

Graeme R Davis*, Lismore

I was born in the Dongrayald Private Hospital in Lismore NSW, 6th July 1945, to a second generation Irish rural family. I was educated in the public system and enlisted at the age of seventeen into the Australian Regular Army on 25 February 1963 and posted to the 3rd Bn Royal Australian Regiment {3~ RAR} Qld.

I subsequently deployed to South Vietnam (Nui Dat) with 6 RAR in April 1966 and after an unfortunate encounter on the 18th August I was repatriated back to Australia in September the same year. My military service ended on obtaining the age of 55 with that rank of substantive Major.



I am married to Rosemary (31 December 1966) and we have two sons' both married to sweet young ladies and have been gifted with one special "gorgeous" granddaughter, (16 months old)

I seriously commenced my discernment and journey for the **permanent diaconate** in the Archdiocese of Brisbane mid 1999 on encouragement from brother Officers in the ADF and others.

This entry into formation was via study in Clinical Pastoral Education ~ Hospital Chaplaincy. (2 Units) My next discovery was taking up enrolment for a diploma in Systematic Theology (IFE Brisbane) and ultimately formal admission into ACU (National) for a Bachelor of Theology.

Around that same time I was accepted into formation and commenced my practical liturgical study for the Lismore diocese where I was in due course ordained by Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett DD on the Feast of St. Augustine of Hippo (28 August) 2007. *Deo Gratis*

On my day of Ordination I was appointed to exercise a pastoral ministry in the Cathedral parish of St Carthages Lismore.

My Faculty on ordination sets out my duties for parish ministry as; proclamation of the Gospel in the Sacred Liturgy; preaching; Chaplaincy to two hospitals; Chaplain to the Ambulance Service of NSW (Northern Region) Chaplain to the provincial Rescue Helicopter service, Chaplain to the Ex-Service community and three Aged Care facilities. I have been the Diocesan Director for Caritas Australia since 2000. I sit on the Diocesan Pastoral Council as well as the parish council and related working parties.

My interest outside my immediate family and vocation is social justice; reading and classical and time-honoured church music.

Persons who have had a foremost influence in my journey, I would have to say without question is my wife and family (without their support I don't believe I could deliver a sustainable outcome in public ministry). Pope John Paul II, Archbishop Oscar A. Romero, Military Chaplains' and many of you permanent deacons from around the nation.

** R is very important in emails we discovered. Ed.*