

Media Invitation

9 May 2018

Episcopal Ordination of Anglican Assistant Bishops

History will be made on Thursday evening 10 May 2018 when Sonia Roulston and Charlie Murry are made bishops in the Anglican Church at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle.

The special service steeped in church tradition will see bishops from across Australia ordain Sonia and Charlie for their new work alongside Bishop Peter Stuart who became Bishop of Newcastle in February.

The service will be a significant occasion for the diocese, it is the only time the diocese has had more than one assistant bishop, and it is the most senior role a woman has ever held in the 171 years of the diocese.

Sonia Roulston will be the first woman bishop to serve in the Diocese of Newcastle. It will be the first time that the Diocese has been served by three bishops.

Bishop Peter Stuart said, "The appointment of Sonia and Charlie has been well received across the Diocese and I am looking forward to working closely with them. They join me at a time when the Diocese continues to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission and restructuring for its future mission."

From Thursday evening Bishop Sonia Roulston, 52, will be Assistant Bishop to the Inland Region of the diocese, exercising ministry in the Upper Hunter, Maitland and Paterson area. Bishop Charlie Murry, 48, will be Assistant Bishop to the Coastal Region, exercising ministry in the Central Coast, Lake Macquarie and Manning area. Bishop Peter Stuart, as the Diocesan Bishop will continue to lead across the whole of the Diocese.

The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle extends from the Hawkesbury River to Lake Cathie and from the Coast beyond Burning Mountain. The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle has 63 parishes, 2 welfare agencies, 4 schools and a long-standing partnership with Newcastle Grammar School.

[Ends]

To register for media access please contact the Communications Manager, Louise Mackay.

Date: Thursday 10 May

Time: 6pm

Venue: Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle

Please direct all media enquiries to:

MEDIA CONTACT

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Backgrounders

Bishop Charlie Murry

Charlie was born in Mackay NQ and grew up in the Parish of North Mackay. His mother convened the parish Church School which first taught him stories of faith and he served in the sanctuary there. A childhood spent walking through the shadow of the Pioneer Valley's EFM groups welded Charlie's imagination and faith to the daily stuff of his life.

The conversation about life in faith continued in the catechumenal groups of the Brisbane Parish of Kenmore-Brookfield. They were hectic years of an honest day job, gigging and courting Melissa Tindal, an epoch that culminated in a wedding and entering St Francis college.

Charlie was ordained deacon in November 2004 and priest in December 2005, serving a curacy at Wynnum on Moreton Bay and as incumbent of Charleville in the bush. The conversation focused in the 'Living Stones' conferences laid the stepping stones of the call to Singleton.

Lucy and Jake arrived in 2006 and 2008. Among other things, they delight in reading, telling, dancing, acting and singing stories and in these days Charlie with Melissa delights in sharing story, song and life in faith with them.

Bishop Sonia Roulston

Sonia comes from the Parish of East Maitland, her family having moved there during her Primary School years. She attended the parish Sunday Schools, and through them became involved in the parish's GFS (Girls' Friendly Society) group. GFS has been an important part of her life and faith ever since. Her leadership was formed through GFS and also the parish's youth group, as well as through involvement at DYCON and other Diocesan Youth events.

Sonia worked in the lab at Tyrrell's Vineyards (note the loose Diocesan connection), prior to entering St John's College. Her workmates said she was "Going from testing wine to blessing wine"!

Sonia was ordained Deacon in February 1995 and priest in November of that year, and has enjoyed ministries in the parishes of Gosford, Singleton, Windale, Cessnock, and Morpeth, before being invited to become the Diocesan Archdeacon. She has also had rich experiences of the Anglican Church nationally and internationally through GFS and is currently National Chaplain.

In her spare time she likes to read, play bridge, and attempt the cryptic crossword.