

# CONSECRATED TO THE LORD

## A Study Series for Lent

This study series has been prepared by the Anglican Bishop of Auckland, Bishop Ross Bay. It is part of a year of preparation and anticipation leading to the consecration of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Auckland. As part of the “Journey to Consecration” we have the opportunity to consider what it means to be a people whom God has consecrated for a life in Christ and for service to the world.

The series is in four parts, and has been designed to be used in local church settings during Lent. It could be used in a home group setting with people studying the material together, or in a larger group with the material being presented by a leader and then discussed by other participants.

It is the tradition of the two communities of Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral and St Patrick’s Catholic Cathedral to meet together during Lent for study. They will be using this material this Lent, and welcome any other people from ministry units to join them at Holy Trinity Cathedral on the four Wednesday evenings beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Consecration is about setting apart for holy purposes, for the purposes of God. In some respects, to set apart a place for God is inconsistent with our belief in the presence of God which pervades all things. There is no place from which the presence of God is absent. And yet human beings, restricted by time and place, also need places and objects that can help to focus our awareness of God’s presence.

The four studies will begin by leading us through the biblical roots of the idea of consecration from the Hebrew tradition. They will go on to consider how Jesus was consecrated for his task of mission. They will then consider how we discern what is holy, or consecrated. Finally, they will invite us to answer the call to be a consecrated people, playing our part in the purposes of God in the world.

Each study has a number of pieces of Scripture that will be studied, and it will be helpful for people to have read those passages in advance. Do not feel obliged to use all the Scripture material. It is provided to offer a range for the purpose of each study.

An approach for use in groups is as follows.

- ❖ Open with prayer, either extempore or using a Daily Office from the prayer book.
- ❖ Read the reflection, or a group leader could offer their own based on the theme.
- ❖ Study the Scriptures. Talk about the passages together and use the notes as you interpret what you are reading.
- ❖ Discuss the ideas using the questions, perhaps breaking up into smaller groups if the overall group is larger, to give everyone the chance to contribute.
- ❖ Draw together to share any insights from small groups, then close the evening with prayer.