



**Opening of the Law Year Service, Rockhampton
Friday, 8 July 2005, 9am
St Joseph's Cathedral**

**The Hon P de Jersey AC,
Chief Justice**

Allowing for ordinary humanity and the busy-ness of our lives, there is an occasional risk we may overlook, or not fully appreciate, the essence and significance of our professional mission. And so this annual gathering is important. It affords us an opportunity actively to reflect on that mission, and to be seen to do that.

World events render this a sombre morning. It may seem irreverent to dwell on our own issues. But it is not too early to restate this truth.

War, disease and terrorism fracture and destroy communities. Along with attitudes of love, it is the rule of law which binds and develops them. Whether one's personal brief or retainer, today, seem humble, "middling" or grand, its conscientious despatch helps in its own way to maintain the rule of law, and thereby the stability and development of society.

By promoting and facilitating legal solutions, we promote a civilized society. Strong leadership in those respects is something to which our people turn, in times of uncertainty like the present.

We reflect on these issues this morning in surroundings which too many of us have a predominant, abiding, supervening significance.

I commend the Central Queensland profession for this vibrant demonstration of commitment to our pivotal mission, and the high ideals necessary to ensure its fulfilment.

Sometimes inevitable difficulties will beset the profession, the courts, the legal system generally. It is our persisting, conscientious dedication to our mission, which guarantees such difficulties subside. On behalf of the Central Queensland community, and the State, I thank you all for your continuing high commitment.