



1 Archbishop Ian George ordains Sue Straub during the cathedral ceremony. **2** MOW convenors during an Adelaide visit in 1984 (from left) Gwenneth Roberts (Brisbane), Caroline Pearce (Adelaide), Dr Patricia Brennan (Sydney) and Janet Gaden (Melbourne). **3** A joyful moment ... ordination finally becomes a reality for Reverends Sue Straub and Sue Pain. **4** Television cameras cover the historic ordination service. **5** Joan Claring-Bould, first woman ordained deacon. **6** On the steps with Archbishop Ian George are the newly-ordained priests, from left Reverends Sue Straub, Richard Hayman, Sue Pain, Peter Brown, Joan Claring-Bould, Michael Austin, Sister Juliana SI, Flo Monahan and Paul Hunt.

Please don't suffer in silence



THIS week we observe White Ribbon Day, a global social movement working to eliminate gendered violence.

The recent Federal Budget included funding to support the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children, including \$25 million for innovative new initiatives to address the behaviour of perpetrators of violence.

It remains an ongoing issue in Australia, and we need to do more to address it.

Violence is not always easy to see and takes many forms – physical, sexual, emotional, financial, and psychological.

It occurs across all cultures, communities and ages.

In 95 per cent of cases, whether experienced by a male or female, the perpetrator is male.

Older people can face new challenges of violence due to a partner developing dementia.

Their confusion or frustration can sometimes result in aggression, either verbal or physical.

A change in behaviour could also arise from a physical condition, such as an infection or pain which can't be verbalised.

It is important to see beyond the behaviour to what might be causing it.

It should also not just be accepted as part of the disease.

People will often suffer in silence because they're afraid of losing someone or confronting them about the issue.

It is so hard when the behaviour of someone you love changes and suddenly you are faced with a situation you have not encountered before.

Violence in any form is not OK and it is important to reach out and seek help.

If you are concerned about an older person and worried about raising the matter with them directly, discuss your concerns with a trusted individual, such as a doctor or service provider.

Information, support and legal advice is available for those in need.

In South Australia, elder abuse can be reported to the Adult Safeguarding Unit on 1800 372 310.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, there is also a 24-hour national helpline 1800 737 732.

Don't suffer in silence – the risk to your own personal safety is too great.

Mel Ottaway is Uniting Communities' Executive Manager, Aged Care

years since ordination history

that women could be deacons, the first step on the clerical rung. In 1987, Joan Claring-Bould became the first woman deacon in the Diocese of Adelaide, followed in 1988 by Janet Gaden.

The number of women deacons around Australia grew but none could be ordained priests.

In 1989, Caroline Pearce returned to Adelaide after study and ordination as a priest in the US. She was allowed to function as a deacon only. The indignity Caroline experienced was distressing and widely publicised.

IMPASSE BROKEN

In March 1992, the impasse broke when Archbishop Peter Carnley in Perth ordained 10 women priests, making headlines around the country.

On November 21 General Synod agreed narrowly to allow women to be admitted to the priesthood.

Adelaide's diocesan synod quickly endorsed the measure and preparations began to ordain five women deacons as priests.

ORDINATION AT LAST

The atmosphere in the cathedral service on December 5 was tense for supporters and opponents alike. Two opponents formally expressed their objections.

Finally however the five women deacons – Joan



Claring-Bould, Sister Juliana SI (Community of the Incarnation), Flo Monahan, Sue Pain and Sue Straub – were ordained as priests and presented to the congregation who greeted them with sustained applause.

History was made in the Diocese of Adelaide.

AFTERMATH

In 2022, there are some 900 women clergy in the Anglican Church in Australia, a quarter

of the total number. Around 45 women are currently priests in the Diocese of Adelaide and the Right Reverend Denise Ferguson is assistant bishop.

The women are prominent in theological training, parishes, school and hospital chaplaincies, Anglicare and other community organisations.

Many had earlier careers and leadership roles in other fields including education,

nursing, medicine, allied health and business, so they bring that expertise to their ministries.

Dianne Bradley and Sue Henry-Edwards are former leaders in MOW and prominent lay women in diocesan affairs.

They see women clergy making positive contributions to the church and in the community. They welcome sermons that reflect the lived experience of women and

services that are inclusive in language and style.

They find women clergy's leadership and decision-making are usually affirming and collaborative.

Women clergy still face obstacles, they say.

Dianne Bradley describes opposition as "unspoken, a bit like unconscious racism".

Having their voice heard in church forums can be an issue, Sue Henry-Edwards says, and male colleagues can co-opt and claim their good ideas. Women clergy can be overlooked for appointments.

She also worries about slippage in the use of inclusive language.

Both have vivid memories of the fight for women's ordination 30 years ago but regret that many of the current generation of clergy have little knowledge of it.

They are greatly looking forward to the special service to celebrate the 30th anniversary in St Peter's Cathedral on December 4.

A service to mark the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women will be held at St Peter's Cathedral on December 4 at 6pm. A specially commissioned anthem will be sung, and a commemorative publication and exhibition will be launched. All are welcome, especially those who were present at the first ordination.