



10th December 2010

My dear people

I write, at this Advent time of waiting, hopefully with Good News for our Local Church.

At a meeting of the Diocesan Consultors and the Council of Priests yesterday, Thursday the 9th December, the following changes in priestly parish pastoral care were confirmed:

Fr Frank Gordon V.G. will move from Innisfail, where he has served as parish priest for the last 17 years. He will return as pastor of West Cairns (where he served prior to going to Innisfail in 1993). There he will be assisted by Fr. Manuvel Kumaradhas, an Indian diocesan priest, who has more recently done missionary work in Papua New Guinea. Fr Manuvel will arrive early in 2011 and will be with us for at least five years. The intention is that he will gradually take over parish responsibilities from Fr. Frank, who will be freed up for other pastoral works across Cairns city.

Fr Gordon will return to Innisfail on New Year's Day 2011, to finalise his involvement there, and will take up duties in West Cairns on the weekend of March 5th and 6th – just before Ash Wednesday.

Fr Kerry Crowley will move from Tully, after 16 years, up to Innisfail as parish priest and dean.

Fr Karel Duivenvoorden, who has been an able administrator of Innisfail for much of this year, during Fr Gordon's convalescence, will go as administrator of the Tully parish. This swap between Kerry and Karel will give continuity in knowledge and pastoral leadership in the southern deanery.

Karel will be in Tully in February while Kerry takes annual leave. They will then formally assume their respective parish responsibilities on the weekend of March 5th and 6th 2011.

Since October 2010 Fr Lauie Bissett M.S.C. has been administrating the Thursday Island parish and is also regularly visiting Weipa for Masses.

Fr Tony Banks OSA, the Augustinian Provincial, has advised me of the following appointments:

Fr Michael Belonio OSA will become parish priest of Mareeba-Dimbulah. He is in his 30s and has been in study and formation work in the Philippines.

He replaces Fr Robert Greenup OSA who has been the very committed pastor there for the past 16 years. Robert will continue working in the diocese, with deacon Ralph Madigan. They will have a ministry across the region with indigenous Catholic people. This continues a ministry in the Augustinian tradition of a priest like Fr. Rod Cameron.

In April 2011 Fr Peter McHugh will return to join the Augustinian community in Mareeba. Later in the year a priest from the Indian Province will become the fifth Augustinian working in the Cairns diocese. This includes Fr Michael Morahan OSA who is heading up religious education in our Catholic Education Services.

So the rich Augustinian contribution to Church life in the Far North is being significantly re-enforced.

Further good news is that we have another seminarian for next year. Nathan McKay, who taught at St. Mary's College in 2003 and 2004 and more recently at the Catholic high school in Gladstone, will begin four years of formal seminary studies at the *Beda College* in Rome after mid-year. In the first half of 2011, Nathan will have various experiences of parish life here in the diocese and do some preparatory studies.

So we are presently very blessed and pray that the Lord will continue to send *labourers to the harvest*.

Yours truly in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '+ James Foley', written in a cursive style.

+ James Foley
BISHOP OF CAIRNS