

Well, it wasn't quite the expected outcome at Spring Into Gardening last Sunday! As many of you will know, a blustery, breezy, and sometimes rainy morning quickly deteriorated, to the extent that by 12.30pm, with a severe alert for damaging winds being issued by the Bureau of Meteorology, the council made the altogether reasonable decision to cancel the event effective immediately.

This was such a pity, as there were still many people out and about, enjoying the occasion, and still wanting to buy produce and gifts from our stall. We continued to do a brisk trade, even as things were packed away into boxes ready for the final word from the organisers.

In spite of the curtailed time-frame, we still managed to make over \$3200 on the day, and we will continue to sell the remainder of the produce, and to sell more raffle tickets up until St. Martin's Day, so the final amount will be more than that. This is a testament to the hard work of so many people who contributed to the success of the stall. I thank you all very much. A special thanks, of course, to Olga, Jacqueline, and Ann, who coordinated things so efficiently.

On a much more serious note, the Primate advised this week that he had accepted the decision of the Archbishop of Perth to stand aside from his position, effective immediately. In a letter to his Diocese, Archbishop Herft said he would stand aside with immediate effect, to "focus my attention on the royal commission's ongoing inquiry into the Diocese of Newcastle".

The Archbishop gave evidence at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in August. He finished his testimony with an apology to the people of Newcastle, where he served as bishop between 1993 and 2005. He said he would stand aside from all duties including ordinations, pastoral visits, public functions, correspondence and related engagements.

"I have taken this decision after much prayer, thought and consultation with my advisors to allow for the mission and ministry of the Diocese of Perth to flourish," he wrote. "I am humbled by the courage and fortitude of survivors and victims of child sexual abuse as they continue to bear witness to their stories of suffering."

Archbishop Herft said it was a "challenging time for us all" and his decision had been made "after much prayer, thought and consultation with my advisers". He has been Archbishop of Perth since 2005, but has been on long service leave since finishing his royal commission testimony. Please keep the Diocese, and the Archbishop in your prayers.

Please pray also for the commencement of Synod, from Wednesday night.

May Ignatius of Antioch, Luke, Henry Martyn, and all the Saints walk with you this week...

*Sam*