

## **A Short Autobiography of Matthew Jones, Chaplain elect to St Thomas Becket in Hamburg**

I am Australian and was born in Sydney. I am the fourth child of six and our family moved to Brisbane when I was ten years old. I completed my schooling and began my working career at 17 years of age in Retail Management. I was appointed to my first management position at 18 and stayed with the same company for ten years. I then spent a year travelling around Australia on a working holiday and this was the time when I first really considered a vocational calling to the priesthood.

I was offered other positions in large companies in the years following my return from leave and I accepted them. However, the feelings for the priesthood grew stronger and I finally surrendered and began my training at St Francis' Theological College in Brisbane. This was a part of the ecumenical Brisbane College of Theology so I trained with many people from other denominations, especially Catholic and Uniting Churches.

Since ordination I have served in three parishes, two rural and one urban. I have served as Area Dean and am currently an Archdeacon. The parish of St Paul's, Ipswich, where I am Rector is an old parish with the oldest Anglican Church building in Queensland. The building also houses Queensland's first pipe organ so we have stewardship of some very special spiritual assets.

I am very much a people person and I love chatting with people and hearing their stories. I love music and am always keen to find ways of bringing people into contact with the church community through recitals and exhibitions and other cultural events. I am very excited about the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012 and look forward to sharing some very special times together.

It will be great to get to know the Hamburg congregation and I look forward to meeting many of you at my Licensing Service or the Night of the Churches or on the Sunday mornings from mid September. I would also like to thank the Parish Nominators for the trust they have placed in me and I pray that we might all be able to work together to build up the Kingdom of God in Hamburg in the years ahead.

Every blessing to you all,

**Matthew Jones**

The Venerable Matthew Jones  
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