

Bishop Henry Jerrim, rector, 1961-1970

Henry Jerrim, later assistant bishop of Tasmania, was much loved and respected during his time at St. John's. Older parishioners still have warm memories of his ministry.

Henry Jerrim - 30 Years a Bishop - *Tasmanian Anglican Dec. 2004*

Henry Jerrim was consecrated a bishop in St David's Cathedral on 21 December 1974. Exactly 30 years later a service was held in the cathedral, celebrating this occasion and recognising Bishop Henry's long and faithful service.

Henry Jerrim was born, raised, educated and became a curate all in the same parish - Holy Trinity, Hobart. This must be some sort of record! After a short time as priest in charge of the Parish of Smithton, Henry spent two years as an army chaplain with the Second AIF. After the war Henry served at Cullenswood, Cygnet, Devonport, St Stephen's Sandy Bay and then St. John's Launceston where he became Archdeacon of Launceston.

On being appointed Archdeacon of Hobart in 1970, Henry also became rector of West Hobart. He expected to remain in these positions until his retirement. But the increasing workload on Bishop Robert Davies led to Henry's being invited to become Robert's assistant.

On St Thomas' Day 1974, Henry was consecrated by the Primate, Archbishop Frank Woods assisted by Bishops Robert Davies, Geoffrey Cranswick and Gerald Muston. At the time of his consecration Henry received the pectoral cross and pastoral staff that once belonged to his friend and mentor, William Barrett, Tasmania's first assistant bishop.

The years 1975 - 1978 were busy ones with Henry's undertaking the combined duties of Bishop and Archdeacon. As Assistant Bishop, Henry moved around Tasmania frequently, sometimes participating in three confirmation services in one day. As Archdeacon of Hobart Henry visited the 33 southern parishes on a regular basis.

In 1978, while travelling overseas with his wife Prue, Henry attended a senior clergy conference and was invited to celebrate communion at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle and also at Coventry Cathedral.

After Bishop Davies' retirement in June 1981 Henry became Bishop Administrator, responsible for the diocese while a new bishop was elected. The following January, Vernon Cornish, Assistant Bishop of Perth, moved with his wife Dell to Hobart where Vernon was to be enthroned as Bishop of Tasmania shortly afterwards. Tragically, a few days later, Vernon died suddenly and unexpectedly of a heart attack. So Henry continued as Bishop Administrator until August 1982 when Bishop Phillip Newell was consecrated.

Henry served as Assistant Bishop and Bishop Administrator for ten years. During much of that time he was also Archdeacon of Hobart and, for a time also acted as Diocesan Registrar and Dean of Hobart. During all this time he was supported by his much-loved wife, Prue.

In 1984 Henry was awarded an OBE for services to the church and to the community.

Bishop Henry retired in 1985. Since then he has kept actively involved in church life and, until recently, contributing much to the ongoing life of the cathedral. Some time after Prue died in 2002, Bishop Henry moved to the Manor at Vaucluse Gardens in South Hobart.

A service celebrating Bishop Henry's 30 years as a bishop took place on Tuesday 21 December at St David's Cathedral, followed by a light lunch in Church House.

Henry Jerrim - 30 years on - 2004

After his consecration in 1974, Bishop Henry Jerrim with Archbishop Frank Woods (left) and Bishop Robert Davies

Bishop Henry Jerrim: my eulogy

- Posted on [June 21, 2009](#) by [Bishop John Harrower](#)

Full URL: <http://imaginarydiocese.org/bishopjohn/2009/06/21/bishop-henry-jerrim-my-eulogy/>

A Service of Thanksgiving to God for the life of Bishop Henry Allingham Jerrim, OBE, ED, ThL, 21/3/1916 – 22/5/2009 was held at St David's Cathedral Hobart on June 18. Henry's son, Peter, gave an outstanding eulogy to an outstanding 'Hobart man'. Bishops Alf Chipman and Phillip Newell shared moving tributes to a humble and dedicated servant of Jesus Christ. I concluded the eulogies with the following words,

Bishop Henry Jerrim was gentle, wise and caring.

Henry would come and sit at the table in my office:

'How's it going, John?'

I'd share the good news.

'And how's it going, John?' he would repeat, his face all smiles.

After I had opened up, he would respond,

'Ah, Keep going. Keep going.'

During his final day I visited him with Father David O'Neill. Henry was unconscious, his children were gathered, we spoke and shared. Holding Henry's hand, I prayed and we recounted some stories – hoping he could hear!

Leaving his room I asked a nurse for directions and she kindly offered to show me the way. I commented on Bishop Henry and immediately the nurse enthused, 'Henry is so caring, pleasant and considerate. When I am trying to get relief staff, my trump card to get them to come in is to say that Henry is on their duty list! Bishop Henry is a special man.'

I will never forget an earlier day, around his 88th birthday, when he told me of his stumbling reading of the prayers and lack of capacity to properly lead worship at the Cathedral. With tears in his eyes he told me, 'I can't help you any more at the Cathedral. I'm sorry.'

But his inability to lead public worship did not stop his personal worship.

Whenever I visited Bishop Henry his Bible and Prayer Book were by his side.

When we celebrated Holy Communion in his room he did not need the Prayer Book as the words of worship were in his heart and mind.

Jesus Christ filled Bishop Henry's heart and mind.

Jesus Christ was the vision that guided his life.

As we come now to sing the ancient Irish hymn, possibly from the 8th Century (tr. by Mary E. Byrne),

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;

We are reminded that Jesus Christ was the vision that inspired Bishop Henry Jerrim's life.

May the vision of Jesus Christ inspire our lives, also.

Let us stand to sing, *Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.*

See also Bishop Newell's eulogy at [14 Oct 2009 - Tasmanian Anglican - Bishop Henry Allingham Jerrim OBE, ED - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)