

# BATHURST DIOCESE

*Sharing Jesus for Life*

**SECOND SESSION  
OF THE  
50TH SYNOD  
SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER**

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS  
BISHOP MARK CALDER**





# CONTENTS

What will lead to our transformation and revitalisation?	5
What might hinder our transformation and revitalisation?	5
The evil one	5
Through unbelief	5
By ensuring we keep looking back	6
Through distraction	6
What might accelerate our transformation and revitalisation?	7
Conviction	7
Looking forward	8
Focus	8
Conclusion	9
Thanks	10
Appointments and ordinations	11



# Presidential address 2022

**If we, the people and churches of this diocese, become clear, passionate, and determined about that most privileged work of SHARING JESUS for LIFE, we will be transformed and revitalised.**

That's a huge claim.

Do I have that much confidence in our strategic plan and its implementation? Am I over-confident in my leadership as bishop? A firm "NO" to both of those.

My confidence is in the power of the gospel - because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.<sup>1</sup>

My confidence is in the convicting power of the Holy Spirit – who testifies about Jesus<sup>2</sup> and will convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgement.<sup>3</sup>

My confidence is in Jesus – the one mediator between God and humankind, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.<sup>4</sup>

My confidence is in our great God who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.<sup>5</sup>

My confidence is in you – the clergy and people of this diocese, who are increasingly clear about our calling as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that we may declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light.<sup>6</sup>

My confidence is in our churches who share the devotion of the Acts 2 church – to teaching, to one another, to hospitality, and to prayer. So may it be, that we too, enjoy the favour of all the people, and the Lord adds to *our* number those who are saved.<sup>7</sup>

When the gospel is clearly lived out and proclaimed; when the Holy Spirit does his convicting work; when people grasp the mediating work of Jesus; when God our Father draws people to himself; when we obey our calling and become devoted to all that the Acts 2 church was devoted to; then, we ourselves – our churches – and our diocese – will be transformed and revitalised.

## What might hinder this transformation and revitalisation?

### The evil one.

God in his word is absolutely clear that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, the authorities, the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.<sup>8</sup>

We are warned to keep alert and to be of sober mind, for our enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. We are exhorted to resist him, by standing firm in the faith.<sup>9</sup>

How might the evil one derail our transformation and revitalisation?

1. **Though unbelief** – If you don't really believe that those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord,<sup>10</sup> then you will not be motivated to share Jesus with others. Unbelief will lead to inaction, apathy, and quite probably in the end, outright opposition to the cause of making Christ known.

---

<sup>1</sup> Romans 1:16

<sup>2</sup> John 15:28

<sup>3</sup> John 16:8

<sup>4</sup> 2 Timothy 2:5-6

<sup>5</sup> 2 Timothy 2:4

<sup>6</sup> 1 Peter 2:9

<sup>7</sup> Acts 2:42-27

<sup>8</sup> Ephesians 6:12

<sup>9</sup> 1 Peter 5:8-9

<sup>10</sup> 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

## 2. By ensuring we keep looking back

- a. **Back to tradition** – if you are more attached to and committed to maintaining tradition than to seeing people come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus, you will be a hinderance to the work of *SHARING JESUS for LIFE*.

Jesus didn't mince words about those committed to man-made traditions. He called them hypocrites, and quoting the prophet Isaiah, taught that such people honoured God with their lips, while their hearts were far from him. He said, "you have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."<sup>11</sup>

The evil one will hinder the work of the gospel as people cling to traditions which either cloud the gospel, weigh people down, hold the church back, or are totally foreign to non-church people.

So, the evil one will delight to keep people looking back to tradition.

He will also hinder our work, by ensuring people cling on to past hurts.

- b. **Back to past hurts** – the evil one would love you to keep clinging to the hurts of the past. That building sold, that financial decision, that trust fund raided. If you can't let go of those past hurts, you will find no joy in moving forward in the work of the gospel. And yet we are exhorted so clearly to get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. We are urged to be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.<sup>12</sup> You can't live that out, while clinging on to past hurts! We must by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present our requests to God and take all our hurts to him. Only as we do that, will his peace, which transcends all understanding, guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.<sup>13</sup>

So the evil one will want us to keep looking back to tradition, back to past hurts, and third:

- c. **Back to conflict** – Conflict – past and present – will derail the work of the gospel. Again, we need to heed God's exhortation to – "if it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends."<sup>14</sup> We need to hear this and put it into practice: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."<sup>15</sup>

The evil one will hinder the work of *SHARING JESUS FOR LIFE* through unbelief, by ensuring you keep looking back, and thirdly:

## 3. Through distraction

- a. **By making secondary causes look like they're the main thing** – I think the evil one is big on distraction. It is so subtle because there are many other causes which can seem to be worthy of our attention. Climate change, refugee advocacy, reconciliation, and many other social issues, can seem to some, what the church should be on about. Of course, these are all important issues in our world today, and there are good ways Christians can contribute to these areas. We understand our responsibility to care for God's world. We understand the plight of the outsider. We understand that reconciliation is central to the gospel. However, if secondary issues become primary, with the result that that *SHARING JESUS for LIFE* is dropped down the list of what is important, then sharing Jesus, simply will not happen.

Unjust structures in society, will not primarily change through the advocacy of Christians or other interest groups, but when people's hearts are changed and softened by Jesus and the transforming work of the Spirit. If the evil one can keep us away from *SHARING JESUS for LIFE* by other things which look to be as important or more important, then the work of the gospel is hindered or derailed.

- b. **Issues in the wider Anglican church** – some of you will know about a number of issues being dealt with by the Anglican Church of Australia. I'm sure the evil one would be delighted if I spent a lot of time in this address on all those issues. But they are a distraction.

---

<sup>11</sup> Mark 7:6-8

<sup>12</sup> Ephesians 4:31-32

<sup>13</sup> Philippians 4:6-7

<sup>14</sup> Romans 12:18-19

<sup>15</sup> Ephesians 4:2-3

I shared at the bishops' meeting in Adelaide in March, that we will never understand the reasons we differ on marriage, until we have wrestled with those more fundamental differences about which we never speak: the authority of the Bible, the nature of salvation, judgment, the meaning of the death of Christ; the resurrection; the nature of Holy Communion; the significance of preaching etc.

So, yes there are significant theological and ecclesiastical differences between bishops in Australia. However, if we allow those differences to become agenda items *here*, (when they are not currently issues for us), then as significant as they may be for the wider church, they take us away from *SHARING JESUS for LIFE* and consume much time and energy. We are one of 23 dioceses in the Anglican Church of Australia, and we value all that is good about our connection with the other 22! But we ought not allow some of the sad divisions and differences between some of those dioceses (and their bishops), to distract us or keep us from *SHARING JESUS for LIFE*! We are completely free to pursue our own agenda, and nothing should distract us from what is most critical and important for our future together.

We've looked at what might **hinder** our transformation and revitalisation.

Primarily, the work of the evil one, through unbelief, by keeping us looking back, and by distraction.

### **What then might accelerate our transformation and revitalisation?**

1. Conviction
2. Looking forward; and
3. Focus

First:

#### **1. Conviction –**

Members of synod, are you convicted:

- that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God?<sup>16</sup>
- that all are justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus?<sup>17</sup>
- that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord?<sup>18</sup>
- that: this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins?<sup>19</sup>
- that in the past God overlooked ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent?<sup>20</sup>
- that If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved?<sup>21</sup>
- that because we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others?<sup>22</sup>
- that Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died?<sup>23</sup>
- that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.<sup>24</sup>
- that we are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us?<sup>25</sup>
- and that our message as Christ's ambassadors is "be reconciled to God".<sup>26</sup>

I am. Are you?

---

<sup>16</sup> Romans 3:23

<sup>17</sup> Romans 3:24

<sup>18</sup> Romans 6:23

<sup>19</sup> 1 John 4:10

<sup>20</sup> Acts 17:30

<sup>21</sup> Romans 10:9

<sup>22</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:11

<sup>23</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:14

<sup>24</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:19

<sup>25</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:20

<sup>26</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:20

Then hold fast to these convictions; let nothing sway you from them and allow them to shape your life and the life of your church!

The second factor which will help accelerate our transformation and revitalisation is a determination to keep:

## 2. Looking forward

- a. **To Jesus** – SHARING JESUS brings many challenges. Making this your church's main aim and focus, will not be easy. You will face opposition from within the church, from outside the church<sup>27</sup> and from the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.<sup>28</sup>

But the clear exhortation from God (as seen in Hebrews 12), is that we must run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus.

How will that help?

Jesus endured massive hardship and opposition – all the way to the cross - and he endured. As we fix our eyes on him, his perseverance will inspire ours. He kept going through trials because he knew the joy that was to come. If we consider Jesus, who endured such opposition from sinners, then we will not grow weary and lose heart.<sup>29</sup>

So – forward to Jesus – but forward also:

- b. **To connecting with missing generations** – that is, eagerly anticipate welcoming families, children and young people to your church and work to make that happen. We are seeing this now at the 10am service at the Cathedral. We are seeing it evolve in Millthorpe, Dubbo, Forbes, Parkes, Rylstone and in arvo church in Mudgee. Capture the vision of seeing families return. Invite your children or grandchildren back to church. Explore the possibilities of a mums' group or Mainly music. Use this coming Christmas to run a contemporary carol service in a relaxed way. Establish a partnership with a Sydney church who might come and help with a holiday kids' club. Contact Scripture Union to see how they might help. Do whatever you can through the SRE opportunity.

So keep looking forward to Jesus, forward to new connections and:

- c. **Forward to investing in eternity** – some people have stopped or reduced giving to the local church. I understand the reservations. The Diocese made poor financial decisions, funds were raided for the CBA court case and redress. I want to assure you there is new leadership and safety measures and greater transparency than ever before to ensure those mistakes cannot be repeated.

If we are going to rebuild the work, we need well trained gospel workers to come and lead and equip us and we need to support them full time to do that work. We need people (as I commented earlier) to let go of past hurts and look forward to the future. Your generosity now to support a local minister or ministers in the work of the gospel will make a difference now and for eternity. And should you find you are able to leave something by way of bequest to the diocese, that would be a wonderful way of supporting the work of the gospel and investing in eternity.

Stand firm on your convictions, keep looking forward, and finally, maintain an unswerving focus:

## 3. Focus

- a. **On SHARING JESUS for LIFE** – If we work on keeping the main thing the main thing, then *SHARING JESUS for LIFE* will become the filter or grid by which we weigh up and evaluate all our activities.

Has your parish or parish council, spent time looking at the strategic plan? Have you identified aspects of the plan you can embrace or adapt for your local context? Have you asked what activities among everything the parish is doing, actually *help* us share Jesus? What activities currently *hinder* your church from sharing Jesus, by taking valuable resources in people, time, energy and money which by any evaluation does not help the task of sharing Jesus? Have you considered using the catch phrase for your own parish and redesigning your artwork, so that *SHARING JESUS for LIFE* becomes what more consciously and purposefully drives your parish's planning and ministry and becomes part of your DNA?

---

<sup>27</sup> John 15:18-19

<sup>28</sup> Ephesians 6:12

<sup>29</sup> See Hebrews 12:1-3



- b. **Planning to *SHARE JESUS for LIFE*** – some parishes, such as Narromine, have already had 4-5 planning meetings and a launch of their own adaptation of the plan. They have already run a community seminar on ‘Evidence for Belief’ where 70 people gathered and after which, three people became Christians!

Your parish doesn’t need a minister or even a lot of people or resources to make use of key elements of the plan. Your church may decide for example – from the first column of the strategic plan – to minimise formality and ritual to effectively communicate the Gospel to a contemporary world. That will mean that when that young family walks in because they are new to town, they may just come back next week because the service wasn’t completely foreign to them.

You might decide from the second column of the plan, to work on clear, relevant prayers, Bible readings and songs that are Jesus-centred and Gospel focused. So you might watch Bec Choi’s presentation from last year’s conference on writing prayers; ask someone to train your Bible readers to read more clearly and ask Kevin Simington’s help to provide some music for more contemporary songs. All that will help your prayers not to be too long; your Bible readings to be clear and your songs to be Bible based and Jesus focused. All that will make a difference!

And from the third column of the plan, you might decide to speak to me about developing and promoting resources to facilitate personal daily Bible reading and prayer. That will make a difference in your church life as people take more delight in God’s word and spending time with him in prayer. As a result, people will grow in their relationship with God and become more passionate about *SHARING JESUS for LIFE*.

Sometimes it is just small things – which are missing in some of our churches – which will make a huge difference!

## Conclusion

Brothers and sisters, for over 150 years, the gospel has been proclaimed under the banner of the diocese of Bathurst. There have been some sad, hard, even distressing times in our history, including recent times. But faithful people have toiled long and hard with an understanding that the Gospel is the power of God for salvation for all who believe.

I believe we are seeing God at work among us in a new chapter.

There were over 100 people at the diocesan conference at the end of July when the strategic plan was launched. There were over 90 people at the diocesan camp at Ridgecrest a month ago from across all age groups and with many parishes represented.

In the last (close to) three years, 14 people from outside the diocese have been appointed to ministry roles and 9 people ordained.

At the time of writing, three appointments have been announced recently<sup>30</sup>. God willing, two further announcements will be made tomorrow, and two further possibilities are under discussion. This means that 16 out of 26 parishes without clergy just two months ago, may become 10 by the end of the year.<sup>31</sup>

We now have a strategic plan, and we know where we’re heading.

And we have a wise, good and compassionate God and Father who is even more interested in the work of the gospel flourishing than we are!

**If we, the people and churches of this diocese, become clear, passionate, and determined about that most privileged work of *SHARING JESUS for LIFE*, we will be transformed and revitalised.**

Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement give us the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice we may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>32</sup> Amen.

---

<sup>30</sup> Andy Martin to Orange, Tim Smith to Grenfell and Jonny Lush to Oberon.

<sup>31</sup> The resignation of Canon Tim Fogo creates a further vacancy.

<sup>32</sup> Romans 15:5-6

## Thanks

I am so grateful to our Lord God for the privilege of serving in this role, and to so many of you for your support and encouragement.

I am grateful to the Diocese of Sydney for their ongoing financial support without which, we would not be able to continue in our current form. I was grateful for the opportunity this past week to speak to their synod, to report our gratitude and seek an extension of their gift. Sydney synod agreed to renew the gift for a further six years which means that their promise of financial support runs through until 2030. We are so thankful to God; to Archbishop Kanishka Raffel for his support and to Bishop Michael Stead who assisted with and supported the renewal of the gift.

I'm so grateful to the Bishop's leadership team (BLT)<sup>33</sup> for their wisdom, counsel and support. Thanks also to members of Bishop-in-Council (BiC)<sup>34</sup> for their service to the diocese in their first year of office. My special thanks to those who have also served on the BiC taskforces. Thanks are due also to members of the Anglican Property Trust (APT) for their careful stewardship in administering the property and finances of the diocese.

Dr Warwick Baines has taken on the role of Business Manager/Registrar with great energy. His wisdom and insight, his attention to detail, and efficiency in communication has been greatly appreciated by me and many. Thank you, Warwick.

Warwick and I have been greatly assisted in the office by Louise Hickey, and my thanks go also to Louise for her willingness to assist no matter how large or small the task, and for the way she has helped so many across the parishes in SRE, Safe Ministry and many other aspects of diocesan life.

The Rev'd Kevin and Sandy Simington have exercised a significant ministry among us of consulting, teaching, pastoral care and encouragement and I'm very grateful to them both.

I'm sad to note the resignation of Canon Tim Fogo as rector of Kelso and because he is leaving the diocese, his resignation as Ministry Development Officer. Tim has exercised a significant ministry in this regard, helping with the ordination process, organising our retreats and conferences and assisting with the planning and execution of our synod meetings. He has also served during his time in the diocese on BiC, APT, Bishop's election board, as a General Synod representative, and a member of the Provincial Synod and its standing committee. My great thanks to Tim for all these ways and more in which Tim has served our Lord among us.

My chancellor, Adrian Ahern, has always made himself available and has provided great support and wise counsel to me throughout the year on a range of issues. Thank you, Adrian.

I'm grateful to the Bishop of Armidale, the Rt Rev'd Rod Chiswell for preaching at the synod service and for generously exploring with us, gospel partnership whereby college graduates might spend two years in a training parish in Armidale diocese, before coming on to the serve here as rectors. Thank you, Rod.

I'm grateful to Emily Moman, our graphic designer, who spent many hours developing our logos and branding associated with our strategic plan's catch phrase and also so helpfully designed our synod booklet.

## Appointments and ordinations since November 2019

### Appointments

1. Andrew Thornhill from SMBC to Coonabarabran
2. Wally Cox from Moore College to Blayney
3. Steven Klouth from SMBC to an assistant role at the cathedral
4. Kevin Simington – an experienced pastor – as honorary ministry consultant in the diocese
5. Roger and Sally Phelps from SMBC to Parkes
6. James Daymond (Moore and SMBC) as deacon evangelist in Mudgee
7. Bec Choi as an assistant in Blayney (currently studying through Ridley College)
8. Ben Mackay from SMBC to Parkes
9. David Blackmore (an experienced minister ordained in Newcastle) to Cudal-Molong
10. Matthew Brooks-Lloyd from Sydney Diocese to Rylstone-Kandos in Cudgegong Valley parish

---

<sup>33</sup> Archdeacons Joy Harris, Jono Williams, and Brett Watterson, Canon Tim Fogo, Dean James Hodson and Dr Warwick Baines

<sup>34</sup> See the BiC report for the full list of members of the BiC, BiC taskforces and the APT

11. Cathy Brooks-Lloyd to youth and children's work in Rylstone-Kandos
12. Andy Martin from Oak Hill College UK, to Holy Trinity Orange (starts Oct 2022)
13. Tim Smith from Moore College to Grenfell (starts 2023)
14. Jonny Lush from the Brisbane School of Theology, to minister in Oberon (starts 2023)
15. (add Gloria Shipp and John Gaff, assisting part time in the northwest)

\* God willing, it is possible four further appointments may be announced prior to the end of 2022.

### **Ordinations**

1. Steven Klouth - deacon
2. Andrew Thornhill – deacon and priest
3. Wally Cox – deacon and priest
4. Bec Choi - deacon
5. Sally Phelps - deacon
6. Roger Phelps - deacon
7. Ben Mackay – deacon and priest
8. James Daymond - deacon
9. Kevin Simington – deacon and priest

Pending (3 December)

10. Jonny Lush - deacon
11. Tim Smith – deacon

and deacons Steven Klouth and James Daymond to be ordained priest.

### **Our thanks also for**

1. The Rev'd Jeanette Jamieson, the Rev'd Gerald Beckett and the Rev'd Peter de Salis who have assisted at Grenfell through the year, as well as our own the Rev'd Linda Boss who has helped at Grenfell and West Wyalong.
2. The Rev'd Sean Heselhurst who has served as locum at Holy Trinity Orange, following the extended leave then resignation of the Rev'd Mal Dunnett
3. The Rev'd Natalie Quince, who stepped back from ministry in Parkes at the end of June, but only after serving faithfully as locum for two years and assisting Ben Mackay as he took up ministry in Parkes. Natalie has now accepted the invitation of the bishop of Newcastle to serve as the senior minister at St John's Taree.
4. The ministry of the Rev'd Mal Dunnett at Holy Trinity Orange.
5. I'm grateful to other retired ministers who have generously assisted around the diocese.

# SHARING JESUS *for* LIFE

