

New Lecturer in Theology Announced

Dr Timothy Stanley has been appointed to the University of Newcastle's theology discipline as the new Lecturer in Theology, a position funded through the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle.

Dr Stanley was Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Christianity and Contemporary Culture at the University of Manchester in England. Dr Stanley's specialist focus is the relationship between Protestant theology and philosophy, and contemporary ecclesiology.

Bishop Brian Farran said he was delighted and excited by Dr Stanley's appointment.

"Dr Stanley's appointment deepens the teaching and research capacities of the Theology Department in the University of Newcastle. Analysis of contemporary culture and its trajectories is a significant academic discipline that will enhance understanding of society and its confronting issues."

Professor John McDowell, the foundation Morpeth Chair of

Theology said the position attracted significant interest from across the world.

"The University warmly welcomes Dr Stanley to the position and looks forward to his contribution in building and enhancing the degree program," he said.

"Dr Stanley comes to us as a very highly regarded, energetic

and well qualified intellectual. His interests are broad and he will add valuable dimensions to the Theology and Religious Studies programs in areas as wide ranging as religion, politics, cultural studies, philosophy and theology."



Dr Timothy Stanley

Spirituality Snippets

May these reflections offer you prayer and thought during the season of Advent.

Advent teaches us that to find Jesus, the supreme word of the Father, we need to engage with his word for us that comes in so many different ways, often through search and struggle... Advent teaches us that there may already be glory in our midst; but in the plan of God there is more glory yet to come. The world has not seen the last of Jesus.

Michael Petham, *Glory in our Midst*

The shepherds sing and shall I silent be?

My God, no hymns for Thee?

My soul's a shepherd too; a flock it feeds

Of thoughts and words and deeds.

The pasture is Thy word: the streams, Thy grace

Enriching all the place.

Shepherds and flock shall sing, and all my powers

Outsinging the daylight hours.

George Herbert *Christmas (II)*

God saw the world falling to ruin because of fear and immediately acted to call it back with love. God invited it by grace, preserved it by love, and embraced it with compassion.

Peter Chrysologus (5th Century), *Liturgy of the Hours*

"Don't be concerned about the end of the world", says Jesus. You'll have enough to deal with. Be concerned, rather, to offer yourself to God's love. Our hope is to be shaped by that love, to let God relieve us of our fears and anxieties and fill us instead with trust and hope and love. These can work wonders in even the most difficult times

L. William Countryman, *Sermon for the 25th Sunday after Pentecost, Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle, 2010*

Envirotopics

Water....Water....Water...all bottled up?

WE hear a lot about the rising cost of water for our general household use and currently pay around \$1.60 for every 1000 litres of water we use (that is about 0.1 cent for a 600mL bottle), but have you stopped to consider how much we pay for bottled water in the shops?



Australians currently spend more than half a billion dollars on bottled water and typically around \$2.50 in many shops for a 600ml bottle. Do *Something* co-founded by John Dee (also co-founder of *Plana Ark*) has been investigating the costs of bottled water in Australia and found the most expensive to be Voss water at \$10.95 for 800ml. Hotels and restaurants often charge even more.

This is a strange situation when we consider the cheaper alternative where we could all use refillable bottles and refill with tap water each day. The environmental and financial savings are significant.

Many councils and schools are seeking to address this issue by providing brand new water bubblers and refill stations. More water bubblers are starting to appear in public spaces where people can access high quality drinking water free of charge.

With only 36% of PET bottles being recycled in Australia, there are hundreds of millions of plastic bottles ending up as landfill or litter every year. Many of these are used for bottled water.

For more information and background see dosomething.net.au

Geoff Rigby - Diocesan Environment Commission rigby@mail.com

Welcome to the Diocese

The Rev'd Chris Yates was ordained by Bishop Brian Farran in England earlier this year. He now joins us, with his wife and two young children aged six and two, as the Priest in Charge at the Parish of Williamtown, Mallabula, Medowie.



The Rev'd Chris Yates at his ordination with Bishop Brian.

MEDIA STATEMENT FROM ANGLICAN BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE THE RIGHT REVEREND DR BRIAN FARRAN

I RECENTLY met with Mr CKA, a former member of the church. Based on that meeting and other available information, I believe Mr CKA and his family were treated inappropriately over an extended period of time by members of the Anglican Church after he reported that he had been sexually abused as a child by a member of the Church.

I wish to extend a sincere and public apology to Mr CKA and his family for this situation and the pain and trauma they have experienced as a result.

The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle has made a significant commitment in recent years to strengthen its child protection policies and awareness of these matters, as well as seeking to redress past issues such as this one.

Due to legal implications, at this stage there will be no further comment from the diocese in relation to this matter.

THE Rev'd Chris said, "We've been here a few weeks now and are settling in really well. The parish members have been lovely and are helping us with furniture and food. Ken Youman lent me his ute which has made things much easier."

"I think the people here are getting used to my dress sense, I'm very traditional," he laughed.

Fr Chris said it's already clear to him that the three churches each have their own identity.

"As a parish we've signed up for ministering communities in

mission and are in the middle of preliminary meetings to decide the mission priorities.

"The people here are most faithful, I'm finding people tend to come to church because they actually want to. I do hope to attract some young people and families. The population's on the up here and a big airforce community so I hope to get involved there."

Following a ministry placement with the RAF in England 10 years with the police force, it appears Fr Chris is up to the challenge!

We welcome him and his family to the Diocese.

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