

RIGHT REV'D IAN LAMBERT APPOINTED NEW ADF BISHOP



Mon 8 April 2013

Anglican Primate, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, has announced that Bishop Ian Lambert has accepted his invitation to become Bishop to the Defence Forces.

Bishop Ian is Regional Bishop for the Coast, Southern Monaro and Snowy and rector of Bateman's Bay, but prior to ordination he served as an officer in the Department of Defence, Australian Regular Army, for 20 years.

"I am sure that, with his pastoral and military experience, Ian will make a fine Bishop to the Defence Force", Archbishop Aspinall said.

Admitting the move may surprise many in the Diocese, Bishop Ian admitted the possibility of this appointment was "not on my radar in 2012".

"This was not an easy decision, and was not taken without the full knowledge of Bishop Stuart [Robinson], Reverend Colin Walters and my prayer support people", he said. "After 16 years of loving support from the people of Batemans Bay, it was indeed a tough decision, but we believe the right decision for Batemans Bay and ourselves. We believe that the Batemans Bay Parish and town, is in critical stage of its development and requires 'fresh eyes and fresh legs', as it prepares to launch into the next season."

Bishop Ian described it as an "immense privilege to serve God" in Batemans Bay "with wonderful people seeking after God and His loving purpose".

"The friendship of my fellow clergy along the coast and into the mountains, has made my ministry most enjoyable - and dare I say it, easy at times", he said.

Bishop Stuart responds

In a pastoral letter to the Diocese, Bishop of Canberra & Goulburn, Stuart Robinson said that while the Lamberts' "move from Bateman's Bay will be a very significant loss to the parish, region and our diocese, I am also quite certain that the Lord has called the Lamberts to this new and strategic ministry".

Bishop Ian will be responsible for more than 60 chaplains and their families based in Australia and abroad and he will serve as a liaison between the most senior military personnel and government organisations and the Anglican Church.

His last service at Batemans Bay will be on Sunday, May 19.

“Do please pray for Bishop Ian and [his wife] Jill and the dear saints at Bateman’s Bay and the wider region during this time of very significant transition”, Bishop Stuart says.

Bishop Ian says he plans to host a final Solomon's Mission with the Pastors of Batemans Bay to Honiara in June and then relocate to Canberra later that month.