

## DEACON CHRIS WALLACE



Christopher John Wallace was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1956 at Mosman, Sydney. The younger of two boys, his brother Martin is a Priest in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans). A younger sister (Marianne) was baptised but died shortly after birth due to a deformed kidney.

Christopher was educated by the Dominican Sisters at “Prouille” then the Christian Brothers at St Leo’s and finally the Jesuits at “Riverview”, all in Sydney.

Whilst at school he joined the Sydney University Regiment and spent two years in Reserve training. On leaving school he joined the New South Wales Police Force and served in General Duties in No. 25 Division, Metropolitan area.

After two years in the 'Force' he resigned and entered the Order of Friars Preachers as a Co-operator Brother until he was discerned as 'not being suitable' and was asked to leave. Two years service was then gained in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve whilst returning to N.S.W. Police and in 1980 he was posted to No 6. Division, before transferring to Tamworth, in the Peel District. It was here he joined the Scientific Squad, investigating fatal accidents, murders, rapes and other major crime. He later gained experience in Court Process and Licensing. At Tamworth he met and married Senior Constable Loana Vogt in 1984. They now have five children, Tom, Mark,



Peter, Marianne and Bridget (see photo below).

On return to the Sydney Metropolitan area he worked in the Promotions Branch of Police Headquarters before resigning and entering the Diaconate Programme for the Parramatta Diocese in 1990. Ordained in 1993 he was appointed to Springwood Parish in the Blue Mountains, the site of the old Diocesan Seminary. Deacon Wallace was engaged in the normal ministries during his time here, but also started a Parish Farm and became Chaplain to the Police in the Blue Mountains District.

After three years he transferred to the Parramatta Tribunal Office where he completed the Institute of Tribunal Practice (Dip. T. Prac.) Course. Following a short move to Mt Druitt Parish the family transferred to Laurieton on the mid north coast of NSW, to take care of Chris's elderly parents, in 2000.

Incardination into Lismore Diocese followed and Chris was appointed to the Camden Haven parish where he began working full time. Also at this time he became a welfare officer with the RSL and joined Legacy, ministering to War Widows.

In 2005 Deacon Wallace was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of Lismore, Secretary to the Council of Priests & Consultors and Chaplain to the Bishop. A further appointment as World Youth Day Coordinator followed and he once again found himself a Chaplain to the Police, of the Richmond Local Area Command. Appointed as a Defender of the Bond by the Signatura's Office in Rome he is also a member of the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand. His most recent appointment was that of Coordinator for the Year of Grace (Pentecost 2012 - Pentecost 2013).

As Chancellor he has delegated responsibility for Child Protection matters involving the NSW Ombudsman's Office and Professional Standard matters including Towards Healing and recently gave evidence to the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse. Christopher is ably helped in his work by his wife, who now also works part time, as an Administration Officer in the Chancery attending to Immigration Visa requirements for students and Priests coming into the Diocese from overseas.