

PARISH PROJECT 2010

Working for Love, Hope & Justice



Bishop James Leftwich. © Vivienne For/ABM2010

Bishop James Leftwich, Diocese of North Queensland Target: \$30,000 in 2010

Bishop James Leftwich is Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of North Queensland with special responsibility to Aboriginal people and other communities in the Diocese. He has been the national Aboriginal Bishop in the Anglican Church of Australia since 2001 and sits on several national committees, as well as being responsible for various parishes.

His parishes include, Pomurraw (formerly Edward River), Injinoo (formerly Cold Creek), Lockhart River, Kowanyama (formerly Mitchell River), Yarrabah and Palm Island. He belongs to the parish of St Luke's in Cairns which has a large Indigenous congregation. He recently ordained two deacons in Pomurraw parish.

Bishop James travels to these parishes, keeping in touch with its people and offering pastoral support, particularly to Aboriginal members. He feels there is a real spiritual need within the communities in his Diocese. He keeps busy, visiting homes and talking to people about some of the difficulties they face, as well as performing confirmations and other duties.

"There's a lot of work to be done with the congregation, but we're very happy with the diaconry. Up at Pomurraw, the church was packed and the church is growing, because we've got full-time priests there. They are good priests and they do the work."

There is a need to minister to these people in the community, many who are unemployed or sick and find it difficult to cope with life. Challenges in the Church are finding people to carry out this ministry and lack of money for training priests and paying stipends.

ABM supports Bishop James's ministry with funding for travel costs and his stipend. It is important that he continues his work to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders along their spiritual paths, and to help the Church's ministry to grow.

What your gift can do:

- **\$200** is the cost of a return flight from Townsville to Palm Island
- **\$30,000** is the Bishop's annual stipend

Prayer Points:

- Pray for Bishop James Leftwich, his wife Lala and family
- Pray that Bishop James will be able to visit more communities within his Diocese through this program
- Pray for all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglicans in the Diocese of North Queensland

"In a spectacular blending of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian Anglican cultures, James Randolph Leftwich was consecrated as a Bishop in the Church of God by Clyde Wood, Bishop of North Queensland (and acting Metropolitan of the Province of Queensland), on Sunday 16 September 2001 at St Alban's Church, Yarrabah.

The people of Yarrabah, Queensland had restored their historic church with great dedication and energy for this special occasion and a wonderful welcome was extended to all who attended.

Aboriginal didgeridoo and clapstick music accompanied the long processions of bishops, clergy and indigenous elders into the church. St Alban's was packed with visitors from all over the Diocese of North Queensland and other parts of Australia, as well as members of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council."

(Anglican Church of Australia General Synod
26 September 2001)

"We are very concerned that our priests don't get paid. There are only two priests in the whole Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Diocese (community) that get paid." – **Bishop James Leftwich**



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OUR VISION ABM wants to see people everywhere experience the wholeness of life God offers in Jesus Christ, and to this end support our partners as they participate in God's mission.

OUR PROFILE ABM is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia.

We work with Anglican Church Partners to develop and provide for the spiritual, social and material needs of people, both overseas and within Indigenous communities in Australia. We help the Anglican Church and the wider community realise and respond to the call for each of us to be a part of God's hope for the world.