

# **BATHURST** **DIOCESE**

*Sharing Jesus for Life*



## **DIOCESAN PRAYER DIARY** **2023**

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand,  
that he may lift you up in due time.  
Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.  
1 Peter 5:6-7

*This edition: January 2023*

## Day 1

### Bible verse and prayer for today

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. <sup>2</sup> Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. <sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples.

Psalm 96:1-3

Come to the Lord today, praising his name and rejoicing in his salvation. But also note the exhortation of this Psalm – that we not only praise God for our salvation – but that we also share the glorious news of the God who saves, with all people!

*Most loving God, we praise you for our salvation,  
which has come to us through Jesus.  
Give us such a sense of awe and gratitude,  
that we long to share the news of your saving love with all we know and love,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Bathurst Diocese:** We begin by praying for the parishes in the Eastern Archdeaconry: Bathurst, Kelso, Cudgegong Valley, Blayney, Oberon, and Coolah-Dunedoo. Please pray that the Lord would raise up a new Archdeacon who will support the clergy and parishes in this area.

Pray for All Saints Cathedral Parish with the Dean, the Very Rev'd James Hodson and his wife Fran, along with senior associate minister, the Rev'd Phil Howes and his wife Sho. Thank the Lord for the appointment of James Boardman (with his wife Charly and their children) as assistant minister; a training role, supported by BCA. Pray that the ministry in Bathurst will grow more effective in *SHARING JESUS FOR LIFE*.

**National Church:** The Primate of Australia, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith and the Secretary of General Synod Anne Hywood. Pray that they will have grace and wisdom for their responsibilities across the Anglican Church of Australia. Pray for those on the standing committee of General synod – that they will have godly wisdom for their meetings.

## Day 2

### Bible verse and prayer for today

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Thank the Lord today for Jesus. And thank the Lord that one day we will see the promise of Isaiah 9 in complete fulfilment when Jesus returns, and his reign is revealed in all its glory.

*Loving God, thank you for your Son, who came among us in humility  
but who will one day reign in glory for all eternity.  
Keep us in this hope and hasten the day of Jesus' return,  
for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Bathurst Diocese:** We pray today for the parish of Kelso – especially praying that the Lord will raise up a faithful minister for this parish. We give thanks for the Rev'd Linda Boss and her service as locum initially for February and March. We pray that eventually with a new minister, the many people in the new housing areas of Kelso may be reached with the news of Jesus.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Adelaide with Archbishop Geoffrey Smith, Assistant Bishops Timothy Harris and Denise Ferguson; Assistant Bishop for Aboriginal Ministry Chris McLeod; clergy and people. Pray that they will be faithful shepherds, and that God will bless their work.

### Day 3

#### **Bible verse and prayer for today**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Pray that we will not be deceived by any of our own human wisdom, but keep trusting the Lord in all things, whose wisdom and ways are higher and greater than ours.

*Father, we are foolishly and so often, wise in our own eyes.*

*Please help us to trust you completely, lean on you totally and submit to you without reserve.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Bathurst Diocese:** We pray for Coolah-Dunedoo parish. We thank the Lord for the Rev'd Ross Craven who serves the parish currently one day a week. But we also need to pray that the Lord will raise up a new permanent full-time minister and provide the necessary funds.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Armidale with Bishop Rod Chiswell, clergy and people. Pray that the gospel will be proclaimed with power throughout Armidale diocese. Thank the Lord for the partnership evolving between our dioceses whereby ministers may be trained in Armidale as assistant ministers, before serving in our Diocese.

**Other needs:** Pray for Cursillo, AWA and Mothers' Union within our Diocese, asking that these groups will help people grow in their discipleship and be unified in the gospel our Lord Jesus Christ; excited to *SHARE JESUS FOR LIFE*.

### Day 4

#### **Bible verse and prayer for today**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3

*Loving Lord, thank you for gifting us*

*in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

*Help us to revel in the riches of your grace today,*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** The Parish of Blayney, and the Rev'd Wally Cox and Jordan, the Rev'd Bec Choi and Yooie, and the Rev'd John Butterworth and family. Praise God for the financial support for Bec which has come from individuals and parishes in Sydney. Pray that together with lay leaders, the work in Blayney will flourish and reach those who do not yet know Jesus.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Ballarat with Bishop Garry Weatherill, clergy and people. Pray that they will be sustained and strengthened in their work for the glory of God.

**Other needs:** Pray for the police in our region: in the stations, as they deal with difficult situations, those on highway patrol. Pray for their safety and protection. Also pray for Police Chaplains – among them are Bishop Richard Hurford, the Rev'd Carl Palmer, and the Rev'd Gary Neville.

### Day 5

#### **Bible verse and prayer for today**

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Ephesians 1:4

*Faithful Lord, thank you that through no merit of our own and even before the creation of the world you chose us to be holy and blameless in your sight.*

*Thank you for the comfort and assurance this gives us – that we are yours now and for eternity. By your Holy Spirit, please help us to live the holy and blameless life for which we were chosen. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** The Parish of Oberon: Praise God for the appointment of the Rev'd Jonny Lush to the parish of Oberon and ask God's wisdom and strength for Jonny and Liz in their first year of ministry there. Thank the Lord for those who have carried the load in these past few years when they were without a minister.

**National Church:** We join with the Church throughout Australia who today pray for the Diocese of Bathurst, for Bishop Mark Calder and Susan, the clergy and people. Pray that they will be faithful and fruitful and have the joy of seeing the Lord at work through them.

**Other needs:** Pray for the nursing, ancillary and domestic staff in nursing homes, hostels, and aged care facilities and for the residents. Pray that our older citizens will be cherished and loved and that those who care for them would be given grace and patience.

## Day 6

### Bible verse and prayer for today

In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 1:5-6

*Father, thank you for the unique privilege of having been adopted as your sons and daughters.*

*Thank you that our adoption was all a work of your grace and pleasure.*

*We praise you for this glorious grace, freely given us through Jesus. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** The Parish of Cudgegong Valley which takes in Mudgee, Gulgong, Rylstone, and Kandos and other smaller villages. Pray that the Lord will raise up the right rector in his perfect timing for this parish. Pray too for a minister in the Rylstone-Kandos part of the parish – to build on the work which has developed there in the last two years. Pray for those who will lead the work in the meantime – for wisdom and strength – remembering the Rev'd Jorie Ryan, the Rev'd Bruce Kurtz, Bishop Mark Calder, the licenced lay ministers and the churchwardens.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Bendigo with Bishop Matt Brain, clergy and people. Pray that churches would grow and flourish and that the bishop may be given wisdom and strength.

**Other needs:** Pray for those who work in local businesses, industry and offices, especially as they interact daily with many people. May Christians who are in business, be strengthened to be honest and caring in all their dealings and be a witness to those who don't yet know Jesus.

## Day 7

### Bible verse and prayer for today

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us.

Ephesians 1:7-8a

*Heavenly Father, thank you for rescuing us through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus.*

*Thank you that this results in the forgiveness of sins - a generous gift of your grace which you have lavished on us. Hear our thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** Now we pray for the western archdeaconry and its parishes – Cowra, Canowindra, Grenfell, West Wyalong, Forbes, Parkes, Cumnock, Condobolin, Orange, Orange East, Cudal-Molong. We pray for Archdeacon Jono Williams who will serve this area from April.

The Parish of Cowra – with new incumbent the Rev'd Ben Connelly and his wife Alissa and family. Ben and Alissa have joined us from Narrabri in the Armidale Diocese. Pray that they will have a great ministry in Cowra, get to know and love the people quickly, teach God's word faithfully and equip all God's people for their ministry. Thank the Lord for the support of the BCA for this work.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Brisbane with assistant bishops: Cam Venables, Jeremy Greaves and John Roundhill; along with the clergy and people. Pray for the Bishop's election board as they discern God's will for a new Archbishop of Brisbane. Pray for an archbishop who loves God's word and seeks to proclaim Jesus as Lord and Saviour. May the leadership be true to God's word and faithful in building up all the churches in the diocese.

**Other needs:** Pray for communities whose population is declining and who are losing their identity. Pray for the smaller villages in the parishes within our Diocese. May people see the hope that Christians have through Jesus and long to know the reason why. May we have a ready answer.

## Day 8

### Bible verse and prayer for today

With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

Ephesians 1:8b-10

*Dear Lord and heavenly Father, thank you that we are not in the dark about your plans for the world. Thank you for revealing that your great plan is to unify everything under the reign of the Lord Jesus. Help us to wait patiently for times to reach their fulfilment, and in the meantime, to fix our eyes on Jesus and never lose hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** The Parish of Canowindra, and the Venerable Jono Williams. Praise God for the cooperating work of the Anglican and Uniting Churches. Pray for effective gospel witness across the parish, that more people will *SHARE JESUS FOR LIFE*.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Bunbury with Bishop Ian Coutts, clergy and people. Pray that the Diocese will know the joy of the Lord, and that that joy will be their strength.

## Day 9

### Bible verse and prayer for today

When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:13b-14

*Loving Lord, thank you for sealing your redeeming work in us with the gift of your holy Spirit. Thank you that he is a deposit, assuring us that all you have promised in the new creation, will indeed occur. Thank for that rich inheritance which awaits us in the future.  
We praise you for your glory, in Jesus' name, Amen.*

**Bathurst Diocese:** The Parish of Grenfell – give thanks for the appointment of the Rev'd Tim Smith and his wife Jess who have joined the parish to lead the work and love God's people there this year. Give thanks for those who have contributed generously so that Tim may work in the parish full time. Ask the Lord's blessing on the work – especially to young families in the surrounding district.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn with Bishop Mark Short and assistant bishop, Carol Wagner, along with all the clergy and people. Pray that the leadership will enjoy great unity as they work together, and cause many to rejoice in the good news.

## Day 10

### Bible verse and prayer for today

Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:4-5

*Loving God, hear our praise for your great love and mercy,  
which has made us who were once dead in sin, now alive in Christ!  
Thank you that this is all of your grace – your great love for us  
of which we are completely undeserving.  
May we revel in this reality today, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Bathurst Diocese:** Pray for the parish of West Wyalong, thanking the Lord for the appointment of the Rev'd Steven Klouth – and for his wife Caitlin. Pray that Steven and Caitlin will have a great first year here and begin to reach the missing generations. Thank the Lord for the support of BCA for this work.

**National Church:** The Defence Force Anglican Chaplaincy with Bishop Grant Dibden, chaplains and members of the Defence Forces. Remember those serving overseas and those waiting at home.

**Other needs:** Pray for those discerning the call of God on their lives to lay and ordained ministry, and those preparing for ordination. Pray for the Diocesan Ministry Development Officer, the Rev'd Andrew Thornhill and the ordination panel that they will have wisdom and insight in their task. Thank the Lord for new candidates for ordination.

## Day 11

### Bible verse and prayer for today

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8-10

*We thank you for the humbling reminder that we are saved by grace,  
and that even faith itself is your gift to us.  
As your saved, forgiven and reconciled people, please help us by your Spirit  
to do the good works you've prepared in advance for us to do.  
We pray this, not so that we might earn our salvation, but because we are already saved.  
We ask all of this in Jesus' name and for his glory.  
Amen.*

**Bathurst Diocese:** Pray for the Parish of Forbes. Thank the Lord for the Rev'd Roger Phelps and the Rev'd Sally Phelps as they lead the team of lay ministers and pray that will know the Lord's sustaining presence each day. Pray for Northside Chapel with Rex Taylor and Rachel, that many will be helped to grow in their understanding of and love for the Lord Jesus.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Gippsland with Bishop Richard Treloar, clergy and people. Pray that clergy and people will be passionate about proclaiming the good news in word and deed.

**Other needs:** Pray for the implementation of the Diocesan strategic plan, centred around the catch phrase *SHARING JESUS FOR LIFE*. Please pray that each parish might consider how they can take elements of the plan and put adapt and adopt them for their own parish and context. Pray that the plan will strengthen the witness of our diocese to the great news of Jesus and help train and equip us all in the task of making Jesus known.

## Day 12

### Bible verse and prayer for today

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Ephesians 3:16-17a

*Loving God, we thank you once more for your glorious riches which are ours through Jesus.  
May we know the strength of your power which comes by your Spirit at work within us,  
and therefore have full assurance that Christ indeed dwells in our hearts,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** The Parish of Parkes with Peak Hill. Give thanks to God the Rev'd Ben Mackay (and Bron) in this his second year as minister here. Pray that Ben will equip the saints for ministry in Parkes, so that in turn, we might see the ministry flourish and more people come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Grafton with Bishop Dr Murray Harvey, clergy and people. Pray that as they restructure the nature of ministry there, new possibilities and great opportunities will open up for more effective ministry.

**Other needs:** Pray for those who are driving: for alertness and safety on the road, joy in what they see, cheerfulness as they meet people, happiness in the reunion with loved ones, and rest at the end of the journey. Particularly pray for our bishop and other leaders as they travel in the course of their ministry - that they will stay alert and remain safe.

## Day 13

### Bible verse and prayer for today

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17b-19

*Father, sometimes it is hard to fathom your love,  
and even on our best days, we do not realise how wide, long, high and deep is your love.  
Give us an increasing grasp of your love for us, so that we may be filled with that love  
and see it overflow to others. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Bathurst Diocese:** The Parish of Cumnock. Thank the Lord for Archdeacon Frank Hetherington who travels from Orange to lead worship twice a month. Pray that the whole family of God there, will know God's presence and peace as they minister to one another and that they will discern God's will for their future. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will raise up a minister for them.

**National Church:** Ministry with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands people. Pray for the Rev'd Gloria Shipp and the Rev'd Daryl McCullough, and for the national Bishop for Aboriginal Ministry, Chris McLeod. Pray for the Rev'd Neville Naden that the Lord would encourage him and use him greatly in his ministry.

**Other needs:** Please pray especially for those parishes without clergy (see the last page of this prayer guide). Pray that the Lord would sustain those carrying the load of ministry in these places at the present time and pray that the Lord would bring forward for ministry, those men and women who would be just right for these towns. Pray for Bishop Mark and members of the recruitment task force, that they would have wisdom and creativity as they encourage people to consider ministry in the diocese.

## Day 14

### Bible verse and prayer for today

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

*Almighty God, we come to you in praise and awe  
because you can do so much more than we will ever ask or imagine.  
Please help us to ask and imagine glorious and wonderful things  
and may all the glory be yours both in the church and through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Bathurst Diocese:** Give thanks for the licenced lay ministers at Condobolin who love and care for God's people there. Pray that the Lord will help us find a permanent ministry solution for this town, and that he will also provide funds to support someone to minister here.

**National Church:** Ministry with the Torres Strait Island people of Australia, clergy and people. The BCA National Indigenous Ministry Officer, the Rev'd Neville Naden and Kathryn. Pray that there will be a deeper understanding in our nation of all the issues of our indigenous people, greater equity in sharing resources, and justice for all who have lost lives whilst in custody.

**Other needs:** For the ordinance review taskforce: that together this group would help refresh and renew our church administration ordinance so that it better serves the cause of the gospel and the diocesan strategic plan.

## Day 15

### Bible verse and prayer for today

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.  
<sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:1-2

*Father, you chose us to your adopted, redeemed, informed and sealed children.  
You have blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.  
Thank you!*

*Please help us to live a life worthy of this high and privileged calling,  
especially in being completely humble and gentle;  
being patient, and by bearing with one another in love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** Pray for the parish of Holy Trinity Orange. Thank the Lord for the appointment of the Rev'd Andy Martin – and for his wife Amanda. Pray for the new contemporary service aiming to reach younger families and children in Orange. Ask God's great blessing on this ministry as Andy and Amanda settle into the role.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Melbourne with Archbishop Phillip Freier and assistant bishops Genieve Blackwell, Kate Prowd, Brad Billings and Paul Barker. Pray for unity in the diocese centred on the good news of Jesus and a desire to make Christ known.

**Other needs:** Please pray for the financial sustainability task force, that you would give them wisdom as they seek to lead our diocese to a better financial position. Thank the Lord for the generous gift of the Sydney Diocese of \$250,000 a year which has now been renewed through to 2030. But pray that ministry might so grow and flourish in our parishes, that we might be in a better situation by 2030 to be self-sustaining.

## Day 16

### Bible verse and prayer for today

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:3-6

*Father, we understand that there is a unity of the Spirit  
which is already a present and glorious reality.*

*Please help us to keep that unity and not do anything which would threaten or break it.  
May our church life together give expression in every way to the fact that we are one body,  
indwelt by the one Spirit, celebrating our one hope in Jesus Christ  
and in you our God and Father. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** Pray for the Parish of East Orange with the Rev'd Bob Cameron and Fiona, and new part time children and families minister, Jo Watts. Pray that this parish will lovingly teach God's word and make more disciples and that people will become equipped for and passionate about sharing Jesus for life.

**National Church:** Diocese of Newcastle with Bishop Peter Stuart, assistant bishops Sonia Roulston and Charlie Murry, clergy and people. Pray for a unity around God's word and the truth of the gospel.

**Other needs:** Pray specifically for the needs of your church and for your clergy, churchwardens and parish council, licensed lay ministers, volunteers, gardeners, maintenance people, office workers, lay chaplains and visitors. Pray that your parish will grow in love and unity in prayerfulness and in joyful dependence on God. Pray that the good news of Jesus will be made known through the ministry of everyone in your parish, as we work together to *SHARE JESUS FOR LIFE*.

## Day 17

### Bible verse and prayer for today

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...

Ephesians 4:11-12

*God of glory, thank you for continuing to gift the church with evangelists, pastors and teachers.  
Thank you that as they equip your people for ministry, your body, the church is built up.  
Please help all evangelists, pastors and teachers to prioritise equipping your people  
and give to us your people, the desire to be equipped and to serve.  
We ask this so that your church will be wonderfully built up for your glory. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** The Parish of Cudal–Molong with the Rev'd David Blackmore and Sue, and ministry in that parish. Pray for unity of purpose throughout the four main centres and wisdom for David in ministering across a diverse area. Pray that Jesus will be clearly proclaimed and that more people who live in the parish would have a longing to know more about Jesus.

**National Church:** The Diocese of North Queensland with Bishop Keith Joseph, clergy and people. Pray that the Lord will raise up people to fill the vacancies in the diocese and cause an excitement about the opportunities to make Jesus known.

**Other needs:** Pray today that there might be more Bible study groups across the diocese and that through the study of God's word, people might become clear in their understanding of the gospel and passionate about their relationship with the Lord Jesus.

## Day 18

### Bible verse and prayer for today

...to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:12-13

*Thank you, heavenly Father, that your body the church grows as we are equipped for the service of others. May all our churches grasp this glorious truth, so that as we are built up by mutual service, we may be more deeply unified in our trust and knowledge of the Lord Jesus, and so become mature – full to the brim and overflowing – with Jesus – all to his glory. Amen.*

**Bathurst Diocese:** Now we pray for the north-west archdeaconry and its parishes – Wellington, Dubbo, Narromine, Gilgandra, Trundle, Warren, Coonabarabran, Coonamble, Nyngan, Cobar, and Bourke-Brewarrina. We pray for Archdeacon Brett Watterson who serves as archdeacon of this area – for wisdom and strength for this role as he also manages other responsibilities!

Pray for the parish of Wellington with the Rev'd Carl Palmer (and wife Jennie). Pray that Carl and Jennie will be empowered by God's wisdom as they seek to point people to Jesus and encourage God's people in Wellington. Pray for wisdom as the parish determines its future.

**National Church:** The Diocese of North West Australia with new bishop Darryl Parker. Pray for him as he takes up this work this year and gets to know the clergy, people and needs of the Diocese. Thank the Lord for the support of BCA in many parishes and pray that Jesus will be effectively made known in across this vast place.

**Other needs:** Pray for youth and children's ministry in our diocese – that young people will be lovingly and carefully encouraged to grow in their love for Jesus and their desire to serve and honour him in their entire lives. Pray for those involved in safe ministry training and professional standards matters, including the Rev'd Peter Barnett that he might be given wisdom and grace for the task. Pray for those who have been abused by clergy and lay people in our diocese that they will be comforted and helped.

## Day 19

### Bible verse and prayer for today

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

<sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:17, 22-24

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, please help us to put off our former way of life and please wonderfully make us new in the attitude of our minds, putting on the new self, created to be like you in true righteousness and holiness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** The parish of Holy Trinity Dubbo with the Venerable Brett Watterson assisted by the Rev'd Michelle Watterson, the Rev'd Ray Tickle and Lynette, and the Rev'd Cathy Walker and Peter. Pray that Lizzie Watterson as part time youth minister will be equipped to love those under her care and continually encourage them in their relationship with the Lord Jesus. Pray that more people in Dubbo will come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour and take their part in building up God's church.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Perth with Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy and assistant bishop, Kate Wilmot, clergy and people. Pray for unity in the gospel and effectiveness in making Jesus known across the diocese.

## Day 20

### Bible verse and prayer for today

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin".

Ephesians 4:25-26a

*Loving God, may truth mark all our relationships,  
especially in the body of Christ.*

*And when there is appropriate reason for us to be angry,  
please help us to deal with that in a godly and gentle way,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** The parish of Narromine. Pray that the Lord will raise up a new minister for the work there and sustain those who carry the load in the meantime. May Bible studies started last year continue to strengthen people's understanding of God's word and their love for Jesus.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Riverina with Bishop Donald Kirk, clergy and people. Pray for wisdom for the leadership of the diocese that they will serve their people well and build up the churches across the diocese to the glory of God.

**Other needs:** Pray for world leaders and decision-makers; those who hold power and influence through politics, finance, the media or industry. May we work together for the common good.

## Day 21

### Bible verse and prayer for today

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 4:29

*Please dear Lord, help us to be careful before we speak.*

*Help us realise in advance if something on our heart to say, will not actually be helpful in any way. Help us to have wisdom to discern and discipline to say, only what will be helpful for building others up, so that it will benefit all who listen.*

*We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Bathurst Diocese:** Parish of Gilgandra. Pray that the Lord will raise up someone new to lead this parish, and that there will be open doors and hearts for the good news of Jesus. Thank the Lord for Deacon the Rev'd Anne Younghusband and Neville along with the very active lay ministers. Ask the Lord to provide financially for the substantial building repair works which are needed on the church building and thank the Lord for the hospitality of the Uniting Church who have welcomed the Anglican congregation while they cannot meet in their building.

**National:** The Diocese of Rockhampton and Bishop Peter Grice, and for the clergy and people. Pray for wisdom for Peter as he leads – especially that he will know how best to allocate his time and build up his team of clergy.

**Other needs:** Pray for mothers and fathers with young children and for pre-school groups, kindergarten and primary school teachers and those working with children with special needs. Pray for grace and love, wisdom and compassion. And in Christian contexts, pray that children and parents will be pointed to the hope we have in Jesus.

## Day 22

### Bible verse and prayer for today

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:31-32

*Remove from our heart Lord God,  
all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.  
Please Father, help us to be more and more like you: kind and compassionate, forgiving one another, just  
as through Jesus, you have forgiven us.  
May all relationships be shaped by this kindness, compassion, forgiveness.  
We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Bathurst Diocese:** The parish of Trundle - another parish without an ordained minister. Please pray for the licenced lay ministers who are carrying on with love and devotion – but also pray that the Lord will raise someone to minister across the parish and in the many centres, to the glory of God and the building up of his church. Pray also that the Lord will provide the funds needed to support a minister full time.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Sydney with Archbishop Kanishka Raffel and regional bishops: Michael Stead, Gary Koo, Peter Lin, Peter Hayward, Chris Edwards, and Malcolm Richards along with Archdeacon for women, Kara Hartley, the Dean, Sandy Grant, clergy and people. Thank the Lord for the generosity of the Sydney Diocese, through whose gift, we are able to support our bishop and registrar.

## Day 23

### Bible verse and prayer for today

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

*Again we pray dear Lord, that you might make us more and more like yourself.  
May we walk in the way of love, following the sacrificial example of the Lord Jesus;  
giving ourselves in the service of others and of you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** Pray for the parish of Warren. Thank the Lord for the Rev'd Gloria Shipp who has been helping here once a month, but also pray for a wise ministry solution which will provide a loving ministry centred around God's word and the proclamation of the gospel. Pray that the congregation will not lose heart, but trust God for their future.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Tasmania with Bishop Richard Condie, assistant bishop Chris Jones, and all the clergy and people. Ask the Lord that the diocese will be marked by great joy in the gospel and a passion to proclaim it!

**Other needs:** Pray for those caught up in addictions to alcohol and drugs, social media, pornography, and other addictions. Pray for those who support them and for the work that people do with twelve step programs. Pray that people would turn to the Lord and that through Jesus, the power and bonds of sin would be broken.

## Day 24

### Bible verse and prayer for today

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Ephesians 5:3

*Loving God, please help us to remain your pure people,  
without even a hint of immorality nor greed.  
Help us by your Spirit, to live the radically different life to which you've called us,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Bathurst Diocese:** The Parish of Coonabarabran: the Rev'd Andrew Thornhill and his wife Kath. Pray for Andrew as he now also juggles the MDO role – that he won't be overwhelmed and be given wisdom as to how best to use his available time. Pray that the parish will grow from strength to strength as God's word is taught and the great news of the Lord Jesus is shared.

**National Church:** The Diocese of The Murray with Bishop Keith Dalby, clergy and people. Pray for Bishop Keith as he seeks to remind clergy and people of the precious good news of Jesus.

**Other needs:** Pray for Macquarie Anglican Grammar School; the Head, Mr Craig Mansour, Chaplain the Rev'd Tom Owen, students, parents and staff - that this school may be effective in pointing students to the life, joy, peace and hope found in relationship with Jesus.

## Day 25

### Bible verse and prayer for today

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,<sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15

*Loving God, grant us your wisdom we pray that we may always live wisely.  
Help us to be wise to the gospel opportunities that regularly come before us,  
that we might SHARE JESUS FOR LIFE and give a reason for the hope we have.  
We ask this, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** The Parish of Coonamble. Pray that they will know God's presence and peace as they minister and see the Lord at work through them. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will raise up a minister for them and sustain the licenced lay ministers as they care for God's people in the meantime. Give thanks for the Rev'd Kay Colwell who takes a service once a month and the Rev'd Geoff Tym who regularly takes a service in the outlying centres.

**National Church:** The diocese of the Northern Territory with Bishop Greg Anderson, clergy and people. Praise God FOR the dean of the cathedral - the Rev'd Rob Llewellyn and pray that the Lord would unite bishop, dean and clergy around the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Other needs:** Pray for Orange Anglican Grammar School, the Head, the Rev'd Louis Stringer, students, Chaplaincy Team, staff and parents. Pray that they will be centred around Jesus and help students, parents and staff to understand that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

## Day 26

### Bible verse and prayer for today

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Ephesians 6:10-11

*Loving God, we often feel weak and unable to live your way.  
Please help us today and every day to be strong with your strength.  
Give us the determination to clothe ourselves with everything you have provided  
so that we can take a stand against the devil's schemes.  
In particular, we ask that we might be people of prayer and your word.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Bathurst Diocese:** Pray for the parish of Nyngan, again giving thanks for the Rev'd Gloria Shipp who takes a service there once a month. Pray for a new minister for this town and the funds to support them. Pray that the parish will continue to grow in a deepening relationship with the Lord Jesus and have a desire to share Jesus for life.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Wangaratta with Bishop Clarence Bester, clergy and people. Pray that this diocese will remain faithful to Biblical Christianity and proclaim the good news of Jesus.

**Other needs:** Pray today for those clergy new to our diocese recently: Andy Martin, Jonny Lush, Ben Connelly, and Tim Smith, and for those who have served with us for some time but are in new roles: Steven Klouth and James Daymond.

## Day 27

### Bible verse and prayer for today

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Ephesians 6:12-13

*Gracious and powerful Lord, remind us that we are involved each day in a spiritual battle  
against the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.  
Remind us that we cannot fight on our own, but only with the help of your full armour.  
Please give us grace therefore, to stand our ground; to stand with you and for you,  
For we ask this for your glory. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** Parish of Cobar: praise God for the appointment of the Rev'd James Daymond to Cobar (along with his wife Brittany). Pray that they will know God's great strength and blessing on their first year there. Give thanks for the support of BCA for ministry in Cobar and pray that the congregation will be built up and those in the town begin to hear of the saving news of the Lord Jesus.

**National Church:** The Diocese of Willochra with new their new Bishop - Jeremy James, and for all the clergy and people. Pray that bishop and clergy and lay people will have great joy in the Lord and be unified in their work across the diocese.

**Other needs:** Pray for the synod of our Diocese, its President, Bishop Mark Calder, Bishop's chancellor, Adrian Ahern, Bishop's Registrar Dr Warwick Baines, and for the clerical and lay secretaries. Pray for Bishop-in-Council as it meets between synods – for wisdom and good stewardship.

## Day 28

### Bible verse and prayer for today

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18

*Our Father, please make us people of prayer.*

*Against the tide of self-sufficiency and our lazy lack of self-discipline,*

*help us to come regularly before you, both in praise and thanksgiving and in humble dependence.*

*Help us to stay alert and to keep on praying for all the Lord's people – using this prayer diary and other means to pray around our diocese and for the work of the gospel.*

*We ask this Lord, as we long to be the people – and the church – that you would have us be.*

*All to your glory, Amen.*

**Bathurst Diocese:** Pray for the parish of Bourke-Brewarrina. Thank the Lord for the monthly visit of the Rev'd John Gaff – but pray that there may soon be a new minister found for this area who will love the people there and build up God's church. Please pray that sufficient finances may be found to support a full-time minister in Bourke-Brewarrina.

**National Church:** Anglicare Australia, Chair, Bishop Chris Jones, Director Kasy Chambers, Anglicare workers and all to whom they minister. Pray that the love of the Lord will be made known.

**Other needs:** Pray for Bishop-in-Council - for wisdom for those who serve the diocese in this important way – Bishop Mark Calder, Archdeacons Jono Williams and Brett Watterson, the Very Rev'd James Hodson, the Rev'ds Phil Howes, James Daymond, Bob Cameron, and Andrew Thornhill, and Karen Trafford, Lisa Milton, Ray Haigh, John Power, Sue West and Mark Galbraith. Dr Warwick Baines serves BiC as secretary. Please also pray for the lay vacancy to be filled.

## Day 29

### Bible verse and prayer for today

Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,<sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Ephesians 5:19-20

*Almighty God, although our bishop and ministers are not in chains,*

*nevertheless, we do pray that whenever they speak,*

*you would give them the right words,*

*so that they will fearlessly make known your good news.*

*We pray that they will declare your word fearlessly, as they should,*

*all in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ and for his glory. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** Pray for Mrs Louise Hickey and Dr Warwick Baines in the Diocesan office that they will know the Lord's presence and wisdom for all their work. Pray for unity in the cause of the gospel in our Diocese, that together, we will lovingly and effectively, *SHARE JESUS FOR LIFE*.

**National Church:** Theological Colleges and Church schools throughout Australia: pray that many more will offer themselves as candidates for ministry and that our church schools will not be 'church' in name only, but places where the gospel is proclaimed and lived out.

**Other needs:** Pray for the ministries in and through the Op Shops around our Diocese, that they will be centres that spread the love of Jesus.

## Day 30

### Bible verse and prayer for today

Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>24</sup> Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

Ephesians 5:23-24

*Loving Lord, we pray for all our brothers and sisters across the diocese.  
We pray that we might all live in the peace and the love which come from trusting you.  
We pray that your grace will inspire all who love our Lord Jesus with an undying love.  
In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** Bishop Mark Calder and Susan. Please pray that they will walk closely with God in joyful dependence on him, and daily be transformed into the likeness of Jesus. Pray for wisdom and strength for all they do. Pray that Bishop Mark will teach God's word clearly, preach the gospel boldly, and love the clergy and people of our Diocese deeply.

**National Church:** Mission agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia, that they will be faithful to their charter and effective in proclaiming the gospel and helping those in need.

**Other matters:** For the Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd, the trustees and the chair Francis Dorman and for the Company of the Good Shepherd and the Principal, the Venerable Brett Watterson. Pray for wisdom as the future of this ministry is discerned, for the financial resources to sustain the ministry in the north-west of the diocese and that there might be an open door for the message of Jesus right across the area.

## Day 31

### Bible verse and prayer for today

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Psalms 119:105

*Almighty God, we thank you for your holy word.  
May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and strength to our lives,  
in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Bathurst Diocese:** for the Province of NSW with the Dioceses of Sydney, Canberra and Goulburn, the Riverina, Grafton, Newcastle, Armidale and our own Diocese of Bathurst. Pray that we might be faithful and true Anglicans, focused on the truth of God's word and the joyful reality of the resurrection of Jesus.

**National Church:** that the Australian church would remain true to God's word, prioritise sharing the gospel across the nation and that the Lord would raise up more young people who will train and serve as clergy in Australia.

Please pray regularly for those parishes without stipendiary clergy in our Diocese (as at Jan. 2023):

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Bourke/Brewarrina | 7. Narromine         |
| 2. Coonamble         | 8. Cumnock           |
| 3. Nyngan            | 9. Trundle           |
| 4. Gilgandra         | 10. Condobolin       |
| 5. Warren            | 11. Cudgegong Valley |
| 6. Coolah-Dunedoo    | 12. Kelso            |