

Lenten Studies: Ash Wednesday to Easter

*Gazing at
God's Goodness*

Compassionate
Gracious
Slow to Anger
Abounding in Love & Faithfulness
Forgiving
Just



Archdeacon Andrew Commissioned in Dubbo



THE CHURCH
I'd love to join
PRAYS!!
Diocesan conference
Saturday 18 May

Gazing at God's Goodness

We encourage everyone to tune into the Lenten Studies. Six talks, presented by Rev'd Dr Paul Dale from Bridgechurch in Sydney. First video and study will be emailed 13 Feb.

Paul said, "I'm excited to delve into who God is and his character, because the more we know God and understand his character, the deeper and richer our relationship with him will be. In Exodus 34, God reveals himself... It's my pleasure and privilege to walk us through this verse that comes over 20 times in scripture. My prayer is that you would see God and have a deeper, richer love for him."

General News

Archdeacon Commissioning

The Rev'd Andrew Thornhill was joyfully welcomed to Dubbo and commissioned as Rector of Holy Trinity and Archdeacon of the North-West on 3 February. Andrew said, "To my new church family, the flock that God has placed under my care, I do this only under God's hand, with his help. When you see me, ask me, have I drawn strength from God today. I can't do this without him. Please hold me to that."

Diocesan Conference in Dubbo

Please reserve 18 May in your diary. Our annual conference follows on from last year's theme, with a focus on prayer. Why we pray, how we pray and practical 'all-in' seminars to rejuvenate and challenge your prayer life. Our apologies that this date is the same as the *OneDay Women's Conference* in Orange. Both events promise excellent teaching. The next Diocesan Conference will be held earlier in 2025.

Bishop's Commissary

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

Dear friends,

People often don't look forward to Lent. Childhood memories of giving up things, words like "sacrifice," "discipline," and "self-denial" are often used in ways that suggest that Lent is something to be endured rather than a time of grace and spiritual growth.

Have you ever thought of Lent as a yearly second chance? Each year the Church gives us six weeks to take a look at our lives to see if our values and priorities are in line with God's desires for us. Since most of us find that we've wandered from God's path, Lent becomes that second chance, a time to have another go, to "return to God with our whole heart." (Joel 2:12) The question that this raises for us is how do we make the most of this opportunity? What should I read or study or give up or take on? These are good questions, and worth exploring - but perhaps they're not Jesus' question.

Jesus is getting to the heart of the matter. He reminds us that our hearts follow and give themselves to what we treasure. Some treasures are of lasting and eternal value and there are others that we need to let go of, regardless of how much we think we love or need them. Some treasures enrich and grow life. Other treasures hold our hearts captive and impoverish life. Let us approach Lent as treasure hunters, discovering what we truly value, and what it is that is truly lasting and life giving. Let's courageously examine our lives, let's use this second chance that the season of Lent offers us to clear the decks that we may discover the full and abundant life that our gracious God offers us.

The Very Rev'd James Hodson

Video Sermons

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

Key Dates and Upcoming Events

14 Feb Ash Wednesday
5 March Safe Ministry Training Gilgandra
9 March Safe Ministry Training Forbes
22-24 Mar Men's Retreat Wyangala Dam <https://fairdinkummensministry.org/>
26 Mar Renewal of ministry vows 11am in Wellington
29 Mar Good Friday
31 Mar Easter Day
2-5 Apr Retired clergy retreat
7-15 April Moore College mission to Orange
9 April Bishop Mark returns from leave
13 April Mudgee 11am Tim St Quintin Commissioning
18 May Diocesan conference with speaker Rev'd Peter Rodgers
9-11 Aug Diocesan camp at Ridgecrest with speaker Rev'd Andy Martin
20 Sept Stipendiary clergy gathering 2pm - prior to Synod
20-21 Sept Synod in Bathurst
19 Oct Diocesan Women's Conference Bathurst
4-7 Nov Clergy retreat - Galong

Is it time to update your Safe Ministry Training? Attend a course in person, or online at a time to suit you.
<https://safercommunities.net.au/anglican-diocese-of-bathurst-online-training/>

Please Pray

The Bishop's 2024 Prayer Diary can be accessed online at www.bathurstanglican.org.au or phone the office to request a copy. We'd love you to be praying with us.

Pray for our people – that Lent will be a time when we will gaze on God's goodness and be moved to know our loving God more deeply.

Easter Services – Praise God, our rescuer and King. Pray that our Easter celebrations will be compelling, attracting attendees who will find new life in Jesus.

Pray for the Bishop and his leadership team.
Please pray for refreshment for Mark and Susan Calder during their long service leave and the people sharing the newly developed MDO role, in addition to their existing ministries:

Director of Ordinands
Andrew Thornhill

Chaplain to LLMs
Jono Williams

Event manager
Kath Thornhill

Strategic plan facilitator
James Daymond

Clergy support
Phil Howes

Parishes without clergy – Please continue to pray that God will raise up 12 godly, able and passionate men or women to serve in our vacant parishes: Warren, Nyngan, Bourke-Brewarrina, Cumnock, Kelso, Gilgandra, Coolah-Dunedoo, Condobolin, Trundle, Coonamble, Narromine, and Coonabarabran. Thank the Lord for the efforts of our locums and lay workers in these parishes.

Pray for Rev'd Tim St Quintin, as he prepares to move to Mudgee as Rector and Archdeacon of the East.

Contact Info

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

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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