

Bishop John (Slide 1)

I know that you have been reflecting on your time as the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Tasmania during the last few months as have many others. You have been a man of many hats.. (Slide 2)... formal and informal.

You obviously still have your North West Coast passport – it is great to welcome you once again, to thank you and to give thanks to God for your pastoral ministry over the last 15 years.

(Slide 3) Church buildings are many and varied, old and heritage listed, weatherboard and with character or alternative venues. The North West has relatively few parishes but many buildings. There has been some rationalisation of buildings.

(Slide 4) Over the years you have visited every parish (not sure about every church building) but you have met a vast number of parishioners from this region. You have emphasised the importance of people above buildings as the hard decisions have been made to close some, a process that is continuing as the diocese takes into account the changes in demographics and transport.

(Slide 5) One aspect that we on the North West Coast have appreciated is the number of ordinations held in the 'home' parish, either the ordination as a deacon or as a priest. There have been Aileen at the first (and last) ordination at St David's Cooe; Louise at Wynyard; Heather and Frank at Latrobe (Bridge of Hope); the West Coast local ministry team;

(Slide 6) Josh and Joel at Burnie; and others that I have missed. For the parishes concerned and the ordinand it has been very significant and a special event for each community.

(Slide 7) There have been confirmations and welcoming of new members into the Anglican Church at several places on the coast.

(Slide 8) Prayer has been an important part of your ministry focus and your prayer pilgrimages were leading by example and reached many congregations and people in the wider community with the publicity achieved in the media. I'm sure that many seeds were sown during these times that will grow and be nourished over the years when they are least expected, as well as the immediate help and support that you provided to those you came into contact with.

(Slide 9) Your love of meeting, greeting and mingling with people is clearly evident. You have been a bishop to the people, a bishop of the people, a bishop who is approachable rather than remote and austere and have demonstrated the pastoral mission of looking after the flock well.

(Slide 10) Connections congregation was part of the Imagine Project that has exemplified your interest and enthusiasm for new and different expressions of worship and spreading the good news within the Anglican framework.

(Slide 11) Your teaching seminars have been well attended, thought provoking and challenging – they have drawn people from all parishes along the coast (and even further on occasions).

(Slide 12) Preaching has always been an important aspect of your ministry and all parishes have enjoyed your visits over the years.

(Slide 13) Some vintage memories from Devonport ....

(Slide 14) And finally, some iconic scenes from the North West that capture the beauty and peacefulness here, on behalf of the North West community thank you for your leadership, friendship, teaching, preaching, prayerfulness, your promotion of strong Anglican Christian values and the need for social justice for all and we give thanks to God for sending you here and leading us over the last 15 years.

May God continue to uphold you and Gaylene as you move into the next phase of your spiritual and pastoral ministerial journey.