



Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

Media Release

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

For Immediate Release

New Hospital Chaplain up to Challenge

A special service will be held to commission the new Anglican Chaplain for John Hunter Hospital, the Reverend John Dring, at 2.30pm tomorrow.

Father John will join the ecumenical hospital chaplaincy staff to provide pastoral care to the hospital community including patients, family, visitors and staff members.

He said, "The role of a hospital chaplain is to bring compassionate care to all within the hospital community with pastoral care being the essence of this ministry."

"Chaplains are often called to assist in restoring a sense of peace and calm to those finding their present plight difficult. Sickness brings with it a dependency and vulnerability that affects a whole community of people," he said.

"I have wanted, for some considerable time, to extend my ministry experience in the area of hospital chaplaincy. Therefore I relish this challenging ministry with open arms!"

Father John has been the Rector of the Anglican Parish of Mayfield for the past 11 years and has just celebrated 25 years of ministry.

He said, "I understand the Pastoral Care Department at John Hunter Hospital works closely with hospital staff and does an excellent job in providing comfort and support to patients and their families."

"I am looking forward to joining the team and using my ministry gifts in this important area of patient care."

All are welcome to attend the commissioning of the Reverend John Dring, by the Anglican Bishop of Newcastle. The service will be held in the lecture theatre at the Royal Newcastle Centre at John Hunter Hospital at 2.30pm on Wednesday, February 20.

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Photo Opportunity: Media are also invited to attend the commissioning at John Hunter Hospital on Wednesday 20th at 2.30pm. Please phone Gemma Smith on 4921 4501 or 0402 793 426 to advise your attendance.

Contact the Communications Officer of the Diocese, Elizabeth Keevers on **4926 3733 or 0425 324 974** for more details or to arrange an interview.