

Synod Election Process

I was disappointed to read Naomi Spencer's comments regarding the Synod Election (SC, July). I was involved in that process and believe Bishop Barnett did a great job chairing the meetings with openness and fairness. There was no 'in-club'. Phrases like 'nasty tactics' do not describe the procedure. Instead I found a genuine desire to choose the 'right man for the job' and all of the speeches both for and against were done with compassion and love. When Bishop Barnett called for prayer before the final voting, God changed the hearts of the voters from Monday to Tuesday because it was His will and because clearly Dr Peter Jensen had the stronger attributes for the job. If Naomi Spencer is concerned for the gospel and the well-being of Christ's church, I suggest she accepts the outcome and prays that God will be glorified through His chosen servant.

June Prutt
Faulconbridge, NSW

Naomi Spencer asks if anyone is concerned by the Synod election process. In Synod, the process Naomi deplores is referred to as 'the will of God'. In secular society it is called 'stacking it'. Does anyone else have concerns? Yes.

Barbara Oehm
Figtree, NSW

SYDNEYdiary

Sun, 19 Aug, 2.30pm: Classical Music Concert, St Ives Uniting, Cnr Mona Vale Rd & Douglas St. Tickets: 9449-6843.
Tues, 4 Sept, 7.30pm: Society for the Study of Early Christianity. Rev Greg Fox: "Bible Translating for Pacific Islanders".
Tues, 9 Oct, 7.30pm: Society for the Study of Early Christianity. Dr Robert Banks: "What Early Christians Got Up To Before, During and After Church. Some Lukan Snapshots." Enq: 9850-7512.

CLERGYmoves



The Rev Canon Warren Croft, rector, St George (Kogarah) retiring 31.7.01.

8 SOUTHERN CROSS

...on this issue, rather than the Bible. Given that the corporation is so shot through with

Warren Bird
Alfords Point, NSW

...we cannot do that stuck in an intellectual time warp.

Philip Miles
Amagasaki, Japan

Trinity not given 'orders' by DoCS

I am writing to express my disappointment at Margaret Rodgers' *CrossCurrent* column (SC, March), recently brought to my attention. Not only are some of the assertions made about the Department of Community Services (DoCS) incorrect, but there was no attempt by your publication to verify their accuracy.

Margaret Rodgers' claim Trinity Grammar was 'ordered not to have any contact with victims and their families on the matter' by DoCS are incorrect. DoCS, nor any other agency, has power to do this under child protection legislation within this State.

In fact, the principles of the Children and Young Persons

(Care and Protection) Act 1998 include sharing information, encouraging participation and adopting the least intrusive option. DoCS worked with the school and involved them in several meetings where details of the allegations, the conduct of the investigation and the commencement of criminal proceedings were all discussed.

The simple fact is, where a criminal investigation is underway, it is undesirable for others to proceed with their own private inquiries as it may jeopardise evidence. Trinity Grammar was advised not to discuss details of the allegations until after police investigations were complete. This

did not preclude the school from commenting on the existence of the allegations, or providing pastoral care to students and their families.

Each of us is concerned about the safety, welfare and well-being of students and DoCS will continue working with the Diocese where they have protection concerns for young people. However, in future I would encourage your publication to verify the accuracy of actions alleged to have been taken by my Department.

Carmel Niland
Director General,
NSW Department of
Community Services

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