

The Reverend Dr. James Rigney is an Australian who is presently the Chaplain and Director of Studies in Theology at Magdalene College in the University of Cambridge.

Father James (49) is married to Anna an educational administrator and they have one daughter, Cressida who will enter Year 10 studies in Newcastle.

Dr. Rigney was ordained in the Diocese of Ely after theological studies at Westcott House in Cambridge. He was born in Katoomba. His mother was raised at Adamstown. From his childhood Dr. Rigney has been very familiar with Newcastle and the Lake Macquarie region.

Dr. Rigney is one of the most highly regarded clergy in the Church of England. He has a Doctorate in English Literature from the University of Oxford having first graduated from the University of Sydney. He has a second Doctorate in Theology from the University of Cambridge.

Both Dr. Rigney and his wife have desired for some time to return to live in Australia.

I am highly delighted that a priest of the calibre of Dr. Rigney with an equally impressive pastoral reputation as well as an outstanding academic reputation will be the Dean of Newcastle.

Christ Church Cathedral is an icon for the entire Newcastle community and not just for the Anglican Diocese and the congregations of the Cathedral. Dr. Rigney is conscious of the inheritance into which he will enter.

He comes to Newcastle greatly endorsed by leading figures in the Church of England who already sense his loss to them. Dr. Rigney will bring new dimensions to the solid pastoral Cathedral ministries and will relate well to the growing young professional and student populations of inner Newcastle because of his acclaimed experience with students.

Dr. Rigney in accepting the position as Dean of Newcastle has written to me, 'I am particularly grateful to follow in the footsteps of such a distinguished ministry as that of Dean Graeme Lawrence. I look forward to working with the Cathedral community and the Diocese in carrying forward the mission of the Church in Newcastle.'

The new Dean is expected to take up his appointment in mid-March 2009.

Grace and peace,

Dr. Brian Farran,
Bishop of Newcastle.