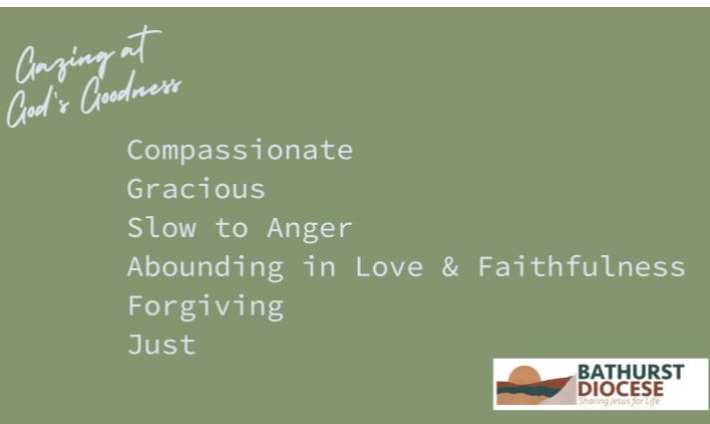


Retired clergy lunch held recently. A great time!



Lenten studies – Gazing at God’s Goodness



Clergy end of year gathering – Dubbo



Diocesan conference – 18 May – Dubbo

THE CHURCH

I'd love to join

PRAYS!!

Diocesan conference

Saturday 18 May

General News

Commissary – Bishop Calder has appointed Dean James Hodson in this role for the duration of his leave. Please pray for James in this role and for Mark and Susan as they rest.

Lenten studies – have you gathered a group for these? Not to be missed as we explore God as compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, faithful, forgiving and just. With the Rev'd Dr Paul Dale from Bridgechurch. First video and study will be emailed 13 Feb.

Assistance while Bishop Mark is on leave – please feel free to contact Archdeacons Jono Williams and Andrew Thornhill (from 03 Feb); Dr Warwick Baines our business manager or Dean James Hodson. With reference to their various responsibilities, you might also call on:

1. **Director of Ordinands** – Andrew Thornhill
2. **Chaplain to LLMs** – Jono Williams
3. **Event manager** – Kath Thornhill
4. **Strategic plan facilitator** – James Daymond
5. **Clergy development and support** – Phil Howes.

CLAIM THESE DATES NOW:

- 13 Feb** 1st Lenten study email
- 14 Feb** Ash Wednesday
- 26 Mar** Renewal of ministry vows – for LLMs and all clergy – Wellington at 11am, followed by lunch together.
- 29 Mar** Good Friday
- 31 Mar** Easter Day
- 2-5 Apr** Retired clergy retreat
- 18 May** Diocesan conference – on prayer with the Rev'd Peter Rodgers + practical seminars.
- 9-11 Aug** Diocesan camp – with speaker the Rev'd Andy Martin.
- 20 Sept** Stipendiary clergy gathering prior to synod – 2pm - with Bishop Richard Condie
- 20-21 Sept** Synod - Bathurst
- 19 Oct** Women's conf, Bathurst
- 4-7 Nov** Clergy retreat - Galong

Bishop writes

Dear friends,

Imagine labelling all the items in your life—microwaves, cars, homes—as either "temporary" or "permanent." The result is confronting: everything is temporary; except for Jesus.

As we celebrate his birth, we're not just commemorating God stepping into our world as one of us; we're affirming the timeless reign of a permanent King. Jesus is the exception in a world of transience, offering reliability, dependability, and lasting hope.

This Christmas, amidst the chaos of life, run to Jesus. In him, find not only help but a source of unwavering hope, strength, and inner transformation. Amidst the temporary, Jesus stands as the permanent promise of a Kingdom that never ends.

May this Christmas be a reminder that, in Jesus, we discover hope and help and strength in the face of our world – and our lives – which are often confusing and uncertain. I take great joy in praying for you, that Christmas will be a significant time of joy and thankfulness – yes because of family gatherings and rest from routine – but primarily because of God's gift of His Son, whose kingdom knows no end.

And now as I head off on long service leave, I do so with great thankfulness to God for you all. It has been a remarkable four years in this role. You are all an inspiration – persevering through many challenges – but remaining steadfast in your trust in Jesus and your desire to see His church grow and flourish. Thank you for the example you are to me!

A special thanks to our extraordinary business manager and registrar Warwick Baines, and to Louise and Alissia in the Diocesan office! They are a wonderful team and a great support. Every blessing!

Mark

**The Rt Rev'd Mark Calder
Bishop of Bathurst**

Bishop's video sermons (Continuing throughout the bishop's leave.)

THE CHURCH AS GOD INTENDED

DEC 31 ...keeps the unity of the Spirit Ephesians 4:1-6
JAN 07 ...becomes mature Ephesians 4:7-16
JAN 14 ...lives a life of love Ephesians 4:17-5:2

JONAH – THE PARADOX OF GRACE

JAN 21 The problem with grace Jonah 1
JAN 28 The beauty of grace Jonah 2
FEB 04 The persistence of grace Jonah 3
FEB 11 The consistency of grace Jonah 4

LENTEN STUDIES/SERMONS - GAZING AT GOD'S GOODNESS

FEB 18 Compassionate
FEB 25 Gracious
MAR 03 Slow to Anger
MAR 10 Abounding in Love & Faithfulness
MAR 17 Forgiving
MAR 24 Just

EASTER - THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

MAR 29 GOOD FRIDAY
MAR 31 EASTER DAY

EASTER ENCOUNTERS WITH THE RISEN JESUS

APR 07 With Thomas John 20:19-31
APR 14 With the disciples Luke 24:36b-48
APR 21 With YOU John 10:11-18

Contact Info

Bishop

The Rt Rev'd Mark Calder
On long service leave 21 Dec-9 Apr

Business manager and registrar

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Assist. Business manager / registrar

Mrs Alissia Galbraith
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Administration assistant

Mrs Louise Hickey
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Dean

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Archdeacons

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Jono Williams 0410 605 594
Tim St Quintin (from 9 April)

Ministry consultant

Kevin Simington 0409 366 806
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Bishop's chancellor

Adrian Ahern

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

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www.bathurstanglican.org.au

Please Pray

Pray for all Christmas services and opportunities across the diocese – that the astonishing news of God entering our world as a human being and bringing life and hope, will come home to people in a new and refreshing way this year and that many people will be drawn closer to Jesus!

Pray for those taking up aspects of the former MDO role – Andrew Thornhill, Jono Williams, Kath Thornhill, James Daymond and Phil Howes (see front page for details). Pray that the Lord would inspire them and give them the time and headspace they need for these new responsibilities.

Parishes without clergy – Kelso, Narromine, Gilgandra, Coolah-Dunedoo, Condobolin, Coonabarabran, Trundle, Coonamble, Warren, Bourke-Brewarrina, Cumnock and Warren. Pray that the Lord sustain and refresh those who are helping in these parishes and that the Lord would raise up men and women and the financial support needed to fill them all!

Continue to remember in prayer the Rev'ds John Clarkson, John Butterworth and Anne Neville, along with Wally and Jordan Cox.

Pray for Andrew Thornhill's commissioning as rector of Holy Trinity Dubbo and Archdeacon of the Northwest Feb 03 at Holy Trinity Dubbo, 11am; Dean James Hodson officiating.

Long service leave – pray that Mark and Susan would find rest and refreshment and return recharged and reenergised for ministry.

CMS summer school – pray that all who attend will grow in Christ, and find nourishment and refreshment in the Bible teaching and testimonies from the missionaries.

Cathedral Services

Saturday vigil

6pm (5pm outside 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