Henty from 1984 to 1993 Ken was given much encouragement in his ministry as a lay person. Over the past 20 years, during which there has been no resident Priest in the Parish Ken has been recognised as a leader in the parish. Fr Bob Done, in his present responsibility for part-time oversight of the Parish has continued to encourage Ken.

But it has only been during the past 10 years that Ken began to wonder whether God was calling him to the ordained ministry. To test this call he submitted his name to Bishop Rob who referred him to a 'discernment committee'. So it was, that after many years of lay ministry, and much prayer by his family and friends Ken was led to accept God was calling him to be ordained a Deacon. Will the Rev Ken Dale eventually be ordained Priest? Again, for Ken, his fellow congregation members and others prayers will again lead to discernment of God's will. In the mean-time Rev Ken has been licensed by the Bishop to be a non-stipendiary Deacon in the Parish.

Of course Ken has the encouragement of his parents in his lay, and now his Diaconal ministry. However both Les and Mary, themselves faithful members of St Barnabas' congregation have not experienced good health for the past two years. Sadly, Mary Dale died in February after her son's ordination. At her request before she died however Ken agreed to conduct her funeral. This he did competently.



Photo: Bishop Rob Gillion & Deacon Ken Dale

BROKEN HILL—ST JAMES MART



Photo courtesy Emily Roberts of the Broken Hill Border Mail

St James Mart Op Shop has made a big move into a larger and more open building. The Mart recently made the move to the old South Pharmacy building, after being located at the old Alma Institute for over a decade.

Shirley Sanderson said the idea for the St James Mart Op Shop (Anglicare) came from the ladies of the church who wanted to help the church out with fundraising and they decided that an op shop would be a great way to help.

The op shop opened in 1984 and has been running for 34 years. The Mart is run solely by volunteers and any money raised goes back to the church.

They had help from the congregation and they spent some very hot days moving everything in. They are enjoying the new shop which is very bright and has a lot more space.

St James Mart Op Shop is open from 10am—4pm, Monday to Friday.

Edited Story courtesy Emily Roberts of the Broken Hill Border Mail

COROWA

‘Who Is My Neighbour’

Over 12 months ago, a small group of parishioners at St John’s Corowa were challenged by Australia’s treatment of refugees on Manus Island and Nauru, but didn’t know what to do. Their concern resonated with others across the churches and community of Corowa and a larger group came together, found a valuable link with a Melbourne missionary organisation that was working with refugees, and after discussions and decisions, a group of 50 refugees and team members will visit Corowa for the weekend of 24th & 25th March.

Corowa is a community without a wide range of different cultures, and the visit will allow for locals and visitors to build bonds and grow in love and understanding of one another. Activities have been arranged to give maximum sharing of time together, including overnight billeting. An ecumenical church service is on the programme during which some of the refugees will share their stories.

The Corowa group has kept its original name – ‘Who Is My Neighbour’ – in recognition that we all are neighbours who need one another and who can give to one another. The vision is for this contact with refugees to grow and expand.

The Bishop, Registrar & Registry Staff wish you a Holy and Happy Easter Time

BARHAM

The St John’s Church Choir is once again preparing to raise the roof in song on Easter Sunday. The choir, conducted by Tracey Timms together with Fr. Neale at the piano, is now in its third year and is regularly called upon to participate at major events on the church calendar. The choir, which is made up of members from a variety of community and church backgrounds, rehearses each Wednesday afternoon. Sharing in the joys and lows of each others life, one member commented “it’s the highlight of my week!” Each member brings their own unique voice which when combined, blend beautifully together in songs of Praise. We look forward to hearing them again this Easter.



Last Sunday was the third Sunday in Lent and we were privileged to have the Bishop and his fabulous wife Janine with us to celebrate “Family Church”.

“Family Church” is a new thing for St John’s and I was pleased to see a large crowd attend we even had some little people. We were entertained with a short play performed by some talented actors and actresses. Some involvement was voluntary but most was conscription. Thanks to Golden Rivers Theatre Group for the loan of the costumes. Alice with a butcher’s apron, meat cleaver and a leg of lamb under her arm looked hilarious. Sorry Alice. The bishop standing in the aisle was cracking a whip chasing the money changers from the temple and yes, it did crack. Lots of singing with many children playing percussion instruments and heaps of laughter.



While Rev. Neale read the Sermon the older children were entertained by Jo, they received a gift pack with colouring in items, coloured pens even I noticed a few lollies. Obviously no dentists attend St John’s. Thanks for your efforts Jo the children looked like they were having a fun time. Following service we adjourned to the hall and were met with a feast of delicious sandwiches and cakes for morning tea. The idea of “Family Church” was in my opinion a huge success.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE

BROKEN HILL & THE FAR WEST



Photo: Cooks at work, Ferg, Josh, and Graham.

Shrove Tuesday was celebrated by Broken Hill and the Far West with traditional pancakes with tasty fillings, along with a couple of games that had the group in stitches of laughter. Some light fun before the penitential season of Lent.



Photo: Ferg, Andrew, Rob and Mark combining time and talents.

One Sunday afternoon after our church service at St James, Wilcannia, four of our faithful workers set about cleaning the beautiful old church. There is so much to be done and with hard work, consultation and lots of prayer, we will make headway.

COROWA

Christmas With Variety

From Corowa Parish Pew Sheet 24th December 2017

At the Bungowannah Children's Service last Sunday there were 14 children and 20 adults: Mary had 2 babies; a mid-wife kept taking the babies out of the manger and wandering off with them; a wise man arrived before the shepherds; an angel cried as an important message was about to be given; the donkey wouldn't sit still in the stable – but somehow it was a fabulous celebration of the birth of Jesus followed by a typical Bungo feast.

At the Aged Care Christmas Service on Wednesday: the rector sang most of the carols solo; a resident arrived late on a lifting machine and blocked the screen; medications were passed out during the story of the birth; mail was delivered during the singing of a carol; an announcement was made over the hospital intercom about buying chocolate in the dining room; and the cat wandered through the group as if she owned the place – but somehow it was a fabulous celebration of the birth of Jesus.

LEETON



Preparation for Ask Wednesday began at St Peter's Leeton with the burning of palm crosses, the St Peter's pan relay and a pancake supper hosted by the Anglican women's fellowship, Mother's Union and The Evening Mother's Union. The Pan relay has been held for 31 years. This year's winning team were: Jakeb and Blake Steele, Marie Jacobsen and Gus Kearnl. Shrove Tuesday celebrations were followed by three well attended Mass and the imposition of ashes and "Ashes to go" in Leeton's main street on Ash Wednesday.

BROKEN HILL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR.



Photo: Courtesy Emily Roberts of the Broken Hill Border Mail

Robynne Sandersonn was recognised as Broken Hill's Citizen of the Year at a ceremony on Australia Day.

There isn't much that Robynne doesn't do, Robynne is proficient with instruments ranging from the piano to Middle-Eastern drums and among other things Robynne has been an organist and guitarist at St James Church for over 35 years, prepares liturgy sheets and the weekly newsletter, and assists with services in White Cliffs.

Robynne said music has been a big influence on her and for her involvement in the community.

Edited story courtesy Emily Roberts of the Broken Hill Border Mail