



Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

MEDIA RELEASE

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Moving Ceremony Sees the 13th Bishop of Newcastle Installed

In a ceremony blending traditional and modern elements, Bishop Greg Thompson became the 13th Bishop of Newcastle on Sunday 2nd February at the Christ Church Cathedral.

The installation ceremony saw a congregation of over 900 people, with people from across the diocese as well as judges, politicians and mayors, gathered to celebrate a new era of mission and ministry in the Diocese. This included the recently elected Metropolitan of New South Wales, Archbishop Glenn Davies of Sydney, who was welcomed on his first formal visit to the Cathedral.

Shortly after 4pm, Bishop Thompson, wearing the mitre belonging to Bishop Batty (the 7th Bishop of Newcastle), knocked on the great west doors and was welcomed by the Dean Stephen Williams who then presented him with the pastoral staff used by Bishop William Tyrrell (the first Bishop).

The celebration was an opportunity for Bishop Thompson to address the congregation, focusing on themes of justice and compassion as we embark on the 'plan' for our Diocese.

"We need to focus on the importance of integrity in leadership, as people who seek a better future for the children and the grandchildren of our world with the justice and mercy of God. Our Church will ensure a safe place for the vulnerable and for them to grow with us," Bishop Thompson said.

Following a celebration of Holy Communion, Bishop Greg and his wife Kerry were welcomed to Newcastle by Mr. John Kilpatrick, Mr. Tim Owen MP, Bishop Bill Wright (the Catholic Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle) and Canon Katherine Bowyer.

As the final hymn was being sung, Bishop Greg went outside the Cathedral to pray over the City of Newcastle.

"Bless we pray this city of Newcastle. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Raise among us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity," Bishop Thompson said.

Bishop Thompson has taken this opportunity thank all those who were involved in the celebration;

"Many thanks to the people who prepared and participated in the occasion and made Kerry and I feel so welcome," Bishop Thompson concludes.

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