

Covenant between  
The Anglican Diocese of Brisbane,  
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane  
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

On 29th May 1982, His Holiness Pope John Paul II became the first pontiff to travel to Canterbury Cathedral where he met with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie. On the second anniversary of this historical event Archbishops John Grindrod and Francis Rush signed a Common Declaration at St John's Cathedral in Brisbane, which highlighted the warm relationships that had existed between Anglican and Roman Catholic communities of the respective Dioceses of Brisbane over many years.

In the following quarter of a century, relationships have continued to grow and ecumenical cooperation has been welcomed by both communities. The respective Dioceses now wish to renew their commitment to ecumenical cooperation by committing to a Covenant relationship. The territory under the jurisdiction of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba is contained within the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane. The warm relationships that have existed between the Anglican Assistant Bishop of Brisbane (Western Region) and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Toowoomba find their expression by the inclusion of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba as a party to this Covenant.

At this celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Common Declaration, we the Roman Catholic and Anglican Archbishops of Brisbane and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Toowoomba joyfully execute this covenant of understanding. Rejoicing in the Holy Spirit who calls us to unity in Christ, and recognising our shared baptism, we commit ourselves to continue to work together to celebrate our common mission.

We will

\*encourage our local communities to pray for one another

\*celebrate an annual Ecumenical Service of Reconciliation which will focus on the restoration and growth of relationships between the Roman Catholic and Anglican Communions, to be held as near as possible to 4 November (Anglican Roman Catholic Reconciliation Day) and to be rotated around the three Cathedrals and the Anglican parishes in Toowoomba

\*convene an annual gathering of the respective Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops to include a time of shared prayer/reflection, the discussion of issues of mutual interest and concern and the sharing of a meal together

\*invite Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops to preach in each others' Cathedrals/churches on appropriate ecumenical occasions

\*promote an annual Joint Clergy Day for the clergy of the three Dioceses to reflect on the pastoral, social or theological issues which we face together

\*convene a yearly meeting of the Ecumenical Commissions and Bishops of the three Dioceses

\*explore possibilities for cooperative use of church plant and resources

\*explore possibilities for co-operation in theological education, priestly formation and lay education and training (including the sharing of visiting speakers and guests), both between ourselves and our other ecumenical partners

\*explore possibilities for co-operation in the development and presentation of church music, art, drama and appropriate public lectures and events

\*acknowledging the agreement which already exists between the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba regarding pastoral care in rural communities, continue to explore the possibilities of cooperative ministry whilst respecting the limitations imposed by our different disciplines in relation to sacramental administration

\*conduct a review and celebrate a re-affirmation of the Covenant each three years.

The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall, Archbishop of Brisbane  
The Most Reverend John A. Bathersby DD, Archbishop of Brisbane  
The Most Reverend William M. Morris DD, Bishop of Toowoomba