



Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

MEDIA RELEASE

9 July 2014

Blessing the Port of Newcastle

On Sunday July 13, The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle will be celebrating Sea Sunday with a special service to bless the Port of Newcastle at Christ Church Cathedral.

The Right Reverend Greg Thompson, Bishop of Newcastle, along with the maritime community and Ecumenical leaders, will gather outside the Cathedral to bless the port in this moving ceremony.

Every year 50,000 seafarers enter the port, each of them with personal and family needs and often in need of support while they are in Newcastle.

The Diocese's Mission to Seafarers has a long tradition of commitment by the Church to the welfare of the seafarers.

Fr Garry Dodd, Chaplain at the Seafarers Centre, has seen this ministry grow to be an outreach into the whole Port of Newcastle, its personnel and activities.

"The Mission provides not only free transport, but free internet, free clothes and beanies, and free food," Fr Dodd said.

"Thanks to OzHarvest and generous volunteers who donate food, we cook 250 meals a week for Seafarers who are too poor to buy food down the street. It is not uncommon for a seafarer to come ashore with no money, expecting to miss a meal, but simply wanting to have time on dry land and interact with society. You can imagine their surprise when they discover a lovingly prepared meal for free".

Fr Garry Dodd will also be installed as Canon to the Port of Newcastle at the service; affirming the Church's commitment to the Port of Newcastle and enabling him to better serve the Port and Maritime community.

The Newcastle community is welcome to attend this moving ceremony.

[Ends]

When: Sunday July 13

Time: 6pm

Where: Christ Church Cathedral

Please direct all media enquiries to:

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