

A huge thanks to all who helped out on Tuesday with the funeral service and afternoon tea for Malcolm. It was a wonderful example of how community works, with people taking time off work and taking time out of their busy lives to prepare and deliver a beautiful afternoon tea, which was much appreciated by fellow parishioners and visitors alike. I know that Jacqueline has so appreciated everybody's best wishes, and their efforts towards Tuesday's service and afternoon tea. Thank-you all.

I will include this week and next some of the highlights from the Synod proceedings of last week. It was a gathering marked by some significant legislative changes, and some (apparently straightforward) motions which raised a great deal of debate. The result of that was that there was insufficient time to debate a number of motions, including one regarding voluntary euthanasia (following on from the Parliamentary report released earlier in the year), and two "opposing" motions on marriage equality.

The major piece of legislation debated and subsequently passed was the new Professional Standards Uniform Adoption Bill. This bill was drafted in direct response to the recommendations of the chair of the Royal Commission into Institutional responses to child sexual abuse. One of the most damning parts of that investigation centred on the way in which institutions either intentionally, or as a result of poor governance, sometimes contributed to the ongoing offending of individuals (by a lack of action to complaints, or an environment that was not conducive to complaints being heard) and the suffering of victims. To say that this legislation was necessary and overdue would be an understatement. It is hoped that other Dioceses within our Province, and in the wider church might also adopt this legislation.

The Cathedral – its mission and structure, in particular – was also a focus of debate, with the Cathedral Bill being brought, and also passed. When enacted, it will finally replace the 1878 Cathedral Act, under which (with some amendments over the years) the Cathedral has been governed virtually since its inception. The Cathedral will now have an electoral roll, like other parishes, and be able to elect representatives from its congregations to be on Cathedral Chapter (the governing body of the Cathedral) and have its own elected Synod Lay Representatives. The Dean (who brought the legislation and associated motion) was excited at this opportunity, and believes that it will give greater ownership to the various congregations of the cathedral.

I will continue next week to summarise some of the other motions brought and debated.

May Martin Luther, Richard Hooker, and all the Saints walk with you this week...

*Sam*