

**60th Anniversary of Ordination  
celebrated Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
at the Parish of St Andrew, Brighton**

Firstly, I would like to thank our Vicar for giving me a place in the celebration of the Eucharist today as I come to the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination.

It doesn't seem too long ago that I walked down the aisle of St Paul's Cathedral for the Laying on of Hands in Priesthood.

It is a real pity, I think, that the Anglican Church has never seriously explored the possibilities of ordaining people to the Diaconate, either full or part-time. It is primarily a serving role, but has become a training ground for priesthood. Such a move would enhance the role of ordained priests as well as the laity.

Actually, the date of our Diamond Jubilee has now passed – it was last week, 5<sup>th</sup> March when in 1961 Archbishop Frank Woods ordained 14 Deacons and 17 Priests, making a total of 31. It still remains the largest ordination in this Diocese and Province and Archbishop Frank Woods' second ordination having come from the Diocese of Manchester. Three of our brethren have been made Bishops and one Archdeacon. This is an indication of the quality of the candidates.

At the time of our priesting only men were ordained. The National Anglican Legislation for Women's Ordination of Deacons was passed in 1985 and 1992 for Priests.

An aside: It was a very hot Sunday; the service was exceptionally long. By 2 pm people began to leave. Many of our brethren have passed to higher service; some are physically or mentally disabled and cannot join us each year for our annual get-together and it happened without fail every year since 1961. There are now eight of our brethren alive, but only four able to attend.

For a moment I just want to be personal.

It is obvious that I am suffering from Parkinson's Disease. It is a pernicious disease which attacks the whole body - the digestive system, walking capability and speech function, accompanied by tremour. It is different for each person and is mainly a male disease. Specialist doctors (neurologists) agree that it takes from 6-10 years to reveal itself. They are not sure whether it originates in the stomach regions or the central part of the brain. There is no known cure for it, only medication which has to be regularly adjusted to keep going.

Fortunately, I have it in a moderate form, but it is taking its toll. This is what has caused me to give up the leadership of the Meditation Group last year. Medical opinion is that it will not kill you, but only wears you down.

I am very grateful for the medical research that the medical profession offers. I see, over any given year, five different specialists to keep me moderately stable, but it is hard on the pocket.

There exists a Parkinson's Association which conducts seminars that educates and supports sufferers. It is estimated that there are 27 000 people in Australia in various stages of the disease. It is not contagious, but is life threatening.

One last point I would like to touch on.

When I came to St Andrew's at the end of 1999 as Associate Priest, following 5 years in Brisbane as Archdeacon of Welfare and CEO of Anglicare, I accepted the challenge to explore the possibilities of a suitable and indigenous outreach program as an expression of St Andrew's commitment to the community of Brighton. This was a decision that arose from a Review Meeting of the Parish Council in September 1999. A number of people expressed the opinion that St Andrew's did not need such a program. What we found in the data, gathered and analysed professionally was there was a gap in local services in good marriage preparation, given the number of marriages performed at St Andrew's and death and dying, given the number of funerals held at St Andrew's.

To undertake this task we set up on a professional basis a service which was provided by LifeWorks, the central Anglican service for people undergoing divorce proceedings or had a marriage breakup. Counselling for death and dying was financed by John Allison Monkhouse, whose Bereavement Counsellor attended on a part-time basis. Gradually many people came from long distances to avail themselves of these very financially competitive services, but it failed and died.

Nobody came forward to give it the leadership that it demanded. Very few parishioners knew anything about it and it passed unnoticed on the Agenda paper at Parish Council level.

In 2003 I was required to resign at the stipulated age of 70 years. Anne and I both accepted that we should not return to the parish where I had been in very active ministry. Although we lived in Brighton we had little contact in the parish of St Andrew's because I was fully engaged in Locum ministry in the Bayside area.

I believe strongly in the English custom where one should not pick and choose the parish to which one belongs, but become part of the local parish scene with its good and bad aspects. The parish church, with all its ups and downs demands our attention and membership, using our various talents for the wellbeing of all. Any large voluntary organisation like a local parish stands vulnerable to the whims of 'those who think they know best' and want to dominate. This applies to both clergy and laity. Certainly the clergy and laity have separate tasks, but we are all one in Christ; 'one church, one faith, one baptism'.

After 60 years of ministry and trying to live out the precepts that I am presenting to you, I am conveying a warm thanks to so many dear people in this parish. This will be my final farewell in any formal capacity at the age of 86, of which the last twelve satisfying years, with its ups and downs has been spent at St Andrew's.

May you all experience the love of God and His empowering Spirit as you seek to be His church and living community of faith. Anne and I would like to share this with you until we hear the Lord proposing, 'It is enough'.

**Barry N Martin**, Archdeacon Emeritus