



The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

The Right Reverend Gregory Thompson
Bishop of Newcastle

7 December 2015

Dear brothers and sisters,

As you already know, it has been a demanding year for me personally and professionally.

While at many levels I would prefer not to have what is going on for me shared widely I have decided that I need to share something more with you. For a little while I have been experiencing some very high blood pressure. Just recently I have had a range of tests the upshot of which is that I'm going to have to do a few things to look after myself.

Within the demands of the year, this turns out to be a good time for me to do this. So between now and the end of January I am going to go on "light duties" as well as take some annual leave. This will allow me to get healthy in readiness for what 2016 will bring. I am sure you will understand.

We have a normal pattern for attending to the Bishop's absence. Bishop Peter exercises leadership in my absence and Archdeacon Sonia steps in when we are both absent. Both Bishop Peter and I have arrangements with Sonia to return to duties should we need to. I remain available, for example, for anything to do with the Royal Commission.

Please pray for Bishop Peter as he takes some leave and will be away from the Diocese from 11th December until 4th January and all being well will be away from duties until 18 January.

Bishop Peter, Archdeacon Sonia and I, together with all the staff of the Diocesan Office appreciate your prayers and encouragement. We have reached that point of the year when we can slow down a bit in what has been an exceptionally hectic year.

May you, your families and your communities of ministry be richly blessed as we celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus Christ and commit ourselves afresh to his service in 2016.

With every blessing

Bishop Gregory Thompson
Bishop of Newcastle