

**From The Rt Rev. Dr Paul Barnett**

BISHOP OF NORTH SYDNEY and ADMINISTRATOR

20 March 2001

Dear Synod Member

In a few weeks we will gather in the Synod to elect an Archbishop of the Diocese of Sydney and Metropolitan of the Province of New South Wales.

I am sure that all members of Synod are conscious of the serious task that lies before us.

This Synod comes at the beginning of a new millennium. In many ways the Gospel of Christ is at the cross roads in our society. Will our nation turn to Christ or continue to turn its back on him? Clearly it is important that we elect a Bishop for the Diocese and the Province who will be the right leader at this critical time.

Equally, too, the tone of our Synod will set the tone for our life together in the Diocese for years to come. My plea and my prayer is that the ensuing weeks leading to the Synod and the Synod itself will be a deeply edifying period through the grace of God. To that end I am enclosing a prayer which I hope Synod members and the people of the Diocese will use day by day in seeking the guidance of God.

The Synod Service will be especially important. I encourage you in the warmest terms to participate with others in this gathering for corporate prayer in the Cathedral in the presence of our risen Lord as together we seek his will. We gather to hear the Word of God, to pray and to share the emblems of broken bread and outpoured cup that tell us of our Saviour's love for us in his death. Our listening to the Word and our eating and drinking together is a sign to all who gather of our unity in faith, hope and love in the One body in Christ. Our preacher will be Wallace Benn, Bishop of Lewes in the Diocese of Chichester. Wallace will also lead short studies each subsequent evening the Synod meets.

Let me say that the Synod is not merely for voting for a candidate the Synod member may have in mind to support. We gather in the Synod to pray and to listen to our fellow Christians. The spirit of the Synod is that we make our final decisions together at that time in a forum that is democratic in process and godly in character.

Please pray for Mr Mark Payne, the Diocesan Secretary, as he administers the ordinances for the election and for me as President of the Synod and during the interregnum.

Yours sincerely in Christ

**Dr Paul Barnett**  
**Administrator**

#### **A Prayer for Daily Use**

Eternal God, shepherd and guide,  
in your mercy give your Church in this diocese  
a shepherd after your own heart  
who will walk in your ways,  
and with loving care watch over your people.

Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth.  
So may your Church be built up  
and your name glorified;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen