



**Bev Hincks**  
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Bev is the daughter of a spiritually wise, environmentally aware Catholic mother and a Quaker/Anglican father with no time for organised religion. She was educated in state schools but her mother ensured that all the children understood the 'green catechism' thoroughly. Mass was central and a priest with an ecumenical outlook sowed seeds that have flourished throughout Bev's life.

Her profession of metallurgy led to research in London, opening doors to history, art, religion and culture. Visiting Rome affirmed Bev's pride in being a distinctively Australian Catholic.

In 1959 Bev married Kevin, a practising Anglican. She describes the Second Vatican Council as "pulling the cork on a champagne bottle". Openness to other denominations was now possible. While raising four children with Kevin, Bev taught Science. After retirement an ecumenical pilgrimage to the Holy Land revealed unsuspected ignorance, so she began studying theology. Eight years and three degrees later this thirst is yet to be slaked.

Bev has contributed to her parish liturgy as a proclaimer of the Word, minister of the Eucharist and organist. She has belonged to the Adult Faith Council and is a member of the diocesan contact group for the Council for Australian Catholic Women and the Ecumenical Council. Her attendance at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Canberra in 1991 led to the formation of Action of Churches Together in Solidarity in Newcastle. Bev has served the NSW Ecumenical Council Executive for 13 years. Kevin and Bev attended a meeting of Interchurch Families in Geneva in 1998 and in Edmonton in 2001 and helped organise a similar gathering in Newcastle in 2005.

Bev says that she "loves being a Catholic woman privileged to serve in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle".