

NEW CRANMER SOCIETY NEWS AND VIEWS

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VIEWPOINT

By Rev Peter Crawford



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The most basic observation of our Diocese is that major changes are needed if we are to attract younger generations to our parishes.

Over the last decade the number of parishes has dropped by 8% and the number of people on electoral rolls has dropped by 32% - we cannot afford to lose any more members or parishes.

The Diocese must be engaged in a turn-around operation.

Because church life has a higher leadership requirement than any other human endeavour the next Archbishop will need an outstanding gift of leadership. And he will need the Diocese to exercise the act of followership.

This can only happen if the Archbishop has the mandate of Synod. The Diocese has chosen to elect the Archbishop through the democratic vote of synod members and cannot, without taking too big a risk, now

As the Board said "we are a board of nominators not electors.

It is now the responsibility of Synod members to discern the one person God is calling to be our Archbishop". If a candidate can catch the imagination of the synod members because he has flair and leadership we will be able to move forward in hope. If the candidate cannot be voted in by Synod, then election by the Board will not help him.

Without a mandate the Diocese will be more likely to continue its introversion than move forward with united purpose. However an election of a compromise candidate by the synod members under pressure, to prevent the process being stalled, could be disastrous. I believe this is probably our last chance to elect someone who can turn the Diocese around and give it the future we all long for.

Peter Crawford is Vicar of Emerald Parish

What sort of Church do we want to be ..need to be..should be?

The future of the Diocese of Melbourne in the next 20 years

Speaker – **Rev Peter Corney** (Former Director of ICCL)

Responses – Bps Stephen Hale, Philip Huggins and Paul White

Includes a Time of Prayer for Election of an Archbishop and Afternoon Tea

Saturday July 15 2006 2.00-4.30 pm

Glen Waverley Anglican Church,
800 Waverley Rd. (Mel 71 D5)

ALL WELCOME Cost \$5

Seminar sponsored by CMS, EFAC, New Cranmer Society, Ridley College

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From the President...

Dear Friends

Since the Election Synod in February, the New Cranmer Council has been busy - thinking, analysing, planning and praying. Like many others, we were very disappointed at the non-election of Bishop John Harrower in February, but with the next Synod coming up in mid August (only 9 weeks time!) we now need to look forward as we strive to achieve our objective of the election of a doctrinally orthodox, mission-minded Archbishop of Melbourne.

At a post synod meeting at St Marks Camberwell in March the following views were presented:

1. The need at the next synod for more debate of the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates after their names have been accepted. This is particularly important to clarify any misinformation that may have been presented in the initial discussion.
2. The need to continue to support the principle of elections by synod. (See Peter Crawford's VIEWPOINT on previous page)
3. The need for us all to make positive contributions at synod and to act with integrity in all that we do. Robust debate in synod is important as long as it is not ungodly or untruthful. "Put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour" (Eph 4:25)
4. The need to listen to others who may think differently from us and seek to understand any fears or concerns. " Perfect love casts out fear" 1 John 4:18
5. The need for clergy and lay synod members to attend every session of the Election synod. Every vote counts.

I urge you to continue to pray for the Election of a godly Archbishop to lead us and for the Board as it considers new names. There will be an opportunity to do this at the combined NCS/Ridley/EFAC/CMS Seminar on July 15.

Keep in good heart,

Richard Trist (President)

What criteria are we using in seeking a new Archbishop?

As well as the qualifications given by Paul in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, the New Cranmer Society believes we need to look for the following:

1. A leader who will lead for the future – to help us make the tough decisions needed for the years ahead.
2. A person of prayer and real spirituality – calling us to be a people dependant on Christ and not in our own strength
3. Someone with a love for and commitment to the particular needs of Melbourne - able to work with the various strands of church life that make up this Diocese, but not captive to any group for the sake of political expediency. Able to make sound judgements and wise appointments on the basis of the promotion of the kingdom of God alone.
4. A person with a track record in effective pastoral ministry. Someone who is committed to growing effective parishes of all shapes and sizes, reaching out with the gospel to every sort of community that we find in the multicultural, multi-belief Melbourne of today.
5. A person of great spiritual maturity and trust in God

www.newcranmer.org.au

Please note that the Discussion Forum feature is currently not available.