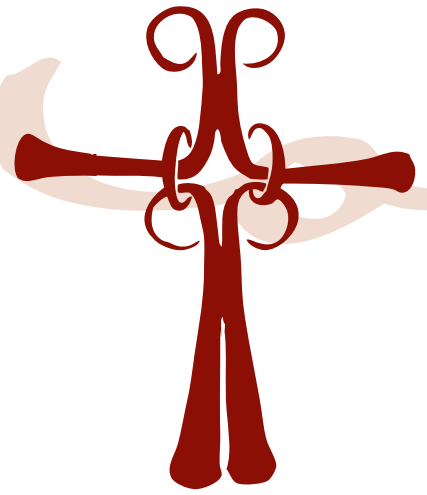


# mission

Newsletter of Sacred Mission Australia

March 2010



Father Christopher Myers, Provincial, Southern Province and Priest in Charge at St John's, Adelaide

Father Christopher Myers has been appointed Provincial of the Southern Province, taking over from Father Matthew Dowsey who served in the role from 2004 to 2009.

Speaking after his appointment, Christopher thanked Matthew for his work over the past five years.

'Under Matthew's stewardship the society strengthened relationships with the diocese of Melbourne and worked productively with the church in the Northern Territory.

'The next few years will be a time to explore Father Kelly's idea (the Society of the Sacred Mission) and translate it for our time.

'We also look to deepen links between Melbourne diocese and Adelaide (the Society's original home in Australia), and align more closely to the Society's two other provinces—Europe and Southern Africa', he said.

To that end, European Provincial Father Jonathan Ewer and Southern Africa Provincial Father Michael Lapsley are in Australia in March. They will meet with Adelaide members at Victor Harbor and stay on for the meeting of Provincials.

The election of Father Christopher took place at the Southern Province Chapter Meeting in the Barossa Valley in late November, at which a session by the Right Reverend Dr Steven Pickard was a highlight.

Bishop Pickard spoke at length on Scott Cowdell's book, *Abiding faith: Christianity beyond certainty, anxiety and violence*, which he had recently reviewed. He said he regarded Cowdell's work as, 'a deeply reflective and remarkable book on the nature of Christian faith'.

'It raises a fundamental question: what does living faithfully with God look like?' said Steven Pickard.

Cowdell's argument unfolds in two parts with three chapters in each. Part one has, as its starting point, the restless yearning of the homeless heart, which touches a 'raw nerve' in modern individuals. Part two explores the question of whether there can be a truly abiding faith that enables people to 'live quietly in their own skins' amid the anxieties and violence of our time.

'Cowdell's scholarly work covers history, culture and theology and resonates as a truthful account of

## *This issue*

### **St John's Youth Services**

Picks up three awards

### **In loving memory**

Drusilla Mahoney

### ***Finding them where they are***

Book launched in three states

### **Speaking up**

Provincial Father Christopher Myers

Christian faith—its rise, fall and new possibilities', said Steven Pickard.

After the session, Sacred Mission Australia members called for continued discussion at a future meeting to throw more light on these and other concepts in Scott Cowdell's publication.

Bishop Pickard has subsequently accepted an invitation to be Visiting Professorial Fellow at Ripon College Cuddesdon (Oxford). Sacred Mission Australia wishes both Steven and Jennifer every blessing for the future.



The Right Reverend Dr Steven Pickard

## St John's Youth Services

St John's Youth Services picked up three awards in 2009: the UNESCO Clubs (Adelaide Chapter) Achievement Award; the Australian Housing Institute Award (AHIA) for Professional Excellence for Leading Housing Solutions; and the Anglicare Australia Award for Excellence and Innovation, for the Next Step program.

The Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC, CSC, RANR, handed over the UNESCO Award in September to St John's Youth Services Chairperson Mark Steen and Chief Executive Officer Wendy Malycha.

'This award is one of only four awarded in the state and the only one to go to an organisation rather than an individual', says Wendy Malycha. The award is, 'in recognition of the organisation's striving to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged young people in our community through the provision of emergency accommodation, child support and the Next Step program'.

St John's Youth Services receives more than 1000 referrals a year. Since its inception nearly 30 years ago it has accommodated more than 7000 young people and close to 1000 dependent children. Next Step, an innovative program based on a contract between the young person and Next Step, is designed to prevent young people from returning to the emergency services system.

'The AHIA award is a rare coup, because it traditionally goes to activities associated with housing, not homeless services. The Anglicare award is by our peers—other agencies in the Anglican network around Australia, which makes it special again.

'We're committed to the work and we don't need awards but, in saying that, it's great for all of us to have our efforts recognised, and for the young people themselves.

'However, we can only continue our work and, in particular, the Next Step program, through the generosity of businesses and the community', says Wendy Malycha.

St John's is excited by the potential of a recently announced \$46 million inner-city apartment building funded by the State and Commonwealth governments, which will incorporate 30 units to cater for young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

For more information about St John's Youth Services or to provide support telephone (08) 8359 2989 or go to [www.stjohnsyouthservices.org.au](http://www.stjohnsyouthservices.org.au)



## Drusilla Mahoney 1926–2009

'I have known, and I imagine that you also have known, people who are kind and compassionate, happy and humorous, friendly and fearless, sensitive and sincere, just and non-judgemental. People who live out such high values in their lives are refreshing, yet they are few and far between. But to know an individual who combines a good few of these characteristics in one life is an inspiration. And thus it was with Drusilla Mahoney.'

Eulogy: Father Christopher Myers

A parishioner of St John's for close to half a century, Drusilla lived opposite the church for most of those years and for many of them she was its cleaner.

When the Society of the Sacred Mission moved from St Michael's into the priory in the late 1970s, this widow and mother of seven took on the role of house cook.



At any one time she 'mothered' up to 10 students at the priory and, at the same time, boys who had found a home in St John's Shelter (now St John's Youth Services).

'She had the knack of meeting people where they were and accepting them for what they were. She wanted the best for people and she was generous in her affection.

'I wouldn't want to make her into some sort of plaster saint, heaven forbid! But hers was a rich and well-rounded presence and personality.

'Without artifice or affectation she was who she was: a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

'She mothered all of us, without having any hidden agendas either for herself or for anyone else. I have not experienced that sort of unconditional impartiality ever before', says Christopher Myers.

In her later years Drusilla teamed up with Society member Father Francis Horner, and the pair travelled several times to England and beyond.

'A great lady, a great life and a great love for which we give grateful thanks', says Christopher Myers.

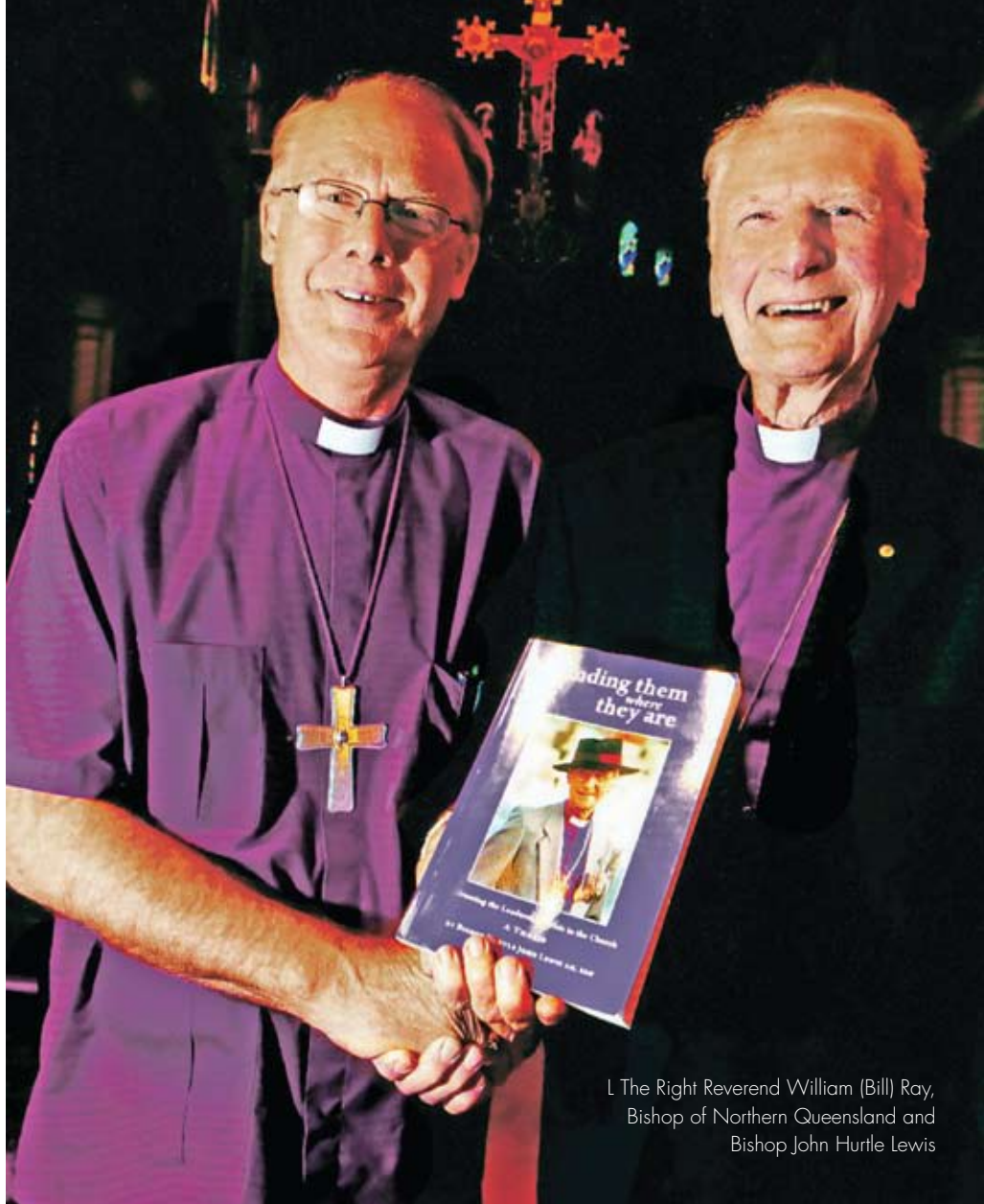
## A launch triumvirate

*Finding them where they are: addressing the leadership crisis in the Church*, an extended thesis by Bishop Hurtle John Lewis AM, was celebrated at launches in three states in 2009—South Australia, Victoria and Queensland.

The publication details Bishop Lewis' efforts in enlisting Indigenous and other community leaders in the service of the church, and the legacy this work has left, especially at a time of a critical shortage of strong leaders with new values.

The Bishop of North Queensland, the Right Reverend William (Bill) Ray, officiated in North Queensland. As John Lewis had served as Bishop of North Queensland from 1971 to 1996, the launch provided an opportunity for friends—new and old—to mingle. The Very Reverend Archbishop Phillip Freier officiated in Melbourne and the Right Reverend Bishop Dr Steven Pickard in Adelaide.

Bishop Lewis was educated at Prince Alfred College and the University of London. After wartime service with the Royal Australian Navy he was ordained in 1951. He then held various positions within the Society of the Sacred Mission, including a posting to Japan, until his appointment to North Queensland. He is now settled in Adelaide and married to Joyce Bleby, who joined the Society in 2008.



L The Right Reverend William (Bill) Ray, Bishop of Northern Queensland and Bishop John Hurtle Lewis



## Where they are ... where she is

The ordination of Lois Nadjamerrek by Bishop Greg Thompson took place at Emmanuel Church, Gunbalanya in late August 2009.

Reverend Nadjamerrek is now resident priest at Gunbalanya, an Aboriginal community 270 km from Darwin on the eastern border of the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park (at the base of the Arnhem Land escarpment).

During 'the wet' (from December to April each year), water covers the flood plains of the East Alligator River. As a result, the community is inaccessible to the outside world, including the visiting priest. Lois' ordination makes it possible for the community to celebrate Mass all year round.

Along with other groups, the Society has contributed to Ministry in the Northern Territory.

L Father Matthew Dowsey; the Right Reverend Gregory Thompson, Bishop of the Northern Territory; and the Reverend Lois Nadjamerrek



## Still available

A limited number of Lesotho crosses by ironworker Christopher Smith are still available. To place an order telephone 08 8223 2671 or email [ssm.s.province@esc.net.au](mailto:ssm.s.province@esc.net.au)

Cost \$25 (plus \$5 postage)

## Prayers

Please keep in mind Society members as they meet throughout the year and decide on directions for Sacred Mission Australia.

## Happenings 2010

### The Priory, Adelaide

1 March  
Board Meeting

### Victor Harbor, South Australia

10–11 March  
Local Chapter Meeting

12–13 March  
Provincial Meeting

### 'Amberley', Lower Plenty, Victoria

10–15 July  
Mid-year Chapter Meeting

## SPEAKING UP

New Provincial Father Christopher Myers speaks up in this issue of *Missio*.

The booklet we are forwarding with each copy of *Missio* is entitled *An idea whose time has come*, but with a question mark. In one sense Father Kelly's 'idea' (as he called the Society and its work) is an idea whose time has indeed come. Kelly speaks with flair and freshness to people today as they seek to apprehend God's will and work in the world.

But Kelly was never one to declare a question answered and to proclaim a matter resolved. On the contrary, he relished ambiguity and revelled in paradox, and not out of a studied eccentricity, but because that is how it is with faith.

The life of faith and religious life in particular places us at the centre of paradox, where issues personal and public are not so much resolved as explored.

The next few years will see the Society continue its exploration of Kelly's idea: Whence did it come? Where is it now? Where is it going? In this process we are seeking clarity, not certainty.

Sacred Mission Australia is in process of defining itself and the core of its work, as well as locating itself in the life of the wider church and the community. I see this as a crisis (mid-life perhaps) for the Society. Eastern wisdom puts this nicely with the two Chinese characters for crisis: danger, pictured as a person on the edge of a cliff; and opportunity, pictured as an open door.

No danger; no opportunity!

## To the glory of God in the doing of God's will

The Society of the Sacred Mission is an Anglican religious community that unites the devotion of ordinary people, using it in the service of the church. By making a donation or bequest to the Society, you will be acknowledging the work of members who share a common life of prayer and fellowship in a variety of educational, pastoral and community activities in England, Australia, Japan and Southern Africa.

## Contacts

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## Form of Bequest

I give and bequeath to the Society of the Sacred Mission the sum of \$..... for the general purposes of the work of the province, and I direct that such bequest shall be free of all duties, and I declare that the receipt of the society's provincial officer for the time being shall be sufficient discharge for the same.

