

23 September 2002

Dear Members of Synod

I am looking forward with enthusiasm to our meeting in October and hope that you will come with a similar sense of anticipation. We have great matters to discuss and decide.

Last year we accepted the Diocesan Mission Statement and the 10% goal as the basis for work in 2002. The aim was to come to this Synod ready to discuss the Mission, with its goal and strategy, and to decide whether or not to adopt it. We have therefore prepared the business with this in mind, and in the first two vital days the Synod will be faced with major decisions.

### **What is going to happen?**

Standing Committee is going to suggest to Synod that we adopt the following program.

1. On the afternoon of Monday 14 October after some formalities to do with Synod arrangements, I will give the Presidential Address which will be an explanation of the Mission, its vision, goal, aim and four key policies. A copy of the Draft Mission Strategy Document which sets this out is enclosed.
2. After my Address, we will turn to God's word and prayer in the Synod Service. This will give us an opportunity to reflect together on the Mission and the proposed strategies. John Chapman will be the preacher.
3. Between 7:00 pm and 9:30 pm we will consider the Mission Strategy Document. If we adopt it, the Synod will be asked to join its name to the invitation of the Bishops of the Diocese to initiate the Mission.
4. On the evening of Tuesday 15 October we will have before us the Diocesan Budget (known as the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2002). In accordance with the wishes of the 2001 Synod, this has been prepared in line with the strategies which you will find in the Draft Mission Strategy Document, and so has some major structural differences this year. Bishop Peter Tasker and Mr Peter Kell will take us through this.
5. Given the importance of the Mission, we are seeking to program 4 two-hour sessions during Synod to enable Synod members as a whole to discuss and begin to develop the strategies needed to fulfil the four key policies. A similar exercise was very helpful in 2001, and the suggestions of Synod members were carefully collated and distributed to the Mission Taskforce. (Of course, if we decide not to adopt the Mission, these sessions will not be needed.)
6. Naturally there will be time for the usual business of Synod - questions, motions, legislation and elections. We have tried to keep legislation to a minimum in order to have time to concentrate on the big issue of the Mission and to conduct other business. But I am sure that this Synod will be known as the Mission Synod.

### **How can you prepare?**

I believe that Synod is fundamentally an assembly of the representatives of the Churches (with some organisations) of our Diocese for mutual consultation, encouragement and decisions in the interest of the gospel of Christ. Let me suggest the following by way of getting ready for this Synod-

1. Please pray for the Synod meeting and bring your Bible.
2. Study the Draft Mission Strategy Document and discuss it.
3. If you have time you could read my explanation of the Mission Statement in the Presidential Address for last year's Synod. Find it in the 2002 Year Book at pages 376-382 or contact the Diocesan Secretary for a copy.
4. Read through the Synod Book and other supplementary documents.
5. Attend any pre Synod meetings that are available.
6. Read a copy of Robert Tong's book on Synod procedures. Contact the Diocesan Secretary if you would like a copy.

Lastly, a word to new members. Most of us find Synod rather daunting and it certainly takes some getting used to. I hope, however, that you will feel welcome and quickly become accustomed to the procedures. As the President, I will try to explain what is happening and make everything clear. I will also try to keep us moving along, and to stick to the big in-principle debates that Synod is good at, rather than the detailed committee discussions that are so often tedious.

As I said at the beginning of this letter, I am looking forward to the Synod, not only because it is a good chance to meet friends, but because of the importance of the Mission which we will be deciding about. You may never make a speech at Synod, but your prayerful interest and your carefully-cast votes are of real significance.

Yours sincerely

PETER F JENSEN  
**Archbishop of Sydney**

# Draft Mission Strategy for the Diocese of Sydney

## 1. The Diocesan Mission

To glorify God by proclaiming our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ in prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit, so that everyone will hear his call to repent, trust and serve Christ in love, and be established in the fellowship of his disciples while they await his return.

## 2. The Goal of the Mission

To see 10% of the population of the region of the Diocese in Bible-believing churches in 10 years.

## 3. Strategy for the Diocese

### Fundamental aim

To multiply Bible-based Christian fellowships, congregations and churches which nurture their members and expand themselves, both in the Diocese and “in all the world”.

### Fourfold policy

In submission to the Lord Jesus Christ and his command to make disciples of all nations,

1. To call upon God for such an outpouring of his Spirit that this people will be assured of his love through his word, seek to please the Saviour in all things, manifest the godly life and be filled with prayerful and sacrificial compassion for the lost in all the world.
2. To enable parish churches to expand numerically, nurture their members, and become the mother-churches of as many fellowships and congregations as possible; and also to take further initiatives to create fellowships by penetrating structures of society beyond the reach of the parish church with the gospel.
3. To multiply the number of well-trained persons (ordained, lay, full time, part time, voluntary) dedicated to the creation and development of such parishes, congregations and fellowships by proclaiming the gospel.
4. To reform the life of the Diocese (including its culture, ordinances, customs, use of resources, and deployment of ministry) to encourage and enable the fulfilment of the fundamental aim.

### Commitment

In submission to the word of the Lord Jesus, the Archbishop and Bishops of the Diocese have committed themselves in unity of heart and spirit to give example, energy and leadership to this Mission. They are doing so in fellowship with the Archdeacons, the Standing Committee and its Mission Taskforce, and they invite the whole Anglican community in the Diocese of Sydney (with all other believers) to join them by taking the initiative to see that Christ is proclaimed to all people.