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Sunday 21 May 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It is with great pleasure I announce that I have appointed The Rev'd Canon Naomi Cooke as the next Dean of Grafton.

The Dean of Grafton is a Senior Appointment in the Diocese. As well as being responsible for the Cathedral Church, the Dean is a member of the Senior Leadership Team of the Diocese and will help the Cathedral and Diocesan communities understand and respond to the challenges of modern ministry and mission on the North Coast of NSW. I know that Canon Naomi has a strong sense of vocation to this task.

Canon Naomi brings over two decades of ministry experience to her new role as Dean. Since 2016 she has been School Chaplain at Bishop Druitt College, an Anglican School in the Diocese of Grafton at Coffs Harbour. She has also been a member of Cathedral Chapter since 2020. During her time as chaplain Naomi has offered outstanding leadership within the school, as well as being a pastorally caring priest. She has offered a genuinely creative and inclusive ministry to the whole school community.

Before coming to Grafton Diocese, Naomi was Chaplain at Trinity Anglican School and at MLC School in Sydney.

Naomi is passionate about holding together the breadth of Anglicanism with respectful and robust diversity. She has been instrumental in the journey towards developing a Reconciliation Action Plan for the diocese and building reconciliation with First Nations communities. Naomi is also a member of the Ecumenical Relations Commission of General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia. Her ministry incorporates Godly Play, Taize prayer, Prayer spaces, and labyrinth reflections.

As Dean of Christ Church Cathedral Grafton, Naomi has a vision for how the Cathedral might shine its light as an inspiring gathering place for the wider community, with a ministry that embraces the liturgical legacy of the Cathedral while also exploring innovative ways to connect with and serve the community. She is excited about supporting and leading the Cathedral parish's commitment to *compassionate action for the common good*.

Naomi's appointment is exciting news for the Cathedral community, the City of Grafton, the Diocese and indeed the wider Anglican Church of Australia.

Naomi's installation as Dean will take place at Christ Church Cathedral Grafton on Saturday 12 August at 11.00am This will be an opportunity for the whole diocese, as well as representatives from the wider Anglican Church of Australia, to come together to mark the beginning of this new ministry.



I am sure that you will want to join with me in praying for Naomi, her husband John, son Santiago (14), daughter Sierra (11), and son Emilio (8) as Naomi prepares to take up this new ministry. Please also pray for the Cathedral community as they prepare to embrace Naomi as their new Dean.

Yours in Christ



Dr Murray Harvey  
**Bishop of Grafton**



The Rev'd Canon Naomi Cooke

