

A very busy week has been compounded by the commencement of Synod on Wednesday evening. As usual, the Synod commenced with Eucharist in the Cathedral, with the Venerable Jan Crombie preaching, and the Archbishop presiding. Archdeacon Crombie reflected on anti-poverty week, and how we are called as followers of Christ to join with the work of our agencies and organisations working to alleviate poverty

Following this, Archbishop Philip gave his Charge to Synod. It was a wide-ranging Charge, incorporating issues within the church, and also touching on societal issues, and how the church might best speak to those things. He began by reflecting on the recently announced deferral of the proposed referendum on constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians that had been scheduled for May 2017, but will now not occur until 2018. Archbishop Philip said that he hoped this announcement “does not signify a reduction of commitment to bring this opportunity for important change before the Australian people”.

He also said he had been appalled by the stories of abuse and the failure of process that followed during the hearings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse; and he urged the Synod to continue to pray for survivors and victims of abuse. The proposed new Professional Standards legislation that was before this Synod was one measure that we could pass to ensure our structures are more robust now than ever.

The Archbishop also:

- * Declared that it was “imperative that we break the nexus between indefinite detention and our opposition to people smugglers” in Australia's response to the refugee crisis;
- * Warned of the consequences of 15 per cent of Australians facing financial stress simply to survive;
- * Regretted that the short-term political cycle worked against an intelligent long-term response to climate change;
- * Foreshadowed that the Anglican Church would need a capital investment of just under \$1 billion in today's money to establish even modestly resourced parishes and double its presence in Melbourne and Geelong over the next 35 years to match projected population increases.

Please note that the funeral service for Malcolm Boyce will be held at St. Martin's on Tuesday afternoon, at 2pm. All parishioners are encouraged to attend, to show our communion and fellowship that we shared with Malcolm as fellow travellers on God's Way. There will be afternoon tea served in the Crypt following the service. If you are able to offer assistance in any way, please see Ann Baker or Meredith today, and they will be happy to allocate something for you to do.

May Simon and Jude, and all the Saints walk with you this week...

Sam