



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

Bishop's Office



09 November 1999

2000

Dear Father

Thank you for your support in the celebration of the St Joseph's Cathedral Centenary. It was a time of great spiritual uplift for the Diocese. I enclose a supplement from the Morning Bulletin which was quite effective and also one of the Postcards that were printed to commemorate the occasion. The Centenary Booklet, outlining the history of the Cathedral, continues to be well received.

There are a number of matters I wish to raise:

Fr Reg Durham: is placed at Moreton B. Correctional Centre in the Brisbane area, the address being: PO Box 650, Richlands, Qld 4077.

Reg has regular visits from the Chaplains and is in reasonable form, considering the circumstances. I have continued to receive letters and messages of support for Reg, Martin and all of our priests and myself. Please keep him in your daily prayers as we do each other.

Martin has moved to Rockhampton: His address and phone number is: **REDACTED** **REDACTED**. Telephone: **REDACTED**.

Ordination to Diaconate: - Darren Davies: You are warmly invited to the Diaconate Ordination of Darren Davies, at Holy Rosary Church, Bundaberg on **Wednesday December 15th at 7.30pm**. I congratulate Darren on the five years he has given to the journey so far, acknowledge the real formation and growth he has generously achieved and delight in the affirmation he has received from the Seminary, and parish communities where he has ministered with the Priests. **Please invite the parish communities.** I enclose a simple Bulletin notice:

Darren Davies will be called to the Diaconate by Bishop Brian Heenan and the Diocese of Rockhampton on Wednesday 15th December at 7.30pm at Holy Rosary Church, Bundaberg. Our whole Diocesan Family is invited to join in this joyous occasion.

Students for the Priesthood: Our students will be appointed to a parish for the Advent season, before having a four week break in January. Peter Tonti will go to Sarina, Matthew Moloney to Emerald and Andrew Chase to the Cathedral. I congratulate them on successfully completing their first year and look forward to meeting them at Darren's Ordination. Greg Dunn will join them next year at Lanigan House and I thank Greg for the ministry he has already begun at St Patrick's West Bundaberg, with John Hogan and the parishioners.

Additional Students for the Priesthood: I am sure they are out in the parishes, waiting to be invited to think about the priestly life. In addition to the work Chris Schick is doing as our Vocation's Director, I ask every one of you to raise the matter with someone you know. We might be surprised by the working of the Spirit through us. Could we send someone(s) with Greg for next year?

Fr Pat McGeever: will arrive in Woorabinda this weekend, to begin his ministry among the people there. We welcome Pat, a Holy Spirit Father, who has completed thirty years missionary work in Africa and New Guinea.

On Monday 6th December, Sister Nora Fitzgibbon will host a **dinner for priests** at Woorabinda to welcome Pat at 6.00pm. The following morning there will be a welcome and all of the residents will be invited to attend. **If you can come please phone Nora on 4935 0156.** There will be plenty of beds for those who can stay.

Pastoral Letter for Advent: I will be issuing a Pastoral Letter at the beginning of Advent, highlighting the beginning of the Jubilee Year. It will be out in time for forward planning.

Centacare: Mr Dan Hodda has resigned as Director of Centacare. I have appointed Mr Chris O'Brien as the interim Administrator until a new arrangement can be made. I would like to thank Dan for the efforts he has given to furthering the ministry of Centacare over the past year.

AICC: After two discernment weekends, a decision was made to reorganise the Aboriginal and Island Catholic Council. The leadership model will be changed to a "Council of Elders / Wisdom Group". Nominations are being sought and I will call forward a gathering of the newly formed *Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Council Ministry (AICCM)* "Council of Elders / Wisdom Group" to meet during the week beginning Monday 29th November. This meeting will be with a view to choosing a Ministry Team who will be responsible for the ministries identified as most important. This meeting will take place at the current AICC location in Derby Street.

Mass Stipend: The Catholic Mission Office invites priests who have a surplus of Mass Offerings / Stipends to share them with priests in Mission territories who would welcome such support. If you are able to assist, please send them to: *Opus Securitatis, C/- Catholic Mission. PO Box A153, Sydney South NSW 1235*, or to our own Director of Missions who will forward them on.

Reconciliation: With the possibility of Communal Rites of Reconciliation, with General Absolution virtually excluded, I would ask you to encourage your people to share the Sacrament of Penance in the First Rite or Second if you can arrange it. In particular, I would like to encourage the practice of a Celebration of Reconciliation, involving the elements, prayer, Scripture, and reflection as we have done in the past, without the General Absolution. I believe the gathering of our people in such a communal experience is a special grace, even without sacramental absolution. Further, a Mass of Forgiveness can also be celebrated. I will send out some sample ceremonies.

Fr Michael Cruickshank SM - Gladstone: is facing a serious medical problem. Michael would appreciate your prayers and the prayers of your people.

Jubilee Prayers: I wish to thank our Diocesan Liturgical Commission for the excellent production "**The Great Jubilee**". I am sure it will be of support to you and I ask you to encourage its sale among your people. Copies can be ordered through: *The Cathedral Presbytery Office, PO Box 611, Rockhampton Qld 4700*

Sanctity of Life Sunday: This Sunday is our celebration of Sanctity of Life in all of its forms. Please include prayer for this appreciation in our Australian Society, particularly in the face of the pro-abortion seminar being held in Coolumb this weekend.

May Jesus our Jubilee hope carry us confidently into the beginning of our Year of Jubilee.

Yours sincerely



Brian Heenan
Bishop of Rockhampton

For the Priests coming to Darren's Ordination: a light evening meal will be available at the Holy Rosary Presbytery at 6.00pm. Could you please advise the Parish Secretary on 4151 6666 if you will be attending.