

Eucharist to farewell Archbishop Hollingworth

St John s Cathedral Sunday 24 June 2001 2.00pm

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC, Diocesan Chancellor

I have been asked to speak this afternoon on behalf of the laity of the Diocese. I would not presume to speak on their behalf: I would be surprised however if most lay persons within the Diocese did not share most of the following sentiments.

Hyperbole is the usual flavour of what is said on occasions like these, although not evident to this point today. As that dear friend of Anglicans, Mr Anthony Trollope once said, "than flattery nothing is more useless or ignoble". I will seek to avoid that in favour of sincerity.

We are, Archbishop and Ann, most grateful for your 11 years ministry here.

I would suggest high energy and inspiring self-assurance as the hallmarks of our departing Archbishop s episcopal style. The Church has undoubtedly shared, with him, the benefit of his vibrant, popular personal image. While that image may not have got more people regularly into the pews, it has, I believe, made many more people aware of and interested in the mission of the Church.

Unbowed by a paucity of resources, the Archbishop has over the decade moved on steadfastly, achieving progressively, especially in the social welfare area, in the development of new Anglican schools, and in extending the fabric of this Cathedral Church; and notably on the theological side, he has promoted a less discriminatory approach to ordination.

I have been personally most interested and honoured to have served as Diocesan Chancellor during His Grace s period here. For what I would regrettably see as a comparatively small contribution on my part, his courteous and generous expression of gratitude has been unfailing and that has shown a measure of the man. I know that the experience of the General Manager, Mr Bernard Yorke, has been similar, and Mr Yorke has asked me to say as much.

My own abiding impression of Peter Hollingworth, our 11th Archbishop to have been enthroned, will remain this: his vibrant and inspiring endurance in an under-resourced and rather struggling Diocese.

He now assumes a different role. To this mind it is ultimately less significant than the spiritually oriented role he relinquishes. But it is nevertheless a role of considerable importance in the secular life of the nation and I am sure the Archbishop will exhibit the unfeigned humility necessary to its truly effective discharge.

For his most valuable contribution as Archbishop of Brisbane, and for Ann s substantial support, I express gratitude, and add an expression of sincere best wishes as to the discharge of their new role.