

## Remembering the Timeline for 1992

It looks like 2012 might be as momentous a year as in 1992.

23<sup>rd</sup> December 1991, Bp Owen Dowling announced his plans to ordain 11 women deacons to the priesthood on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1992.

17<sup>th</sup> January 1992, three members of General Synod seek an injunction from the NSW Supreme Court to stop Bp Dowling ordaining the women. Bp Dowling said he would proceed unless the injunction was granted.

23<sup>rd</sup> January 1992, Archbishop Peter Carnley of Perth announces he will ordain women as priests on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1992.

24<sup>th</sup> January 1992, Rev'd Dawn Kenyon, a priest ordained in New Zealand is inducted as priest in charge of the parish of Southern Cross, Diocese of Perth.

28<sup>th</sup> January 1992, Justice Rogers of the NSW Supreme Court rejects the application for an injunction. The applicants immediately lodge an appeal.

30<sup>th</sup> January 1992. The NSW Court of Appeal hears the appeal and reserves judgement until 1.00pm the next day. The women and men to be ordained begin their retreat.

31<sup>st</sup> January 1992. An injunction is granted by the NSW Court of Appeal to stop Bp Dowling ordaining the women until the full case is heard.

2<sup>nd</sup> February 1992. In the morning in most Cathedrals 11 red roses honoured the women who were to be ordained. In the afternoon a rally preceded the ordination service at Goulburn Cathedral. Eleven women processed into the Cathedral as deacons alongside six men. Bp Dowling examined them and found them fit for the office of priest. In accordance with the injunction, Bp Dowling then ordained six men as priests, the women processed out as deacons.

4<sup>th</sup> March 1992. The three plaintiffs in the NSW case and another from West Australia seek an injunction in the WA Supreme Court to prevent Abp Peter Carnley ordaining women as priests.

6<sup>th</sup> March 1992. The injunction is refused. Application for an appeal is refused.

7<sup>th</sup> March 1992. 10.00am, St George's Cathedral, Perth. Abp Peter Carnley ordained Betty Arney, Elizabeth Couche, Kay Goldsworthy, Pam Halbert, Jennifer Hall, Terry Milne, Judy Peterkin, Catherine Pinner, Joyce Polson and Robin Tandy. The first women to be ordained as priests in Australia.

March 1992. A group from MOW attended Worldwide Anglican Encounter in Salvador, Bahia Province, Brazil.

Fast forward to November 1992

21<sup>st</sup> November 1992. The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia passed legislation to remove existing impediments to the ordination of women in Australia.

In the following weeks that legislation was ratified by synods in Adelaide, Bathurst, Bendigo, Brisbane, Canberra-Goulburn, Melbourne, Newcastle, Rockhampton and Tasmania.

December 1992. 80 women were ordained as priests in these dioceses in eleven separate ordinations starting in Adelaide on 5<sup>th</sup> December and ending in Newcastle, Melbourne and Tasmania on 21<sup>st</sup> December.