



YOUTH MEANT TO STIR

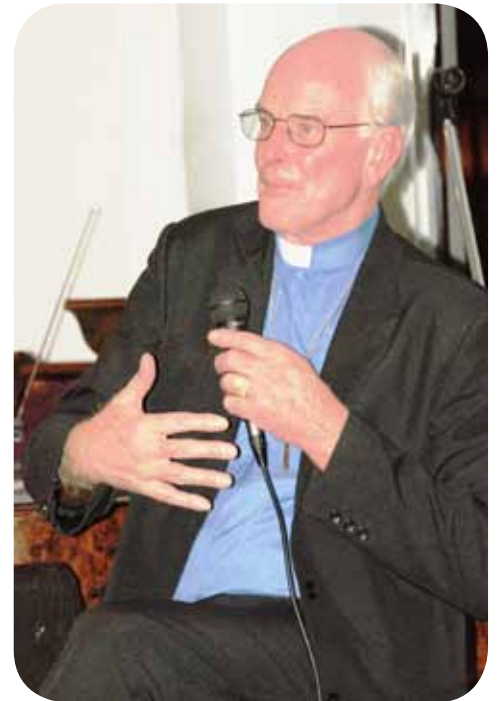
While Theology on Tap is billed as an opportunity for young people, the group listening to guest speaker Bishop Bill Wright at the Kent Hotel on 18 July spanned many decades! Obviously people welcomed the opportunity to meet their new pastor and Bishop Bill responded by telling stories and sharing his views in a host of areas. Mike Taylor interviewed the bishop before inviting questions from the large crowd gathered.

Bishop Bill is a thoughtful man and those present would have felt that they had learned much by the end of the evening.

Just a few insights:

- I'm very grateful to my predecessor.
- I hope we're past the most difficult times.
- The challenges include the damage to the standing of the Church, ageing congregations and ageing clergy.
- People are terribly connected except they never see each other. There's something in the 'face to face'.
- There is nothing more pathetic than elderly clergymen trying to look groovy!
- It's our core business that's going to inspire. Jesus gave us a new way of being human.
- [re rural parishes] A great deal will depend on how determined the people are.
- The role of youth is to stir, to rebel, to challenge, to tell me where I'm going wrong. They should be kicking against things!
- A vision for our diocesan church? Catholic communities would be known for their outward looking role: 'The Catholics will help you.'
- The heart of the church is what goes on in local communities.
- I like the fundamental Catholic thing that we're all in the mess together.
- There's a lot that can, and should, be left in God's hands.
- A vision for schools? Good Religious Education programs taught by people who believe, with the responsibility for the school's Catholicity resting on the whole school, not the RE Department; the right staff, the right leadership; seriousness of intent as an arm of the Church's ministry.

And the matter of the Knights? "I'm a lapsed League person" so clearly there's work to be done there!



The next Theology on Tap will be at the Kent Hotel, Beaumont St Hamilton, on Monday 15 August at 6.30pm. The guest speaker will be Edmond Nixon CSsR.