



Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

Media Release

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

For Immediate Release

Anglicans Gather Together to Form Voice

The annual Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle will meet at Central Coast Leagues Convention Centre from September 20 to 22 to consider issues affecting the Diocese and hear the Bishop of Newcastle's reflections on the challenge of becoming a missional church.

The Synod will see representatives from 64 parishes, extending from Woy Woy to Murrurundi, gather to discuss issues affecting the Diocese's future as well as proposed changes to ordinances.

The Bishop of Newcastle, Dr Brian Farran said the capacity for laity and clergy to together, form the voice of the Diocese is a prized aspect of the Anglican Church.

"Synod is a means for the local church to form its voice on the issues facing it in mission and ministry, in a society that has many issues," he said.

Bishop Farran will outline the recent developments of the Diocesan vision of becoming a missional church in his Presidential Address.

"Our Diocese is continuing to work toward becoming a missional church and outreach to the community. It is an exciting time which has already seen developments such as a theological degree at the University of Newcastle, new initiatives in our parishes as well as further educational training for the people of our Diocese."

"The Diocese is encouraged by this activity and I am really enthusiastic about the further growth to come," he said.

The Synod will consider wide-ranging issues such as the future integration of Diocesan services, draft ordinances relating to clergy, environmental issues and the establishment of a Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation which would allow for better management of the four Diocesan schools.

Bishop Farran said, "The call to be a missional church propels us into new territory, different experiences, re-shaped structures and further deep change. The Synod will review the matters brought forward with this concept of deep change in mind."

What: The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle's Synod

Where: Central Coast Leagues Convention Centre, Dane Drive Gosford

When: Friday, September 21 from 9.00am to 6.30pm

Saturday, September 22 from 9.00am to 2.30pm

- The Synod Eucharist will be held on Thursday, September 20 at Church of the Holy Spirit, Gorokan (Wallarah Rd, Gorokan) commencing at 7.30pm.
- Bishop Brian will deliver his Presidential Address at 9.10am on Friday, September 21.

ENDS

Bishop Brian is available for further comment. Media are welcome to attend Synod. Contact the Diocesan Communications Officer for more information or a Synod timetable.
Communications Officer: Elizabeth Keevers on 0425 324 974 or 4926 3733.