



A COVENANT

Between the Anglican Parish of Gresford Paterson and
the Roman Catholic Parish of Gresford

Background:

In 2004 Australian leaders of member churches of the National Council of Churches (the peak Australian ecumenical body) signed a series of agreements under the notional heading of Covenant that signified areas of co-operation and sharing that the member churches would undertake with each other. In the various sections of the ambit agreement differing churches signed pledging their co-operation at agreed levels with each other. Some segments were signed by all churches; other segments signed by those able to co-operate in the specified area. The Newcastle-Broken Bay Tri-Diocesan Covenant was developed from this national context and in regard to the very significant and long-term discussions at both international and national levels undertaken by both the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church. This Covenant was signed by the respective bishops and a representative priest and lay person from each diocese at a combined service in Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle, on 2 April, 2008.

Our Covenant:

In the spirit of the mutual recognition of what unites us as expressed in the documents of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission and the recent agreed statement of the International Anglican and Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission, and in the light of the tradition of collaboration and mutual respect which already exists between us, the Anglican Parish of Gresford Paterson and the Roman Catholic Parish of Gresford hereby enter a covenant relationship in which we commit ourselves annually to:

- * Share an ecumenical programme, which includes joining in common prayer, and interceding and caring for one another whenever possible
- * Worship together at ecumenical services at least at Pentecost and the anniversary of the signing of the covenant
- * Collaborate in addressing social issues in the local area
- * Exchange pulpits in the Gresford and Paterson churches by the respective clergy and invited lay people within an ecumenical setting
- * Hold a combined-parish dinner
- * Come together for a quiet day
- * Review and re-affirm this Covenant

Signed on the seventh day of May, 2008:

Fr Geoff Mulhearn,
Moderator, Roman Catholic
Chisholm Pastoral Region

Fr Stephen Moore,
Priest-in-charge, Anglican
Parish of Gresford Paterson

Witnessed:

Trish Bogan

Mary Horn

Kylie Gardner

Dorothy Priestley