

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



DIOCESE OF POLYNESIA HIGHLIGHTS

8th Bishop of Polynesia's Enthronement

The main highlight of 2023 was when, The Most Reverend Sione Silongo Uluilakepa was enthroned as the 8th Bishop of Polynesia, completing the triad of Primates for the Province of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia. Archbishop Sione succeeded the Late Archbishop Fereimi Cama after almost three years of the interim period. His appointment has brought renewed confidence and hope and a fresh beginning to the Diocese of Polynesia.



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41st Synod of the Diocese of Polynesia



The 41st Synod of the Diocese of Polynesia was convened and that marked the First Synod of the 8th Bishop of Polynesia, Archbishop Sione, following a four-year hiatus. Representatives from across the Diocese were in attendance for the occasion, held from the 7th to the 11th of May. The opening service of the Synod was led by the Archbishop, together with the Sunday Schools and young people from the Archdeaconry of Suva and Ovalau.

bishop's address underscored the need for the Diocese to re-evaluate its operations, strengthen its spiritual foundations, and reinvigorate its sense of purpose.

The Archbishop's Charge serves as a blueprint for the Diocese, outlining a roadmap for the future that seeks to address challenges and opportunities alike. Through the implementation of these priorities, the Diocese of Polynesia can look forward to building a stronger, more resilient church that is better equipped to serve and fulfill its mission.



With the opening of the Synod, Archbishop Sione in his Charge emphasized the priorities of the Diocese to REVIEW, REINFORCE, and REVITALISE its mission and ministry, seeking to "strive to be a Church that is relevant, responsive, inclusive, and resilient." The Arch-

"We strive to be a Church that is relevant, responsive, inclusive and resilient."

Archbishop Sione's First Official Visits to different parts of the Diocese



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Installation, Ordinations and Confirmations



The COVID-19 pandemic that has ravaged the world in 2020 has caused significant disruptions in the Diocese, including delays in the ordination of six deacons in Suva, three in Tonga and one in Auckland. However, these delays have provided an opportunity for the deacons to reflect on their journey and better prepare themselves for their new roles.

During their ordinations, these new Priests were reminded that ministry is a reflection of Christ's example, who humbly washed his disciples' feet using a basin and towel.

There was also installation of two new Archdeacons and confirmations in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and New Zealand.



Standing Committee



The opening meeting of the Diocesan Standing Committee was convened immediately following the Diocesan Synod. The Committee reconvened in November for its second meeting.



Season of Creation



In 2023, the Diocese commemorated the Season of Creation with the theme "Holy Spirit Hovers Over the Moana." This theme emphasized the significance of new insights and understanding as the sacred gift of the ocean. As a response to the Season of Creation, parishes and young people across the Diocese initiated their own cleanup campaigns. The aim of these campaigns was to promote environmental conservation and cleanliness. This initiative showcases the Diocese's commitment to environmental stewardship and its desire to cultivate responsible behavior in young people and the church.



Appointment of different Committee

- Ministry Committee
- Liturgical Committee
- Finance Committee
- MAST Management Committee

Anglican Mission Board Visit



Anglican Indigenous Leadership Initiative



St John's College Trust Board Visit



The members of the St. John's College Trust Board embarked on a visit to the Diocese of Polynesia. The purpose of the visit was to identify areas in need of development and improvement. The delegation visited various schools in Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa to gain firsthand insight into the challenges faced by the Diocese in these areas. The visit was motivated by a desire to enhance the quality of theological education and the educational system in the Diocese of Polynesia.



General Synod Standing Committee— Tonga



The General Synod Standing Committee was convened in Tonga, where a range of official matters were discussed. In addition, a presentation on CIVA was delivered by the young people, alongside a cleanup activity carried out at the waterfront of Nuku'alofa. The event was marked by its emphasis on Stewardship, as well as the need to address important issues in response to Climate Change and Climate Resilience.

Te Pae Tawhiti—Suva



The Te Pae Tawhiti conference was convened with the purpose of examining theological education and ministry within the Diocese of Polynesia. Its primary objective was to examine the horizon and identify the challenges that it presents for the present. As we respond to these challenges, we mustn't lose sight of what is truly valuable.



Oceania Fono: hosted by the Church of Melanesia



"Look to the horizon, and take hold of the challenges it has for today. As we respond to today, do not lose hold of what is precious."

Tikanga Youth Exchange 2023



More than fifty young individuals representing Tikanga Maori, Tikanga Pakeha, and Tikanga Pasifika congregated in the MAST in Suva for an extensive five-day program. This gathering aimed to celebrate and exchange cultural gifts and talents while promoting fellowship. The event's overarching theme encompassed leadership, fellowship, and stewardship. We extend our utmost prayers and blessings to these young individuals as they continue to discern and cultivate their abilities to become exceptional leaders and stewards.



Bishop's Conference

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

The events in this volume highlighted God's gift to us as people of God in how we share, participate and continue to embody those gifts in our daily lives for 2023. Those gifts were the embodiment of the greatest gift that we received on the day of Christmas.

As we journey to 2024, we are greeted by the season of Epiphany. We are called to *manifest* the Baby Jesus Christ to the world. May we continue following the star that led the 3 Wise Men to Christ so that we make Christ truly incarnated and manifest in our words and deeds.

May You All have a Blessed and a Spirit fill Prosperous New Year.

"O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, were we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever". Amen



A convocation of new bishops from across the Anglican Communion was held at Canterbury Cathedral, with Archbishop Sione counted among the distinguished attendees and the only Primate attended.

Installment of the Diocesan Bishop for Lincoln

The presence of Archbishop Sione in the installation of the new Diocesan Bishop for Lincoln endorses the renewal of the partnership between the two Dioceses and the acknowledgement of their commonness in the issue of Climate Change.



Anglican Diocese of Polynesia



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