Adelaide Diocese celebrates 175 years

The Anglican Diocese of Adelaide celebrates its 175th birthday today. It was formed by Letters Patent on 25 June 1847 which also created the Dioceses of Sydney, Melbourne, and Newcastle.

Initially, the Adelaide diocese included Western Australia and South Australia. It divided into other diocese as time went on: Perth (1857), Bunbury (1904), North West Australia (1904), Kalgoorlie (1914-1973), Willochra (1915), and The Murray (1970). Northern Territory passed from Adelaide into Carpentaria in 1900.

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Happy #175years anniversary to the Diocese of Adelaide, formed via Letters Patent on 25 June 1847. 🎉🎂The new diocese originally included the colonies of South Australia and Western Australia. Jurisdiction over the Northern Territory passed from Sydney to Adelaide in 1863.

Timor Sea · Cambridge G. · Melville I. · Torres Strait · Cape York · Sea · o. · King S?. · Gulf of Carpentaria · York Pen? · Great Barrier Reef · West Cape · NEW SOUTH WALES · Shark B. · WESTERN AUSTRALIA · SOUTH AUSTRALIA · L.Torrens · Wales · Darling R. · Brisbane C.Byron · Perth Fremantle · Swan R. · Great Australian Bight · Bathurst · Newcastle Sydney · Geographe B. · C.Leeuwin · Albany · Recherche Archip? · Spencer G. · Adelaide · R. M · King George S?. · Kangaroo I. · VICTORIA · Melbourne Cape Howe · Port Phillip · Bass Strait

AUSTRALIA 1851
1836 South Australia, Boundary defined
1851 Victoria separated from N.S.W.

Van Diemens Land · Launceston · Hobart
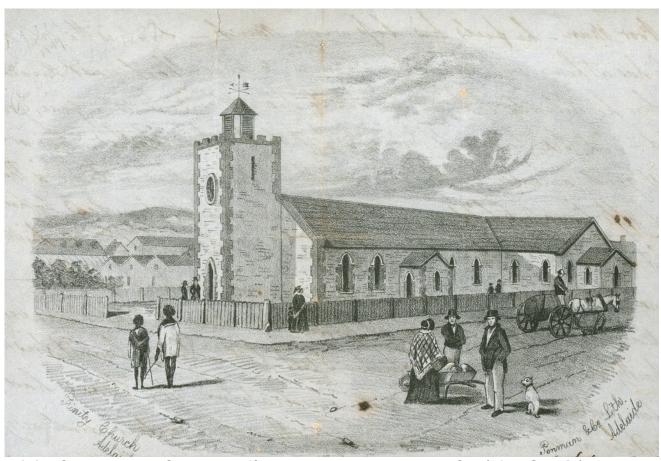
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Adealide's first bishop was Augustus Short (1847 to 1882) who was consecrated in Westminster Abbey

on 29 June – St Peter's Day.

"Two months later he set sail for Adelaide on board the Derwent with his wife Millicent, their five children, and an entourage of at least two governesses, four servants, and three clergymen who had volunteered to come to the colony with him," the South Australian State Library records.

Short was installed as Bishop of Adelaide in a service in the colony's oldest church, Holy Trinity, on 28 December 1847 – the 11th anniversary of the proclamation of the colony.

Trinity Church, 1849 Courtesy of/Photographer: Penman & Co. (after ST Gill)
Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, SLSA: B 7187, Public Domain

Augustus Short's entry in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* describes him as a High Churchman who clashed frequently with his predominantly Evangelical flock, as well as the colony's predominant Nonconformist population.

But Short took a strong interest in the Aboriginal population, the Library says. Archdeacon Matthew Hale and he established Poonindie Mission near Port Lincoln.

"He was passionate about education, becoming the first Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University, and purchasing land to establish St Peter's College.

In 1855, Short created a system of diocesan self-government through a synod.

"The Diocese of Adelaide, together with the Diocese of Willochra, to the north and west, and the

Diocese of the Murray to the south and east forms the Province of South Australia, of which the Archbishop of Adelaide is the head," the SLSA notes.

"A number of children's Homes in South Australia were run by independent committees that reported annually to the Diocese of Adelaide. The Diocesan Archives Centre holds records relating to many of these Homes."

On his retirement in 1881, Bishop Short, his wife and daughter Isabella, returned to England where he died at Eastbourne in 1883.

The Diocese of Adelaide will be celebrating the anniversary over the coming months, including during a visit by the Archbishop of Canterbury from 7-9 October.

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