

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW VICAR

It gives me great pleasure today to announce the name of the new vicar that the Archbishop has appointed to St Peters. He is the Rev'd Dr Hugh Kempster who is currently the senior chaplain at Geelong Grammar School. Fr Hugh is married to Dr Ree Bodde, a research consultant and secondary school teacher. They have two children: Amy, the eldest, is married with one child, and lives in New Zealand and Hannah, who is a student, lives at home with her parents.

Fr Hugh is a mere 51 years of age and has lots of energy. He lists amongst his hobbies jogging, gardening, hiking and playing the guitar.

Fr Hugh has a degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering as well as degrees in theology and a diploma in Education. He gained his doctorate from the University of Waikato in New Zealand, for his work on the great English Mystic, Richard Rolle. He has written extensively on a range of theological and educational subjects and his doctorate is currently being prepared for publication.

Since his ordination in 1994, he has served in two parishes in New Zealand, before taking up his present position at Geelong Grammar.

We have a little time to wait before this extremely well qualified, warm, outgoing, young priest comes as our new vicar. The Induction will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday, the 19th April, next year.

In the meantime, on behalf of the parish I offer thanks for the considerable work and time that this appointment has entailed for the three members of our former Incumbency Committee: Rachel Ellyard, Peter Bryce and the late John Liversidge.

I invite you now to pray with me for Fr Hugh, his wife Ree and their daughter Hannah as they enter the next phase of God's claim upon their lives. Let us pray:

O God, as we enter more fully into this Advent season of hope and anticipation, we do so with a heightened sense of excitement at the news of the one who has accepted the invitation to come as the next vicar of this parish. Sustain Fr Hugh, Ree and their family, as they begin to make the transition over the next several months from their work and home in Geelong to live, work and study in this city. Guide the Wardens and vestry in the many necessary practical decisions that need to be made in the coming months. All glory, honour and praise be to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for hearing and answering our prayers. Amen