

Photos from synod 2023



Bishop and registrar



Brandon Howard shared about Anglicare



John Lovell shared about CMS



Synod News

Synod 2023 took place from 15-16 September. The proceedings began with a service of Holy Communion at the Cathedral at 7 pm on the 15th and resumed with the business session at 9 am on the 16th in the parish hall at Kelso. Over 70 delegates attended, accompanied by 5-6 observers. Overall, it was an uplifting event, with many reasons for gratitude.

A highlight was the **new parish admin ordinance**. It sailed through synod with minimal debate and without the need to move into committee. While most changes focused on updating the language, several significant alterations were also introduced; for example:

1. Differentiating the parish ordinance from the admin ordinance for clarity and ease of reference.
2. Elections for office bearers, aside from synod reps, will once again be held annually.
3. Parishes will no longer have centre wardens for remote churches. Instead, each parish will have three wardens: one appointed by the Priest and two elected by the congregation.

Upon finalisation and endorsement, these two separated ordinances will be circulated to parishes and uploaded to the diocesan website.

Additional motions included:

- A request that the bishop's video sermons continue.
- Establishing a panel to address family violence.
- Expressing gratitude to Archdeacon Watterson.
- Adopting a pastoral supervision policy for clergy.
- Reviewing minimum standards for parish cars.
- Advocating for indigenous representation at synod.

Bishop writes

In my Presidential Address to synod, I drew inspiration from the account of Joseph, who because of his big view of God, could see that what his brothers meant for harm, God had used for good. I urged us all to adopt a similar perspective of God's work in our diocese, recognising his unique capacity to bring good from harm – as he did at the cross.

While acknowledging the many challenges our diocese has faced—financial issues, questionable past decisions, abuse, and the subsequent erosion of trust, I pointed out that the Lord is at work to bring good from harm.

I highlighted the perseverance of our parishes without clergy and recognised their unwavering commitment to maintaining their ministry. I also mentioned the positive signs and developments in our parishes *with* clergy.

I expressed our collective gratitude for the invaluable financial support from the Sydney Diocese, the Bush Church Aid Society, our partner churches, and dedicated individuals. I wondered whether the EMF might form the basis of a new capital fund.

Given our pressing need for more clergy, I proposed some possible ways we might support our clergy-less parishes. This includes forging partnerships within the diocese, sourcing traveling locums, and harnessing technology for live-streaming services.

Lastly, I stressed the urgent need to foster a culture shift within our diocese. Steering away from past suspicions and divisions, I urged a future marked by compassion, kindness, and unity. I concluded by urging us to centre our efforts around **SHARING JESUS FOR LIFE**; prayer, and inviting God's transforming work in our hearts.

Mark

The Rt Rev'd Mark Calder
Bishop of Bathurst

Bishop's video sermons

HOLIDAY SERIES - PEACE, FORGIVENESS, CONTENTMENT

- SEPT 24 Peace in an age of anxiety
OCT 01 Forgiveness in an age of revenge
08 Contentment in an age of dissatisfaction

TERM 4 SERIES – EPISTLE OF JAMES - JESUS' BROTHER, CHALLENGES OUR HEARTS

- OCT 15 Facing trials James 1:1-15
22 Look in the mirror James 1:16-27
29 So – *do* you love your neighbour? James 2:1-13
NOV 05 Is your faith dead? James 2:14-29
12 How serious are you about God? James 3:1-4:10
19 Who is calling the shots? James 4:11-5:6
26 Patiently waiting for Jesus' return James 5:7-20

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS – ON THAT DAY

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| DEC 03 | ADVENT 1 | We will rise | 1 Thess 4:13-18, 1 Cor 15:51-54 |
| 10 | ADVENT 2 | We will see you | Matthew 5:8; Rev 22:4 |
| 17 | ADVENT 3 | We will know you | 1 Cor 13:12; Jer 31:34, John 17:3 |
| 24 | ADVENT 4 | We will keep on singing | Rev 5:9-13; 7:9-10; Psalm 145:1-2 |
| 25 | CHRISTMAS | His Kingdom knows no end | Luke 1:32-33; Ps 145:13; Rev 11:15 |

DATES TO NOTE FOR 2024

Ash Wednesday – 14 Feb

Lenten studies available – from 14 Feb

Good Friday to Easter Day – 29 to 31 Mar

Renewal of ordination vows – 26 Mar - Wellington

Retired clergy retreat – 2-5 April – Perthville

Diocesan conference – 18 May – Dubbo

Diocesan camp – 9-11 August – Ridgecrest

Synod – 20-21 September – Bathurst

Women's conference – 19 Oct - Bathurst

Clergy retreat – 4-7 November - Galong

Please Pray

Pray for all our clergy – that they would know the Lord's work *in* their lives and *through* their lives.

Please pray for Warwick Baines and family as they holiday together – that the Lord would bring rest and refreshment and great family time.

Pray for Alissia Galbraith and Louise Hickey in the Diocesan office as they carry the work in Warwick's absence.

Give thanks for the safe arrival of Rachel Joy Klouth, born to Steven and Caitlin at West Wyalong. Ask God's blessing and protection on the family at this precious time.

Parishes without clergy – Dubbo, Cudgegong Valley, Kelso, Narromine, Gilgandra, Coolah-Dunedoo, Condobolin, Trundle, Coonamble, Warren, Bourke-Brewarrina, Cumnock and Warren. Please pray that the Lord would raise up 13 godly, able and passionate men or women to serve in ALL of these parishes, to his great glory!

Pray for the Rev'ds John Clarkson and John Butterworth who remain very unwell; along with those who care for them.

Pray for the Bishop's upcoming weekend ministry:

- Oct 07 – Confirmation - Molong
Oct 08 – West Wyalong
Oct 21-22 – Dubbo
Oct 29 – St Andrew's Lane Cove
Nov 05 – Baptism – Carcoar
Nov 12 – South Turrumurra
Nov 19 – Gilgandra
Nov 26 – Coonabarabran
Dec 03 – Cathedral
Dec 10 – Cathedral
Dec 17 - Cathedral

Contact Info

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For more information contact the diocesan office during office hours, (not Wednesday), 9am-5pm.

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Cathedral Services

Saturday vigil

5pm (6pm during daylight saving)

Sunday

8.30am Traditional
10am Contemporary
Also 8.30am Mon, Wed, Thu; 10am Fri

Supporting our clergy

We would love your support for Phil Howes, Bec Choi, Tim Smith, Jonny Lush and Jono Williams. Please indicate in the reference, who you wish to support.

Account: Synod Management Fund
BSB: 082-441

Account Number: 392 655 240