

REDACTED

or

PO Box 1126  
Newcastle NSW

23 May 2008

Rt Revd Dr B Farran  
Bishop of Newcastle  
51 Newcomen Street  
Newcastle NSW 2300

Dear Bishop

I felt the Consultation last Saturday was a very constructive gathering and hope that it assists you in your deliberations. I certainly felt it raised issues for the Parish to think about in terms of understanding the problems facing any replacement of the present Dean.

I have heard very favourable comments for some time from a number of sources about the Reverend Peter Kurti, Rector of St James Church, King Street, Sydney who is undoubtedly known to you from Perth Diocese and whose qualifications and other experiences are set forth in the Australian Anglican Directory. He may be a person who should be considered by you and perhaps encouraged to put his name forward.

It is not an uncommon situation that whoever succeeds a longstanding and popular incumbent in any position is not as successful as might otherwise be the case because of the success of the predecessor. In fact we could be setting up an excellent candidate to fail as successor leaving it for the next incumbent hopefully to reverse that unfortunate trend.

I remember reading some years ago that the Headmaster of The King's School, Parramatta from 1939-64, Mr H D Hake, wrote that he would not have been successful had he succeeded the Revd E M Baker as Headmaster including Mr Hake's achieving the rebuilding of the new school at North Parramatta. In fact the immediate successor, the Revd C T Parkinson, to the Revd E M Baker was never accepted and his position was seriously undermined until he resigned.

I understand that Right Reverend Richard Hurford, the Bishop of Bathurst is turning 65 years of age in 2009, and may be considering retirement from his large Diocese. If this is the case, he might consider a short-term appointment as Dean of Newcastle. He is not only well known and well regarded by the Cathedral Congregation from as long ago as his being Dean of Grafton (if not earlier) but he also has excellent qualities which would work well to ensure the subsequent Dean is successful. It is likely such an appointment would also work well in assisting the Bishop and the Diocese generally.

It occurs to me that the advantage of a short term two year appointment (as he turns 65 in 2009) with perhaps the possibility of up to two extensions until he turns 70, could significantly address the problems the Cathedral could be facing. I am certain he would *be considered a very acceptable Dean by the Cathedral and by the Diocese. He is of course particularly well regarded at the Cathedral because of his longstanding patronage of the Guild of Church Musicians and his work with the Archbishops' Certificate in Church Music when Newcastle was the centre for this course in Australia in conjunction with the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music.* Such an appointment could be a very satisfactory outcome for the Cathedral and for Bishop Hurford, should he be considering retirement from his Diocese.

In the meantime, the urgency in having an early replacement in my respectful view disappears whilst we have Bishop Richard Appleby as Acting Dean, the Rev'd Dr Daniel Dries as Assistant Priest, and Fr Robert Catt assisting, even if Bishop Appleby spends a couple of months in Brisbane standing in for the Archbishop. The cost of making the wrong initial appointment and then obtaining any replacement in my view would far outweigh the consequences of having to wait if necessary to ensure making the right appointment.

I hope these thoughts may be of assistance.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Robert N Caddies