



# Christ Church Cathedral Darwin

4 Smith Street • GPO Box 181 • Darwin NT 0801

## ***THE SEASONS ARE GONE***

### **Symposium on Indigenous Perspectives on Climate Change**

Christ Church Cathedral Darwin – 16-18 September 2016

When considering changes in the climate over the last decade, a Solomon Islander said “Season hem no stap distaem”: the seasons that he was used to were no longer there. Rain came at the wrong time; fishing and food gardening were changing; plants were flowering early. Things are simply no longer the same: the seasons are gone.

The debate in Australia about climate change has almost entirely ignored the stories and experiences of indigenous peoples, both in Australia and in our Pacific neighbours. When Climate Change is mentioned, discussion tends to focus on economic or scientific perspectives. Most people turn off: in the last Federal Election campaign for example, there was almost no mention of Climate Change. Of particular concern is that the impact of climate change on those most vulnerable, such as indigenous people whose sustenance and culture depend on the cycles of nature, is largely ignored.

Therefore this symposium is a first step in giving voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and their concerns on climate change. As their stories are known, it will help to shake up the current broader social apathy on climate change, and help motivate us towards a better future for our children and grandchildren.

Speakers include:

#### **The Reverend Ronang Garrawurra**

Uniting Church Minister, finalist for NT Senior Australian of the Year 2016, Yolngu man

#### **Ms Rose Elu**

Torres Strait Islander, Member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC)

#### **The Reverend Nigel Kelaepa**

Anglican Priest from the Polynesian atoll of Ontong Java in the Solomon Islands and climate change activist

#### **The Reverend Lenore Parker**

Diocese of Grafton, Member of NATSIAC

#### **The Reverend Dr Aram Oroi**

Anglican Priest from the Melanesian island of Makira, whose PhD is on Oceanic narratives and the concept of *mana* (the powerful spirituality that flows through God’s creation)

The Convenor is the Very Reverend Dr Keith Joseph, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral Darwin. The Seminar starts at the Cathedral at 4 pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September and finishes on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 4 pm. There is no charge for admission, but for purposes of planning and catering for tea & coffee, please RSVP to the Cathedral Office on (08) 8981 9099 (Monday to Friday 9 am to 12 noon) or to the Dean, Fr Keith Joseph, by e-mail to [keij@bigpond.com](mailto:keij@bigpond.com) or on 0409 783 452 by 9<sup>th</sup> September.