From the Chaplain: Darrell Parker

TO THE

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE
AUSTRALIAN SENATE**

And

THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Parliament House Canberra

Dear Honourable Members,

I write to you as a deeply concerned member of the Australian public concerning the proposal soon to come before you to legalise same sex marriage in this country.

For those proposing this change to the long standing definition of marriage, this issue is simply a matter of justice – 'heterosexual men and women can marry so why can't we have the same right to marry the same sex partner of our choice' ?

I urge you to understand that some issues go well beyond being simple matters of justice, fairness, or one group having the same right to whatever it is that somebody else has got.

The homosexual lobby do not understand the implications of what they are asking for and the way in which this proposed change will negatively impact the well being of the entire Australian community. It's easy for our homosexual friends to argue fairness and justice and to make themselves out to be a minority who are denied rights afforded to others. But my question is this, …. fair and just for who ? If they are granted what they are seeking, justice and fairness will be denied to countless others.

Same sex marriage, if legalised, fundamentally undermines the very nature of what it means to be male or female, or even human. A person's gender suddenly becomes irrelevant in who they can or should marry, hence the significance of being male or female is greatly diminished. This challenges the very core of what defines us as 'humanity'.

Same sex marriage denies the unique and non transferable role that a mother and father have in raising children. Two people of the same sex cannot offer children what a mother and father can – regardless of how much they love the child in question. The children of same sex couples grow up in a home where gender and sexuality are terribly confused and hence they are much more likely to

struggle with these issues themselves later in life. Same sex marriage would deny children the right to a mother or father, a right that, despite all our parent's failings, was not denied to you or I. I don't hear people in this debate asking whether or not this is 'fair' on our future children.

The homosexual lobby's argument for justice is a shallow one that fails completely to consider the rights and benefits of all other Australians. This debate is not about 'justice' for a few, it's about what's right for our society as a whole.

Marriage between men and women has long provided the best means possible of providing for the controlled expression of human sexuality. This includes, ….

> # The protection of women from sexually predatorial men.

> # The provision of a loving family home for children.

> # The fulfilment of both men and women in their complementary roles in a marriage.

Research clearly demonstrates that all societies ancient and modern have, in their own way, endorsed the traditional view of marriage as the best way of moderating and managing human relational and sexual behaviour.

Same sex couples cannot bear children without massive and expensive medical intervention. Surely this must suggest to us the importance of maintaining the status quo. Legalising same sex marriage will undoubtably open up massive legal, legislative, financial, and social issues with which our society will struggle with for generations to come. If this change is made, I fear there will be no way back.

If our society, through our Parliament, endorses same sex marriage, it will be a decision that history will show to be a disaster at so many levels. Those proposing this change to the marriage act, though perhaps well meaning, are ignorant and mislead as to the significance of what they are seeking.

I urge you to be strong, to resist the pressure of the shallow, ignorant, and misguided call of a vocal minority for so called 'justice' when actually so much more is at stake.

Yours Sincerely,

Darrell Parker

Chaplain: St Mark's UNE

Friday March 30th 2012