



Anglican Church of Australia - Diocese of The Murray
THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Venerable Richard A. Seabrook

PO Box 394
Murray Bridge
South Australia 5253

Phone: + 61 8 8532 2270
Email:
registry@murray.anglican.org

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New Bishop for Diocese of The Murray

The Anglican Diocese of The Murray has a new bishop.

The Right Reverend John Ford, currently serving as the Bishop of Plymouth in the Diocese of Exeter in the Church of England, will take up the appointment before the end of the year.

The Diocese has been vacant since September 2010 following the resignation of the previous bishop, Bishop Ross Davies. The election of the new bishop was unanimously supported by the Bishop's Election Committee of the Diocese.

The Venerable Richard A. Seabrook, Administrator of the Diocese of The Murray, said "I am delighted that the election of a new bishop has taken place and look forward, after such a long time without a bishop, to welcoming Bishop Ford to the Diocese of The Murray to lead the priests and people here and build up the work of God's Church."

Bishop Ford is particularly interested in the theology of the Church and how this affects ideas about unity, mission, evangelism, vocation and worship. He has taught in this area and his Episcopal ministry so far has been characterised by preaching and teaching aimed at building up the Body to engage in God's mission in contemporary society.

He has been Bishop of Plymouth since 2005. Prior to that he was a Residentiary Canon, a Diocesan Missioner and a parish priest in Sussex. He began his ordained ministry in south London.

On welcoming his new appointment Bishop Ford said “I am humbled and surprised to have been elected and know how seriously I will need to listen to others and learn from them about local cultures and practices.

“I am really looking forward to learning about life in Australia and commit myself to do so as fast as possible.”

Bishop Ford will be installed as the fourth Bishop of The Murray in Murray Bridge on Friday December 6th and his inaugural celebration of the Holy Eucharist for the diocese will take place on Saturday December 7th.

In their leisure time the bishop and his wife, Bridget, enjoy cooking and entertaining, theatre and cinema, and travel.

The Diocese of The Murray is one of three in the Province of South Australia. It covers the South East region of South Australia, the Fleurieu Peninsula, the Riverland, Adelaide Hills, Murraylands and the southern suburbs of Adelaide. It includes 22 Parishes or Pastoral Districts. The new bishop will live in Murray Bridge where the Diocesan Registry is located.

Important notes: Bishop John Ford is available for phone interview in Plymouth today (Sunday) between the hours of 4.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. (SA Central time). Please note the current time difference between SA and the UK means that Adelaide is 8 and a half hours ahead of UK time so do not call the Bishop earlier than 4.00 p.m. Central time.

He can be reached by landline on 0044 1752 769836 (includes codes).

He may also be reached by email at bpjohn@exeter.anglican.org

This release issued by David Williams, 0416 225 043, on behalf of the Diocese.