

Archbishop's Visitation (1)

In May our Archbishop Clyde Igara began a round of visits to the 5 Dioceses. He spent a week with us in Port Moresby calling at all the urban parishes, visiting our church schools, and also taking the opportunity to make courtesy calls on the Governor General and Prime Minister. On his final day he officially kicked off our annual Pentecost Games - the inter-parish soccer, touch rugby and volleyball competition for our youth. Taking place on 3 consecutive Saturdays prior to Pentecost Day, the winners received the 'Bishop's Cup' after the mass at the diocesan Chapel of the Good Shepherd on our compound - a lively occasion attended by a huge crowd of people from all our urban parishes!



Archbp. Clyde with the Governor General



Presenting the Bishop's Cup

Goodbye Dean.... Hello Bishop Tennyson

Pentecost Day was also the occasion when Port Moresby Diocese said farewell to our Cathedral Dean and Vicar-General Fr Tennyson Bogar, bishop-elect for Dogura Diocese. Peter went to Dogura to take the pre-consecration retreat, but due to a water shortage there the service on 29 June took place at Awaiama, Tennyson's home parish along the coast - in the lee of some very steep mountains! Sue travelled there with our son Nic and his wife Verity, who were in PNG for a holiday and had just spent a few days in Nic's birthplace and childhood home of Goroka.

Awaiama church being too small, a venue was created on the village playing-field - a dais under an awning as the sanctuary, and a nave and central aisle marked out in flowers. People brought woven palm-leaf mats for seating, and umbrellas to shelter from sun or rain.

Local dancers led the processions of Dogura's clergy, Chancellor, Registrar and bishops to the dais. Incense was burnt on smoldering coconut shells; hymns, in English or Wedau, were sung unaccompanied.



Opening procession across playing field



The Gospel reading

Some Melanesian Brothers danced up a bible on a model canoe for the Gospel reading by Senior Bishop Allan Migi. Fr Tennyson took the oaths before the Chancellor and Archbishop. He lay on mats spread by his mother and other family members when the litany was sung. All the bishops took part in the laying on of hands, and the vesting with cope, ring, pectoral cross and mitre. After the concelebrated Eucharist and receiving of Holy



Bishops Peter & Tennyson!

Communion, everyone formed a huge line across the field to shake hands with the new bishop. Photos were taken, lunch was served - and then groups from around the diocese presented gifts all afternoon until it grew too dark to see!

Trips, and a Tragedy

Nic & Verity remained in PNG for some more holiday before departing for Melbourne to meet with relatives, Nic returning to Moresby afterwards for a week of business meetings. He was then followed by our Newcastle friend Ann McGivern. Ann came with both of us on a trip to Goroka in Eastern Highlands where we had previously worked - Peter attended his last board meeting at the Melanesian Institute, and Sue had a final chance to meet folk we'd known, a great treat! Ann also flew with Peter to Popondetta to do



Verity & Nic enjoy Milne Bay!



Sue meets Cathy after 18 years

some teaching at Newton Theological College about taking funerals and counseling bereaved families. Sadly she also attended a funeral with us at St John's Cathedral: its parish council chairman Dennis Bebege, a gentle Foreign Affairs Department diplomat, was hacked to death in his office by a disgruntled staff member. This horrific murder stunned all PNG's Anglicans - we ourselves had just spent the previous weekend with him at Tennyson's consecration. It was Peter who, with Fr Denny, broke the news to his children, and who presided at the Requiem

Mass held at St John's the day after a memorial service for government people and diplomats. Bishop Tennyson returned to preach, and many people accompanied the coffin on its flight to Popondetta for burial in his home village. There were ugly scenes there with knife-carrying people demanding payback, but finally he was laid to rest without mishap. PNG remains in some ways a very violent country.



Dennis Bebege

Archbishop's Visitation (2)

In August the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, his wife Caroline and 2 Lambeth Palace members of staff came to Port Moresby as part of a plan to visit every Primate in the Anglican Communion. Arriving very early from doing this in the Philippines, they met all PNG's bishops in our house. After talking with Archbishop Clyde - and later with all the bishops - the party toured Anglicare's facilities before going to St John's Cathedral for an informal lunch with our city clergy & wives. At an evening reception Archbishop Justin launched the Anglicare Foundation, a Trust set up to raise funds from PNG businesses and companies so that its future will not be so dependent on overseas aid. Next morning - St Laurence's Day, the anniversary of the arrival of the 1st Anglican missionaries in PNG - he celebrated and preached in our Chapel, then breakfasted with us before returning to the airport to continue their tour with visits to the Solomon Islands, Australia and New Zealand.



2 Archbishops, 5 diocesan bishops, 2 wives, and Nigel Stock!

Over... and Out!

After last visits to all our urban parishes - and after PNG's 39th Independence celebrations on September 16th when our final guest departs! - there will be a diocesan mass at our chapel on Sunday 21st, and we'll leave 2 days later after a grand total of 18 years in PNG. To all our readers, thank you so much for your company along the way! We'll miss many good and generous people here, a vibrant church life with lots of kids, opportunities to move from government circles to squatter settlements, and a mindset of spirituality being the norm which makes doing religion in PNG far simpler than in Britain. But we won't miss Moresby's constant power cuts, betel nut spittle & rubbish-strewn streets, potholed roads & crazy drivers, or its bureaucratic ineptitude! Instead we look forward to spending time with Peter's mum and other relatives (not forgetting our sons - when they're in the UK!); and to re-experiencing the British seasons (including our first winter in 8 years!) as we start a new chapter of our lives based in Cumbria.