

Rev Deacon Bruce Talbot

Ordained 29 June 2006



I was ordained in Perth Archdiocese on the Feast of Ss Peter & Paul 29th June 2006 together with 13 other deacons.

I am supported by my wife Deborah. We have 6 children and 7 grandchildren who also support my ministry. I am ministering at St Thomas More Parish Bateman WA, a large parish in the Perth Archdiocese. I have previously assisted in the Wilson Parish 1 weekend per month.

Prior to ordination I was an environmental scientist with a major mining company where I was responsible for a number of large environment projects.

My diaconal studies took place at St Charles Seminary in Guildford.

One of the highlights since ordination was to celebrate the marriage of my second son Nathan. This was a very moving experience for the whole family as I welcomed a new daughter into the family. Other highlights include the baptisms of our grandchildren and marriages of other close family members.

My involvement in the parish includes being a member of the Parish Council, Liturgy Committee, School Board, Building Maintenance Committee, amongst others The RCIA programme for the parish is one of my responsibilities in collaboration with a number of very talented parishioners. Each Easter the parish welcomes about 15 new Catholics into our community.

Major celebrations of Easter and Christmas often have over 5,000 people attending. The outdoor Christmas Children's Mass usually has 3500-4000 people sitting on rugs and chairs. To stand at the altar looking over this vast crowd is a very humbling experience. This is followed by a 9.30pm and Midnight Mass with well over 1000 people attending each of these as well as 3 Masses on Christmas day that usually overflow the church.

This vibrant multicultural community is an exciting place to be a part of with many challenges and joys constantly arising. There is a large Asian community that celebrates the Chinese New Year as well as an active Indian community with their own music ministry. The parish has people from over 160 different countries and nationalities and promotes the parish motto of "A place of welcome to all, a place of service to all" which dovetails beautifully into the diaconal ethos.

I also attended the World Youth Day in Sydney along with about 115 youth from our Parish including two of my daughters. This was a very moving experience and I was selected to assist with Communion at the final Mass. Walking up the long ramp to the sanctuary with other deacons was a very moving experience and one I will never forget. In 2011 I was fortunate to experience WYD in Madrid Spain that was energy packed as only the Spanish can do.

I am blessed to have worked with 3 very supportive parish priests and have become firm friends with them and the assistant priests who have been part of the parish community over the years.

In 2014 I had the privilege of being elected as the WA representative for the National Association of Deacons.