

Serving Faithfully

Newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Military Services
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Encounter with Peter



Australian bishops meeting with the Holy Father during the June 2019 'ad Limina Apostolorum' visit. Bishop Max is nearest the right edge.



At the end of June I carried you all in my heart and soul to the 'ad Limina Apostolorum' visit to Rome. Going back centuries, those entrusted (the bishops) with the care of a particular community of the faithful have been required to

go to the Successor of Peter to render an account of their ministry and to describe the circumstances of that Church. This is not really so much a visit as a pilgrimage – a spiritual journey – that has some elements that have been traditionally essential. These include celebrating Mass at the tombs of the Apostles Peter (at the Vatican) and Paul (at 'St Paul's Outside the Wall'), which is what the Latin title 'ad Limina Apostolorum' means. Part of the same tradition is to celebrate Mass also at the major shrine to our Lady (St Mary Major) and in the Cathedral of Rome (St John Lateran). In fact 'in the old days' the bishop had to celebrate these four Masses; was given a certificate that he had done so; and those certificates were presented to the Pope's office before the audience with the Holy Father. Only when those certificates were in order, would the Holy Father in audience give the bishop permission to leave Rome and return to his diocese. I quickly add that this is not the case today – although St John Lateran still offers the Certificate if you choose to take one.

This event is supposed to happen every five years – according to the law – but in recent times inevitably the interval expands. This was my third 'ad Limina' and, like many things, the system for the visit has changed significantly over time. During those three visits I have met with three Popes, but always an encounter with the same Peter. In former years the

bishop went individually, but in recent times the bishops of a region go together. It is also the case that, some six months before the visit is scheduled, a 'quinquennial (five-year) report' is written by each bishop and submitted. This is a very comprehensive report that is divided into twenty-two sections.

Each of the sections is also sent to the relevant office (called a dicastery) at the same time. This forms the basis of any discussions that must take place while the bishop is in Rome, both at the dicastery concerned and at the audience. The Holy Father is briefed by each office before the audience and it was very clear that the Pope was well across, very interested and very pastorally focussed on the situation of the Church in Australia.



Bishop Max, on departure from the audience, receiving a gift from the Pope

This time the very first event on the first day was Mass at the Tomb of St. Peter in the crypt of the Vatican Basilica. I was given the honour of being one of the three to actually stand at the altar at the Concelebration and to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion. My relief at placing the prayers, petitions and hopes of the faithful of this diocese at the Tomb of St. Peter was almost palpable – I felt that the pilgrimage had really begun.

I carried you all in my heart and soul to the 'ad Limina Apostolorum'

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The next event on that first day was the audience with the Holy Father and, while this was unusual because the audience has been the last event in the past, it clearly set a very different foundation for and perspective on everything that followed. I was able to

give the Holy Father your greetings and an assurance of your prayers and ask him to accept our fidelity and a small gift. I also asked Pope Francis to pray for us and to give us his blessing, which he enthusiastically agreed to do.

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*Concelebrating Mass at the Altar of the Tomb in St. Peter's.
L to R: Bishop O'Kelly, SJ, Archbishop Coleridge, Bishop Davis*

One thing that stood out as different from previous ad Liminas, and other visits in my experience over the years, was a distinct contrast between security presence and measures, and an almost complete lack of 'courtliness'. As we know the Holy Father is also a Head of State and

there are certain traditional courtesies and protocols that go with that. These niceties were almost completely absent in our experience this time. In my mind this did not diminish any awareness that we were in the presence of Peter, but that there was a greater 'closeness' and sense of sharing and collegiality in mission and ministry. I am not saying that this was completely absent on previous occasions, but this time it was very much evident and experienced in tangible ways. I had expected that the Holy Father's diminished command of English might have been a limiting factor, but this was not the case. He used an interpreter (a good one too) and this enabled a free and frank discussion both ways.

The 'ad Limina' programme is arranged by a special office in the Vatican, which liaises with all the dicasteries and, in the past, these meetings were spread over two weeks. This allowed a fairly measured pace and the ability to get to all the dicastery meetings if that is what one desired. For whatever reason this year the programme was compressed into one week – actually only five days because the Feast of Sts Peter and Paul is a holiday in the Vatican and it was on one of the days. It was quite impossible to get to all the dicasteries.



Swiss Guard happy to be photographed with a Military Ordinary (or with anyone really!)

However, most of us managed to get to those dicasteries that we really wanted to have time with for any special reason. Prominent among the frequently-discussed topics were matters relating to secularism, child sex abuse, the plenary council, religious freedom, euthanasia, social justice, church-state relations and interreligious dialogue.

But the pressure of the days was very much countered by the fact that all the bishops were staying together at Domus Australia where we could relax together and discuss the day's

happenings. It was also an opportunity for us to pray together in the beautiful chapel and that was a really important and rare experience for us.



Bishops waiting to be called into the Audience with the Holy Father

As mentioned, the last day of the formal 'ad Limina' time was the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. As might be expected, this is a very solemn Feast in Rome and the Mass in St Peter's Basilica (above the Tomb of Peter) is celebrated by the Pope. It is also the day on which the Holy Father receives the promises of fidelity from the newly-appointed Metropolitan Archbishops and gives them the Pallium. As Archbishop Peter Comensoli (Melbourne) was to receive the Pallium, he was a concelebrant at this Mass. What came as a wonderful surprise was that all the Australian bishops were given permission to concelebrate also – if they wished. What an extraordinary way to conclude the pilgrimage by concelebrating Mass over the Tomb of Peter on this Feast day with the Holy Father as the Principal Celebrant and all my brother Australian bishops! It was for me a particularly important moment because I was conscious of carrying you all with me into that moment of enduring worship and the joy that can only come from Jesus' Presence. In the photograph below, the cameraman has placed the top of my mitre in the centre bottom – that is how close we were. Once only – never before and never again this side of eternal life.



*Bishop Max Davis, AM, DD
Military Ordinary*

Swiss Guards

In memory of the 147 Swiss soldiers who died defending the Pope during the Sack of Rome in 1527, annually on 6 May, Swiss Guard recruits take the following Oath of Loyalty:

'I swear I will faithfully, loyally and honourably serve the Supreme Pontiff Francis and his legitimate successors, and also dedicate myself to them with all my strength, sacrificing if

necessary also my life to defend them. I assume this same commitment with regard to the Sacred College of Cardinals whenever the See is vacant.

Furthermore I promise to the Commanding Captain and my other superiors, respect, fidelity and obedience. This I swear! May God and our Holy Patrons assist me.

News from the Diocese



Fr Gabriel Ezenwa: Gabriel is a Priest of the Diocese of Lismore. Born and raised in Nigeria, he was ordained priest in June 2009 and served briefly in his homeland before coming to the Diocese of Lismore NSW. Over the last ten years, he has served at the Cathedral Parish in Lismore and in the parishes of Ballina, Wauchope and Tweed Heads.

Fr Gabriel expressed a desire to become an Air Force Chaplain. When asked how this interest developed, he states that some parishioners in Ballina and Tweed heads, who were retired RAAF Officers, spoke to him about the need for Catholic Chaplains in the Air Force and encouraged him in finding out more.

Gabriel was inducted into the Royal Australian Air Force on 9 August and has commenced his Officer Training Course at RAAF East Sale. He is due to graduate from OTS in early December this year. He has been 'pencilled in' to be posted to RAAF Williamtown at the completion of his course at the Officer's Training School.

We welcome Fr Gabriel to the Catholic Diocese and look forward to his priestly service as an Air Force Chaplain. We thank the Diocese of Lismore for releasing Gabriel for military chaplaincy.



Chaplain Graham Swan: Graham is a long-term serving RAN Officer who over several years has aspired for a change of category so as to serve as Permanent Navy Chaplain. He is a married man with family.

He embarked upon his academic formation, studying for a Bachelor's degree in Theology several years ago. This was put on hold at times due to Navy requirements. Some years ago he commenced the journey towards becoming a Permanent Deacon through the Archdiocese of Sydney's Permanent Diaconate Program. He has been assigned to various Sydney parishes for pastoral formation, concluding with St Michael's Parish, Lane Cove Parish.

In 2019 Navy permitted Graham to take on full-time study to complete his theological degree. Graham will commence in Navy as a full-time chaplain in early September and is likely to be posted to the Fleet in HMAS *Adelaide* in early 2020. For the remainder of 2019 he will complete the Initial ADF Chaplains Course and undertake chaplaincy duties at HMAS *Kuttabul* with a period at sea before Christmas. Graham will commence chaplaincy as a lay Pastoral

Associate Chaplain and during the course of 2020 he will prepare for a call to Holy Orders in the Permanent Diaconate.

Again the Military Diocese welcomes Graham to chaplaincy; he will contribute greatly to our presence in the Royal Australian Navy. Welcome Graham. We ask for your prayers for Graham as he prepares for a call to Holy Orders.

MAJGEN Peter Phillips, AO, MC, KCSG



*Bishop Max Davis and
Major General Peter Phillips*

Recently, at a meeting of the Diocesan Finance Council, a presentation was made to MAJGEN Peter Phillips to mark his retirement from that body. In making the presentation Bishop Davis acknowledged how much General Peter had influenced, guided and supported the Military Ordinariate over many years. General Peter has won the admiration and respect from many serving members, their families, veterans and the wider community by his dedication to service and his always obvious Christian life and values.

For decades this has always been the case. In most recent times his unqualified support, advice and encouragement to the bishops of both the Vicariate and Ordinariate has been both robust and wise. This was clearly exemplified when he helped enormously with the introduction of Deacons into the ADF Chaplaincy. In more recent times he willingly agreed to accept the Chairmanship of the Diocesan Finance Council at its formation in 2005 and with great wisdom and enthusiasm helped to form this new body into the vital asset that it is today.

He took leadership in developing the first Diocesan Strategic Plan and in ensuring that a proper accounting process for the Diocese's assets and finances were put in place.

At the presentation Bishop Davis declared his own deep appreciation for the personal support and encouragement of General Peter, particularly in recent years. He also remarked on the wonderful support and generous encouragement of Mrs Phillips. General Peter had resigned as Chair of the Finance Council in 2015 and willingly continued to serve on the Council until this year. We have been very fortunate to have been blessed by General and Mrs Phillips and have benefitted enormously from the generous sharing of their many gifts. We wish them both all the good things that come with more free time and leisure – including falling golf handicaps! May the Lord continue to bless them with even happier days and much joy.

Vale our Patron – The Hon Tim Fischer, AC, GCPO



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the death on 21 August 2019 of our Patron, the Hon Tim Fischer, AC, GCPO.

Mr Fischer provided this modest CV when he became patron of the Catholic Military Ordinariate in 2012:

The Hon Tim Fischer AC, was born at Lockhart on 3 May 1946, and was educated at Xavier College in Melbourne, was conscripted into the Australian Army in 1966 and served in The Vietnam War. He entered politics in 1971 and

became Deputy Prime Minister in 1996, Ambassador to the Holy See in 2008 and is now a successful book author. His other interests are notably family, farming, charity work and biking and bushwalking in Bhutan.

He also said:

In these tough times on a range of fronts, Christian faith in the Navy, Army and RAAF and Chaplain support services are more vital than ever.

One hundred years ago in WW1, 414 Chaplains of all faiths stepped up and served in the AIF; today a much smaller number of Chaplains are carrying a huge burden from the Sinai to Sydney and beyond. The Diocese needs our help and support.

Tim Fischer was an active and supportive patron. In November 2017 he travelled to Wollongong to meet with chaplains at their annual retreat. In his very special style Mr. Fischer spoke during dinner about a range of topics from his work in support of the recognition of General Monash's service, the issues that the Church must face up to after the Royal Commission, the time he spent as Australia's Ambassador to the Holy See, to emphasising once again in the strongest terms how vital is the contribution that Chaplains make to the ADF. He acknowledged that it was not easy, but promised to do all that was possible to excite support for the Ordinariate.

Last November, in correspondence with the Ordinariate on the occasion of the 2019 annual retreat, he said, 'My regards to the Chaplains, where has the year gone – say to them that their work remains vital, really vital.' He also said, 'I dedicated my *Maestro John Monash*' book to the 414 chaplains that served in WW1 in the AIF, some winning MCs.'

On departure as Australian Ambassador from the Holy See in 2012, Mr Fischer was honoured to be appointed as a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Pius IX, the highest Papal Award given to lay men and women.

Tim Fischer was an inspiring and passionate Australian who contributed so much during his life to his country, to the community and to his faith. He was a wonderful family man and our prayers and sympathy are extended to his wife Judy and sons Harrison and Dominic.

May he rest in the peace of Christ.



As we remember him – photo provided by Tim Fischer to the Ordinariate – an acknowledged 'Train Tragic'

Financial Support to the Catholic Military Diocese

Income to enable the Diocese to operate comes from a number of sources. By far the largest area is from donations from chaplains: priests donate 10 percent of their pay, while married deacons and pastoral associates provide lower amounts because of their family-support responsibilities. The annual *Chaplain Cathedralicum* provides two-thirds of the annual income for the diocese.

Other sources of income are from interest, share dividends (resulting from a bequest from Fr Peter Quilty), chapel collections and donations from other dioceses and the general public.

You can now easily make a *tax-deductable* donation by contacting the Chancery or by clicking the **DONATIONS** tab on our website at military.catholic.org.au

A Gift in Your Will

Making a gift to the Catholic Military Ordinariate is a meaningful way to fund the education of future priests and deacons and to support our clergy in providing spiritual guidance to our service men and women and their families.

To make a bequest, you should consult your solicitor or trustee company. It may be sufficient to make an addition or amendment to an existing will by adding a codicil.

A useful website for more information is: includeacharity.com.au

Serving Faithfully

(Article by Second Lieutenant Tim Fischer, AC [Ret'd], Former Ambassador to the Holy See)

This article by Tim Fischer was originally published in *Serving Faithfully* Issue No 21, August 2005.

Diggers serving in the front line today will be interested to know that there was once a Presbyterian padre who crawled forward through the wire and across the start line, minutes before 3.10 am when the Battle of Hamel commenced on 4 July 1918.

As I describe some aspects of my work as Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, including public diplomacy across the board and boosting Australia's profile, I begin with an extract from some of my previous writings relating to Anzac Day.

Padre Frank Rolland served in the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1, most notably in the 14th Battalion, and performed with extreme and characteristically understated bravery. His initial foray was in and around Cairo, Egypt, in 1915 as a chaplain captain, one of two Presbyterian chaplains in the locality.

Rolland had enlisted after hearing news of the appalling casualties incurred at the landings at Gallipoli, resigning from his parish at Noorat in Victoria. Prior to this he had served in Beltana in South Australia, having been appointed by John Flynn ('Flynn of the Inland'), and had travelled as far afield as Broome and Thursday Island with his work.

Every bit of his undoubted bush skills came to the fore when he joined the 14th Battalion on the Western Front, particularly in the Battle of the Somme, through to Hamel and beyond. John Monash, of Jerilderie and Melbourne, knew Frank Rolland and later awarded him the Military Cross in the field, a rarity in any war at any time for a non-combatant. His epic notes from the Battle of Hamel point to his courage, practical determination and absolute dedication to the diggers. General John Monash had fixed 3.10 am as zero hour for the Battle of Hamel, the planning allowing 90 minutes to capture the village and surrounding terrain. History records that it took 93 minutes and casualties were very light.

Padre Frank Rolland, with the doctor and his team of medics, pushed forward to reach the nominated place for the RAP (Regimental Aid Post) minutes before 3.10 am; as usual he was unarmed but carried stretchers, supplies and equipment to brew hot cocoa for the men. Halfway to the RAP post, the huge barrage planned by Monash commenced, with many retaliatory shells from the Germans falling nearby. Calmly and coolly, the medics, the doctor and the padre made their way to the RAP, reaching it by 3.18 am. Already the wounded had started coming in and the work commenced. Here is an extract from his written notes:

It was still almost dark but I noticed a few German shells dropping behind us and towards us, so I crept over to the doctor and advised him to push on further at once. He agreed and as we stood up and moved again, the scene was indescribably apocalyptic. The eye, and not the ear, was receptive, though I remember the machine

gun crackle shrilling through the heavy roar. Every kind of gun was at work. It was cloud and fire, lead falling in colossal showers, the hill hidden with smoke, the smoke flashed with flame; all the force of the elements seemed concentrated and hurled.

Rolland was, of course, describing the holistic approach meticulously planned by John Monash, which became the template that turned the Western Front and showed one or two British generals how to do so. Rolland went on to become the Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church and, for 25 years, Head of Geelong College. His official MC citation reads: 'For conspicuous bravery and extremely good work.'

Clearly, he is an outstanding example, not only of a military padre on the battle front, but a leader in education and in the Presbyterian Church in Australia. Here in Rome, it happens that some of my work relates to the Anglican Centre and various Protestant faiths. More broadly, one key priority is interfaith dialogue and building links between Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism and all branches of the Islamic faith.

It is a great privilege to have been appointed by the Australian government as first Rome-resident Ambassador to the Holy See, and the timing has worked out well. Australia's first Catholic saint, Mary MacKillop, will be canonised in Rome on Sunday 17 October. Please visit the Sisters of St Joseph website for more information.

Interestingly enough, around 1900, Mary MacKillop, then in her fifties, John Monash, then in his thirties, and Frank Rolland, then in his twenties, spent considerable time in Melbourne, Australia's first national capital. Who knows if they met in Collins Street, Melbourne, or Albert Street, East Melbourne, but all made enormous contributions to the fabric of Australia. Ironically, all made particularly vital contributions in relation to education.

As I continue my work here in Rome, I am conscious of the fact that these three Australians all worked in Europe, making huge efforts against incredible odds for the good of Australia. It puts the various irritants of Rome traffic jams, triple parking, weather extremes and moving to a second floor apartment into perspective.

It will amuse some to know that Padre Captain Frank Rolland, MC, who became the Very Reverend Major Sir Francis Rolland, CMG, OBE, MC, MA, was once described as 'the nearest that Protestants ever came to producing a Jesuit'. In completing this writing, I acknowledge material obtained from the biography written by B.R. Keith entitled 'The Lives of Frank Rolland' and I salute this giant of an Australian padre.

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is a newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Military Services.

It is published quarterly by the Catholic Military Ordinariate of Australia.

The Diocese comprises members of the Australian Defence Force and their families, wherever they may be serving.

Its people are scattered widely across Australia and overseas.

Serving Faithfully aims to be a means of sharing events and experiences from across the whole Diocese.

Articles are welcome to be submitted for publication to

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Remembering Bishop Alo' Morgan



Chaplain Anthony Doyle (Pastoral Associate at the Australian Defence Force Academy) recounts the life of Australia's first Catholic Military Bishop, a much-loved priest who devoted his life to Australian Servicemen and women.

Chaplain General John Aloysius Morgan

This article is reprinted with permission from *Catholic Voice*, a monthly publication of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Many readers of the *Voice* who were in their youth or early adulthood in the 90s will recall a kindly, distinguished elderly priest who seemed to appear at every youth and other Catholic event of those days.

Newcomers were introduced to him as retired Bishop Morgan and he was able to effortlessly move between the generations.

Office workers attending the Cathedral at midday would find the same man so reverently saying the mass that at times one felt as if they were an intruder rudely eavesdropping on an intimate conversation between the closest of friends.

What many of us did not then know was that the same man was also the legendary Padre Alo' Morgan who had served with distinction for three years as a chaplain in the jungles of New Guinea and went on to become the first Bishop of the Military Ordinariate (Diocese).

Aloysius Morgan was born in Victoria in 1909 and his future vocation was prefigured as a six-year-old living on the Mornington Peninsula, when he saw a boat sail into Port Phillip Bay marked with the sign of the Cross. What he saw was a Hospital Ship returning with wounded servicemen from Gallipoli. Ordained in 1934, Fr Morgan served in rural Victoria and in Melbourne and when War broke out he volunteered to be an Army Chaplain and for the work that would indelibly mark the rest of his life.

In 1942, Australian soldiers were fighting desperate battles in Papua New Guinea and Fr Morgan was soon posted there. He later described his initiation to combat:

I remember my first experience of being a Catholic Priest with soldiers locked in combat with Japanese soldiers in the jungle mountain ranges of Wau-Salamaua area of New Guinea. As I set out to climb the first steep range that would bring me to the combat area I recalled Our Lord's words

'I will be with you always...' [Matthew 28:20]. I became conscious that in God's plan and providence, I was to be the instrument by which Our Lord would be with these soldiers during their first critical months in action by his Eucharistic Presence.

On another occasion, he met a group of soldiers at a river crossing that wanted to go to mass. There was nothing that could be improvised as an altar. Fr Alo' realized that the bank was three feet above the shallow river and so he placed an altar cloth on the bank and said mass standing and kneeling in the river.

The young Padre had a deep affection for fellow chaplains, Catholic, Protestant and Jewish, and a love for all the Diggers in his care, later declaring that 'I belonged to the whole community there (New Guinea). It wasn't just the Catholic men.'

After the war, he returned to parish ministry but unsurprisingly remained in contact with many of the men that he served with and was in demand at unit reunions. He continued in the Army Reserve and later became the Catholic Chaplain-General, spending time with a new generation of Diggers, this time in Vietnam. In 1969, he was consecrated as the first bishop for the Australian military.

Upon his resignation at the end of 1984, Bishop Morgan was officially in retirement but in reality entered into a new ministry popping up at all manner of events and keeping in touch with a wide variety of veterans and many others that he had befriended. In 2008, the former youthful cricket-playing priest narrowly missed another century, dying at the age of 98.

Despite having borne onerous duties and received many honours, he remained steadfast and humble, focused on being a simple channel of God's grace.

It was not my presence that was important [on the battlefields] – it was the real presence of Our Lord during the Mass that was important. I was just the instrument – an ordained priest. Our Lord was using me to fulfil his promise – 'I will be with them...'

In 1969, the newly consecrated Bishop spoke at a Commando Association Reunion. His words to the then middle-aged veterans apply equally to all the men and women who have nobly served their country:

[A]s an Army Chaplain, I believe that our deceased companions still live not only in our memories, but in truth and reality. I recall the words once spoken to me by Field Marshal Sir William Slim: 'I believe' he told me 'that God is good to those who die in battle.' With these words of the Field Marshal in mind, I offer with you a prayer:

Lord God, Lover of men, we give you praise for all those whom we remember before you at this time. Into your hands O Lord, we commend their spirits. Let the memory of their devotion be ever an example to us, that we may be taught to live by those who learned to die, and that at last we, being faithful unto death, may receive with them the crown of life.

May he, and they, Rest in Peace.

(Chaplain Doyle acknowledged with thanks the assistance of Denis Connor, Archdiocesan Archivist, who sourced and made available Bishop Morgan's personal letters, news articles, photographs and service medals for the use of this article.)



The following extracts from *The Cross of Anzac* by Tom Johnstone give further insights into Chaplain Morgan during his time in Papua New Guinea during WW2 and as Bishop to the Forces.

‘During the Wau-Salamaua campaign in PNG Fr Morgan travelled to distant units over high and tortuous jungle terrain. He met with soldiers who were isolated. He saw his duty to meet them, to yarn with the soldiers at their outposts and provide opportunities for Catholics to receive the Sacraments.

‘(I) am happiest when I have a pack on my back and am moving from camp to camp among the Infanteers ... there is a spirit in such camps that cannot be found anywhere else – and an atmosphere that is unique. Any physical hardship is well repaid by the companionship one enjoys among soldiers perched on some hilltop in a jungle camp. And they appreciate the opportunity for Mass and the Sacraments.

love of God and his authority. Thanks be to God, that it is all over – A hopeful sign of the future I read in the fact that peace came to the world on August 15 – Our Lady’s Day. May she guide a wondering world in the days ahead.”

‘On his retirement, Bishop Morgan stepped down from membership of the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services. His fellow members (Anglican, Uniting Church, Jewish, Presbyterian and Baptist) tabled a notable minute of tribute:

‘His long years of service saw him become in a very real sense the bridge between the old and the new, both within the Australian Defence Force and within his own communion. He has the unique distinction of having participated in three distinct styles of chaplaincy, administration and oversight. His long period of service, too, has given him an unrivalled knowledge of the development of chaplaincy within the



‘Chaplain Morgan celebrating Mass for the 6th Division troops in May 1945 on the eve of the amphibious operation, which resulted in the defeat of the Japanese forces on the Wewak Peninsula

Australian War Memorial 018517

‘On 13 September 1945, GOC 6th Division, Major General Robertson accepted the surrender of the Japanese Military Commander, General Hatazo Adachi, at Wom Airfield near Wewak. In a letter written that day by Fr Morgan to his brother, he recorded:

“As I watched him slowly walking up to surrender, my mind went back to the mud and rain and jungle tracks – the sprawling bodies of lads killed in battle – the hurried burials in temporary graves – the dying at medical posts – May God have mercy upon them. We owe so much to them – it was they who paid the price. My mind as well went back to the heroic deeds and unbelievable acts of devotion and unselfishness of so many ... may we now build an Australia whose people have character and culture, a respect for themselves and those about them, a humility and kindness, good manners that are reflection of these characteristics, - and may all be worked in a respect and

Australian Defence Force. It has also given him a deep understanding of service life and the heavy demands it places upon dedicated men and women and their families. He is remembered by many with affection and gratitude for his warm humanity, his pastoral concern and his fatherly advice. His grace and wisdom have enhanced the lives and witness of chaplains beyond his own communion, as well as those within it.’



Multi-faith in Defence

RELIGIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE SERVICES

Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist faiths are now represented on the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services (RACS) after an updated Memorandum of Arrangements (MOA) was signed in Canberra on June 12.



CDF Gen Angus Campbell, centre, following the signing of the MOA for the provision of religious advice with members of the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services. Monsignor Peter O'Keefe, Vicar General of the Catholic Military Ordinariate, is on the right.

Photo Jay Cronon

The committee has provided a link between the Commonwealth and major faith groups since WW1.

It functions under an MOA between the CDF and the major faith groups and meets quarterly in Canberra.

RACS Chair Reverend Murray Earl said committee members are senior representatives of Australia's major faith groups.

'Previously RACS was constituted by Jewish and Christian members,' he said.

'This is the beginning of involvement by Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist

representatives. The major difference for RACS is that the updated MOA is now multi-faith.'

RACS provides advice to Defence on religious matters and seeks to ensure

provision is made for ADF members to practise their faith within operational constraints.

The committee also recruits and accredits chaplains suitable for ADF's multi-faith environment.

During the signing of the MOA, CDF Gen Angus Campbell said that physical, mental and spiritual health were essential for Defence personnel.

In an increasingly multicultural ADF, it is important that Defence is able to meet the service-related spiritual and religious needs of its members.
CDF Angus Campbell

INDO-PACIFIC ENDEAVOUR

The two chaplains deployed on INDO-PACIFIC ENDEAVOUR 2019 may have different religions but their roles were the same: to counsel and provide pastoral care to all on board.

Father Paul Stuart, the Senior Chaplain aboard the Royal Australian Navy's flagship HMAS *Canberra*, was on the ship as it visited Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and Indonesia.

From Malaysia onwards, he was assisted by Chaplain Mogamat Majidih Essa, the first Muslim imam in the Australian Defence Force.

'Imam Essa's presence on the ship is evidence of our diversification, both as a defence force and as a nation,' Chaplain Stuart said.

'His rank slide [which contains the Islamic crescent and star] raises awareness that we are not a monoculture in Australia ... we do not have a single religion.'

Chaplain Essa, who migrated to Australia from South Africa in 2007, joined the Navy in 2016. He is posted to HMAS *Cerberus*, where he attracts some attention.

'It is natural for people to be curious, especially when Islam is in the media all the time,' Chaplain Essa said. 'However, my role is not just focused on the religious aspect ... it's about providing counsel, support, and pastoral care.'

Chaplain Stuart agreed and said the counselling role was paramount to a ship's chaplain.

'Few sailors who knock on my door are religious,' he said. 'Rather, they see the chaplain as a trustworthy person to talk to ... a reputation we have built up over decades of going in to bat for sailors in times of war and peace.'

Chaplain Stuart, an ordained Catholic priest, joined the Navy in 2005, the sixth generation of his family to serve in the Australian or British navies.

Chaplain Essa is the first member of his family to serve in any navy.

The Australian National Imams Council nominated him



Chaplain Paul Stuart and Chaplain Mogamat Majidih Essa on Exercise Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2019 in June

for the position of chaplain after being contacted by the Navy's Chaplaincy Branch, which was diversifying its membership.

The highlight of Chaplain Essa's deployment was conducting a buka puasa ceremony on the wharf at the port of Tanjung Priok in Jakarta, Indonesia. 'The buka puasa is the breaking of the fast at sunset during Ramadan,' Chaplain Essa said.

'It was a privilege to conduct the ceremony for our Indonesian guests before they came aboard *Canberra* for the official reception.'

The head of Indonesia's navy, Admiral Siwi Sukma Adji, took part in the ceremony, as did Australia's Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan.

The tri-service IPE19 promoted security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and allowed Australia to cement its diplomatic and defence relations with regional partners.

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