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Front Cover Image: Ringing the bell to celebrate the Coming of the Light at All Souls  
& St Bartholomew's Church on Thursday Island. © Brad Chapman, ABM.

# Easter Gift 2023



Help support the  
proclamation of the  
Coming of the Light  
this Easter!



[www.abmission.org/Easter2023](http://www.abmission.org/Easter2023)

This Easter, your gift will support the work of the “Coming of the Light” in the Torres Strait.

The Coming of the Light is a celebration of the Gospel in Australia and the contribution of Torres Strait Islander people, culture, and spirituality to the wider church and society.

The Anglican Church ordained the first Torres Strait Islander priests in 1925, almost 100 years ago, and on 1 July 1986 Kiwami Dai was consecrated as the first Torres Strait Islander bishop.

In 2021, which marked the 150th anniversary of the Coming of the Light to the Torres Strait, the Diocese of North Queensland moved to establish a Torres Strait Islander ministry council to give autonomy over local church matters to Torres Strait Islander Anglicans. This council is known as the Meriba Maygi Zageth Anglican Council. “Meriba” means “Our” in the language of the Eastern Torres Strait Islands, and “Maygi Zageth” means “Holy Work” in the languages of the Central and Western Torres Strait Islands. Hence the name means “Our Holy Work” and is inclusive of language groups. The council is still in its early stages of establishment, with members coming together from across the Torres Strait to determine priorities and plans for their collective work.

Celebrating the Coming of the Light at All Souls & St Bartholomew's Church on Thursday Island. © Brad Chapman, ABM.



Bishop Keith Joseph, Diocese of North Queensland, with Brother Kelliot, Melanesian Brotherhood. © Brad Chapman, ABM.

Given the close cultural links between the Torres Strait and parts of Melanesia, churches in the Torres Strait have been encouraged by the re-establishment of a Melanesian Brothers household on Thursday Island. Brothers come from Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands to carry out their mission at the invitation of churches and communities across the Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula.

Brother Kelliot, a Melanesian Brother who, until recently, served as Priest-in-Charge of All Souls and St Bartholomew's Church on Thursday Island, says, “I am happy that I was given this position as a Priest-in-Charge, and I am enjoying being able to make my own program and attending to the ministry. I make visits to the hospital and the old peoples' home. I celebrate and preach, taking communion out for those who are unable to come to the church... Once a month I visit Darnley Island (Erub) to take services there...We also go out and help people who need assistance, like manual labour. In the Melanesian Brotherhood we call this our ‘labour of love’.

“When I was told to come to Australia...This made me think more deeply into my calling and I put my trust in God that God would provide me everything I needed.

“One of the good things that I see is the different churches working together hand in hand.”

The altar of All Souls & St Bartholomew's Church, Thursday Island. © Brad Chapman, ABM.



Across the island groups of the Torres Strait and as part of a widespread diaspora, Torres Strait Islander Anglicans make a vibrant and vital contribution to our national church family.

Funds given to this appeal will support both the Meriba Maygi Zageth Anglican Council and the work of new Melanesian Brothers in the Torres Strait.

**Help support the continuing proclamation of the Coming of the Light this Easter!**



In 2023 we hope to raise **\$50,000**

This appeal is Not **Tax-deductible**



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