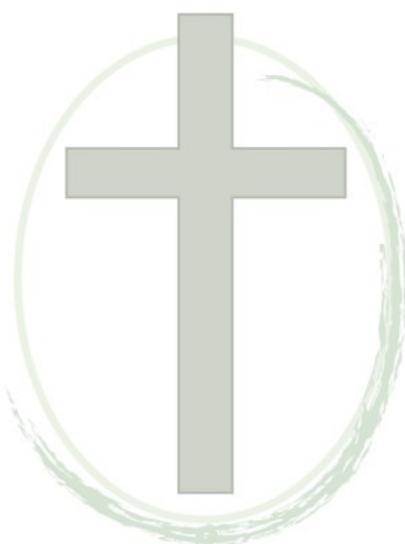


***A Covenant
between the
Anglican Diocese of Brisbane,
the Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of Brisbane
and the
Roman Catholic
Diocese of Toowoomba
29 May 2009***



***Resource to Introduce the Covenant to
Parishes, Schools and Institutions***

A Covenant between the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

Resource to Introduce the Covenant to Parishes, Schools and Institutions

Attached Documents

- The text of the Covenant which will be signed in the Cathedral of St Stephen, Brisbane on 29 May 2009.
- Article “Growing Together in Unity and Mission” by Archbishop John Bathersby published in “The Brisbane Anglican Companion – Dictionary of the Diocese of Brisbane 1859-2009”, November 2008.
- Text of Ad Clerum by Archbishop Phillip Aspinall April 2009 – this document provides a commentary on the Covenant and its clauses.
- A letter of support from Bishop William Morris of Toowoomba

Introduction

This resource is designed to introduce the Covenant to local Anglican and Roman Catholic parish, school and other communities. The attached documents provide the text of the Covenant, some explanatory information about the Covenant and some history about the close relationship enjoyed by Anglicans and Roman Catholics in Queensland since 1859. The suggestions below are only suggestions. The Covenant is meant to build on existing cooperative activities as well as encouraging new initiatives. It celebrates small steps but reminds us of our differences that have to be respected. It is hoped that as many people as possible are able to attend the service at **7:30pm on 29 May in the Cathedral of St Stephen, 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane.**

Prior to 29 May 2009

- Make copies of the Covenant and distribute to parish leaders and senior members of staff of the school or institution.
- Meet with clergy, leaders, staff and congregational members of your local Anglican and Roman Catholic parish or school to discuss the Covenant using the article by Archbishop Bathersby, the Ad Clerum by Archbishop Aspinall and the letter of support by Bishop Morris as background.
- Look at what is being done already on a cooperative basis and how these activities fit into the scope and meaning of the covenant.
- Begin to explore new ways of participating together in celebrating our common mission.
- Promote the service on 29 May and encourage as many people as possible to attend. Consider ways of travelling together to the service.
- Pray for each other, the service on 29 May and present and future activities.
- Plan a local event to receive the Covenant after 29 May. Though a celebration it does not need to be overstated.

On 29 May 2009

- Attend the service at the Cathedral of St Stephen, 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane on 29 May beginning at 7.30pm.

After 29 May 2009

- Hold an event to jointly receive the Covenant to your local area . Emphasize that it is a small step along the way of cooperation. There are differences that need to be recognized and respected.
- Continue planning new initiatives and put them into action.
- Support the Ecumenical Service of Reconciliation on or near November 4 in Brisbane or Toowoomba. Encourage a group from your local area to go.
- Keep praying for each other.

Text of Covenant

A Covenant between the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

Preamble: On 29th May 1982, His Holiness Pope John Paul II became the first pontiff to travel to Canterbury Cathedral where he met with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie. On the second anniversary of this historical event Archbishops John Grindrod and Francis Rush signed a Common Declaration at St John's Cathedral in Brisbane, which highlighted the warm relationships that had existed between Anglican and Roman Catholic communities of the respective Dioceses of Brisbane over many years.

In the following quarter of a century, relationships have continued to grow and ecumenical cooperation has been welcomed by both communities. The respective Dioceses now wish to renew their commitment to ecumenical cooperation by committing to a Covenant relationship.

The territory under the jurisdiction of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba is contained within the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane. The warm relationships that have existed between the Anglican Assistant Bishop of Brisbane (Western Region) and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Toowoomba find their expression by the inclusion of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba as a party to this Covenant.

At this celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Common Declaration, we the Roman Catholic and Anglican Archbishops of Brisbane and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Toowoomba joyfully execute this covenant of understanding.

Rejoicing in the Holy Spirit who calls us to unity in Christ, and recognising our shared baptism, we commit ourselves to continue to work together to celebrate our common mission.

We will

* encourage our local communities to pray for one another

* celebrate an annual Ecumenical Service of Reconciliation which will focus on the restoration and growth of relationships between the Roman Catholic and Anglican Communion, to be held as near as possible to 4 November (Anglican Roman Catholic Reconciliation Day) and to be rotated around the three Cathedrals and the Anglican parishes in Toowoomba

- *convene an annual gathering of the respective Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops to include a time of shared prayer/reflection, the discussion of issues of mutual interest and concern and the sharing of a meal together
- * invite Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops to preach in each others' Cathedrals/churches on appropriate ecumenical occasions
- * promote an annual Joint Clergy Day for the clergy of the three Dioceses to reflect on the pastoral, social or theological issues which we face together
- * convene a yearly meeting of the Ecumenical Commissions and Bishops of the three Dioceses
- * explore possibilities for cooperative use of church plant and resources
- * explore possibilities for co-operation in theological education, priestly formation and lay education and training (including the sharing of visiting speakers and guests), both between ourselves and our other ecumenical partners
- * explore possibilities for co-operation in the development and presentation of church music, art, drama and appropriate public lectures and events
- * acknowledging the agreement which already exists between the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba regarding pastoral care in rural communities, continue to explore the possibilities of cooperative ministry whilst respecting the limitations imposed by our different disciplines in relation to sacramental administration
- * conduct a review and celebrate a re-affirmation of the Covenant each three years.

Signed:

The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall
Archbishop of Brisbane

The Most Reverend John A. Bathersby, DD
Archbishop of Brisbane

The Most Reverend William M. Morris, DD
Bishop of Toowoomba

Growing Together in Unity and Mission

An article by the Most Reverend John A. Bathersby DD, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane published in “The Brisbane Anglican Companion – Dictionary of the Diocese of Brisbane 1859-2009”, November 2008.

It was purely coincidental but extremely welcome that as Roman Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane I was invited to the Lambeth Conference in August. The fact that I was co-chair of IARCCUM (The International Anglican and Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission) was no doubt responsible for my invitation, confirmed in Rome by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity (PCPCU). Not only were ecumenical representatives present at the conference but as the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams indicated we were there not merely as observers but in the expectation that we would involve ourselves in the extremely important discussions taking place at that time within the conference. At Lambeth I was warmly welcomed by all the Bishops and their spouses especially by the Queensland Anglican Bishops led by Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, Primate of Australia. What impressed me more than anything else about Lambeth was the manner in which its activity was shaped by prayer and worship. At a gathering of ecumenical representatives I told Archbishop Williams that such a conference surrounded by an abundance of prayer and worship could not possibly fail. I am sure that the final results of Lambeth will ultimately confirm my remarks.

Lambeth was one of the key experiences of my ecumenical life. This did not surprise me considering the close relationship between Anglicans and Roman Catholics emphasised in the documents of the Second Vatican Council, and lived out over many years in our respective archdioceses and dioceses of Brisbane and Queensland. Indeed our relationship goes back to the very foundation of the State of Queensland. Manifest in the 1860s and 70s between the first Bishops Tufnell and Quinn who shared similar opinions about government support for church schools and toured together arguing their case, those friendships have been maintained between Archbishops and Bishops down through the 150 years of our existence. Such friendships have flourished in particular between Bishops Webber and Dunne, Halse and Duhig, Grindrod and Rush, Peter Hollingworth and myself, and in more recent years with Phillip Aspinall, the Archbishop of Brisbane and Anglican Primate of Australia.

As well as the personal friendships established between bishops and archbishops of past and present, significant activity also took place between our two Communion over the years, in the invitations issued at different times to our respective Cathedrals, in the welcome to the Anglican Synod Eucharist and at times the Synod itself, and to our respective ordinations and installations. When Archbishop Peter Hollingworth and his wife Ann departed Brisbane in 2001 they were farewelled from St Stephen's Cathedral in a liturgy organised by the Heads of Churches. On at least two occasions I was invited to preach in St John's Cathedral, where in 1984 a covenant was signed between our two Communion by Archbishops Grindrod and Rush, please God to be repeated again in 2009 by our respective Archbishops. As well as the sharing of liturgy a dinner is also organised each year between the Anglican and Catholic Bishops of Queensland either at Wynberg or Bishopbourne. It is always warmly anticipated and thoroughly enjoyed by the Bishops. Over the years also numerous theological workshops between Anglican and Catholic priests have been organised for our mutual benefit. This year the subject chosen; “Growing Together in Unity and Mission”, a statement of IARCCUM, was addressed both by Archbishop Aspinall and myself followed by widespread discussion. Despite the closeness of our two Communion developed over 150 years, much still needs to be done, particularly as together we face the challenge of our mutual need for mission in today's secular world where so many people live without God.

In 1962 as assistant priest at Goondiwindi I was invited by the Rotary Club to discuss the rapidly approaching Second Vatican Council, referred to then as the Ecumenical Council. I suggested optimistically that great results would flow from its conclusions bringing our two Communion even closer together. Wiser and older than myself the then Anglican priest of Goondiwindi, the Reverend Noel Ludlow, moved a vote of thanks and warned us all that “the wheels of God turn slowly”. He was right. Nevertheless great things have happened over the past 150 years that will undoubtedly continue into the future, even if slowly. I am sure that 2009 will give both of our Communion ample opportunities to pray for the unity desired so deeply by Christ. In a recent article Cardinal Carlo Martini, Archbishop Emeritus of Milan, renowned scripture scholar and at one time popularly regarded as papabile, stated that there never has been a better time than the present to belong to the Church. Always optimistic I agree with him and look forward to an even closer Anglican Catholic relationship into the future. Let us hope that our two patrons St John and St Stephen may together pray that this will happen.

The Most Reverend John A. Bathersby, DD
Archbishop of Brisbane

Ad Clerum

8 April 2009

Dear brothers and sisters

The recent Combined Lenten Pastoral Letter mentioned the intention to renew the 1984 Common Declaration between the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane. This will occur on Friday 29 May in the Cathedral of St Stephen. During the liturgy a Covenant of Understanding between the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba will be signed. Through this covenant we seek and anticipate God's blessing in the years ahead.

The Covenant continues the warm relations that have developed over many years between the two communions. The relationship goes back to the very foundation of the State of Queensland. Bishops Tufnell and Quinn, in the 1860s and 70s, toured together arguing their case for government support for church schools. This friendship has been maintained between successive archbishops and bishops down through the 150 years of our existence. It has resulted in the signing of the Common Declaration by Archbishops Grindrod and Rush in 1984, The Statement of Agreement between Archbishop Peter Hollingworth and Bishop William Morris in 2001 which aimed at providing continued ministry in Catholic and Anglican parishes in south west Queensland, and a Memorandum of Understanding between Anglicare Brisbane and the Society of St Vincent de Paul Diocesan Area of Toowoomba in 2002.

We commit ourselves in this covenant to continue to work together to celebrate our common mission. This is expressed through various common activities at local and diocesan levels. As well as encouraging local Anglican and Catholic communities to pray for one another, the Covenant commits us to celebrating an annual ecumenical service of reconciliation as near as possible to 4 November each year. This day is listed in our lectionary as a day for Anglicans and Catholics to pray for one another. It was established in 2001 by the Australian Anglican Roman Catholic Conversations to enable parishes, schools and other bodies to have more time to focus on prayer shared between the two traditions.

The Covenant also commits both churches to convene an annual gathering of Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops for prayer, discussion of issues of mutual interest and sharing a meal together. Though this event has been held for some years it has been given greater recognition along with the commitment to hold an annual joint day for the clergy of the three dioceses and an annual meeting of the ecumenical commissions and bishops of the three dioceses.

The majority of the remaining clauses of the Covenant commit us to explore local and diocesan possibilities. These include cooperating in theological education, priestly formation and lay education and training, the development and presentation of church music, art, drama and other appropriate events, the cooperative use of church plant and resources, and the possibilities of cooperative ministry while respecting the limitation imposed by our different disciplines in relation to sacramental administration. Much of this exploration is to be done with other ecumenical partners especially in theological education for lay and ordained people.

The final clause commits us to review and reaffirm the Covenant every three years. It is important for both churches to check the strength of the relationship and be able to make changes to the Covenant in response to changing needs and ideas.

Not all the differences between Anglicans and Roman Catholics can now be eradicated. They still exist and are reflected in some of the Covenant clauses. As well we need to be mindful that the Covenant does not give permission for Anglicans and Roman Catholics to do everything together. It affirms the small steps that have been taken over the years and allows further exploration of ways to work cooperatively in some areas of common mission.

To have a document committing both churches to a close relationship where activities and resources can be shared is a great cause for celebration. It is hoped that as well as the service in the Cathedral of St Stephen local parishes, schools and other institutions can plan ways to introduce and put into action relevant covenant clauses.

The final paragraph of the 1984 Common Declaration says that we should pray to be always aware that we are drawn together under the one Lordship of Christ who is the one who sends us his Spirit. Confident in the power of the crucified and risen Lord, we commit ourselves to the ongoing task of promoting unity with unshakeable faith, renewed hope and ever increasing love.

I commend the Covenant to you for prayers, reflection and action. The text of the Covenant is below.

Yours in Christ

The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall
Archbishop of Brisbane

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE COVENANT BETWEEN THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BRISBANE, THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE AND THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA

I happily anticipate the signing of the renewal of the Common Declaration originally signed by Archbishops Francis Rush and John Grindrod in 1984.

I was Secretary to Archbishop Rush from 1979 till 1984. In that time I observed his care to cultivate an atmosphere of ecumenism within the Catholic community; I was aware at the same time of a similar inspirational movement within the Anglican communion led by Archbishop Grindrod.

In my time as Bishop of Toowoomba there have been similar spirited occasions and events, at a local level. At the very beginning of my time here, Bishop Clyde Wood and I worked to bring about the gathering at the James Byrne Centre at Highfields which produced the document *Being Church in Rural Queensland*.

Then a similar partnership between myself and Bishop Ray Smith produced an initial draft of the document eventually signed by Archbishop Peter Hollingworth and myself on 15th June 2001.

Later too, in 2002, there was a *Memorandum of Understanding* between Anglicare Brisbane and the St Vincent de Paul Society within this Diocese of Toowoomba.

Most recently our two Church communities, together with the Uniting Church, have overseen the evolution of a local Covenant in the town of Injune. While there is still work to be done in this area, the covenant that is the basis of all ecumenical activity was signed on 7th November 2008.

At this moment Bishop Rob Nolan and I are preparing to host another gathering, including members of Queensland Churches Together at the James Byrne Centre in September to celebrate all the ecumenical advances made throughout this area in recent times and indeed in the whole state of Queensland in the past 150 years.

With every blessing

Yours in Christ

William M Morris, DD
BISHOP OF TOOWOOMBA
14 April 2009