

BATHURST DIOCESE

Sharing Jesus for Life



DIOCESAN PRAYER DIARY 2025

Please pray for our diocese as a whole, that

...the God who gives endurance and encouragement will 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.

See Romans 15:5-6

This edition: January 2025

Day 1

Cathedral Parish: The Very Rev'd James and Mrs Fran Hodson, the Rev'd Phil and Mrs Sho Howes

- Thanks for people who are stepping up to do more.
- For a strengthening of kids' ministry and the beginning of a youth group.
- That congregation members would enjoy sharing their faith regularly.
- For fruitful interaction between Anglicare and existing ministries.
- Pray that the Lord will raise up a new children's minister and an assistant minister to fill a training role generously funded by BCA.

Day 2

Kelso: The Rev'd James and Mrs Charly Boardman

- That God would use our bi-centenary celebrations to draw people to him. Pray that we might connect well with our guests and that they might taste and see that the Lord is good.
- That out of God's glorious riches he may strengthen us with power through his Spirit in our inner being, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith.
- That being rooted and established in love, we 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, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
- For wisdom for James as he settles into his new role as priest-in-charge. Pray that God give him endurance through a busy year and that he will keep growing in his relationship with the Lord Jesus and preach the Gospel boldly.

Day 3

Coolah-Dunedoo: served by faithful lay ministers and Mr Glenn and Mrs Wendy Murray

- Thanks that Glenn and Wendy will come and minister alongside the faithful saints in the parish and ask for wisdom and grace for them as they settle.
- Thanks for Dr James White as he ministers each month in Coolah. Pray that the monthly family service will continue to grow and bear fruit.
- For a new minister for this parish and funds to support them.

Day 4

Blayney: The Rev'd Wally and Mrs Jordon Cox; the Rev'd Bec and Mr Yooie Choi

- For our newish parishioners, that they would be regular in gathering, connected to a growth group, and equipped to serve.
- For our older parishioners, that we would continue as faithful disciples of Christ: serving with joy, encouraging others, and sharing our faith.
- For our towns, that people would hear the gospel and find life in Jesus, and that our church would welcome them and be effective in follow up.

Day 5

Oberon: The Rev'd Jonny and Mrs Liz Lush

- That our four congregations would be united as one Church.
- That each family in our parish would be deliberate in building relationship with a non-believing family or friend, that they might witness Jesus to them.
- That more of our parish would get involved in a mid-week Bible study.

- That we would see our people meeting though the week one on one to read the Bible and pray together.

Day 6

Cudgong Valley: Archdeacon Tim and Mrs Sarah St Quintin; the Rev'd Josh and Mrs Jordon Taylor and Mr Levi Kowalczyk

- That we will be primed for mission, making the most of the Moore College mission team (6-13 Apr); HOPE25; and other outreach initiatives.
- That we will be built up in maturity in Christ particularly through multiplying Bible study groups, and through wedding, baptism, and confirmation preparation.
- Thanks for the Rev'd Josh Taylor (new assistant priest) and Levi Kowalczyk (ministry apprentice) and pray for all our ministry leaders across the parish.
- For our efforts in streamlining our structures that we can enhance ministry through optimising our stewardship and systems.

Day 7

Cowra: The Rev'd Ben and Mrs Alissa Connelly

- That we will be able to start a Playgroup this year.
- That HOPE25 will help us make good connections with the local community.
- That we will continue to find ways of making our services welcoming and accessible.

Day 8

Canowindra: The Rev'd Canon Daniel and Mrs Karen Willis (Locum)

- That God will provide the Canowindra Parish with a new minister. Please give thanks for Daniel's ministry as locum.
- That the Lord will bless our HOPE25 plans to hold an "Airing of the quilts" community event at All Saints during the Canowindra International Balloon Festival in April.

- That the Lord's presence will be known in Canowindra during the International Balloon Festival in April. Please also pray for the safety and success of the event.
- That God will continue to bless the volunteers and shoppers at the weekly Food Basket held at Canowindra Connections Community Centre (Peace Memorial Uniting Church) and that these connections will open opportunity to share Jesus for life.

Day 9

Grenfell: the Rev'd Tim and Mrs Jess Smith

- Tim asks for prayer for himself and Jess, as they learn what being a ministry family of four looks like and as they raise Annie and Neavh to love Jesus and minister to the people of Grenfell.
- For continued evangelistic efforts across the parish as teams come to help and we seek to share Jesus for life.
- Thank the Lord for our faithful committed members who continually seek God's glory in their lives.
- Praise God that he has been faithful to us and will continue to uphold us.

Day 10

West Wyalong: Bishop Stuart and Mrs Janie Robinson

- That Lenten studies will be well attended, and that people will invite friends to our Easter outreach.
- Thanksgiving for new locum, the Reverend David Hayman and Romayne, who will begin immediately after Easter.
- For the HOPE25 programme that starts with a weekend mini mission led by Naomi and Darren Reid in May.
- For Bishop Mark as he prayerfully seeks a new rector for St. Barnabas.

Day 11

Forbes: The Rev'ds Roger and Sally Phelps

- That members of our church would be faithful in reading their Bibles, listening to God, and glorifying him.
- That we would make connections with those outside the church and be willing to help them know Jesus.
- That HOPE25 would give us a framework to *Share Jesus for Life* in our community.
- That God would guide us to be faithful in training and making disciples for Jesus.

Day 12

Parkes with Peak Hill: The Rev'd Ben and Mrs Bron Mackay

- That our parish's 150th anniversary in February would be a wonderful time of giving thanks to God for his many blessings, and an exciting time of looking forward with expectation to see how God will continue to work in Parkes and Peak Hill.
- That we would be growing in the knowledge of and love for God, and in love for each other, and that God would build us up into the people he wants us to be.
- For wisdom as we face challenges with roof repair work needed to St George's Church in Parkes.
- For unity under Christ.

Day 13

Cumnock: served by faithful lay ministers

- Pray that we will be an effective witness for Christ in our community.
- Thank God for the community support we receive and pray that this may translate into more people becoming actively involved in the church.

- Thank God for the work of our licensed lay ministers and pray that an ordained person may be available to lead some of our weekly worship services.
- Pray that we can host a meaningful community event for HOPE25 that will encourage people to understand the relevance of Jesus in their lives.

Day 14

Condobolin: served by faithful lay ministers

Please pray that that by God's grace, we will strengthen our connections with the local community by:

- inviting others to church, small groups, and occasions.
- offering to pray for people.
- increased focus on special observances within the church year.
- engaging the community in the history and restoration projects of the church.

Pray that these will all create opportunities to share Jesus for life.

Day 15

Orange - Holy Trinity: The Rev'd Andy and Mrs Amanda Martin

- Thanks for continuing spiritual and numerical growth in the church family and the number of children and young people coming regularly.
- That that God would provide the funds for a children's and youth minister this year and the right person to be that minister.
- That people would attend our 321 evangelistic course in Term 1, start to follow Jesus, and grow in their faith.
- That we would be creative and brave as we plan for HOPE 2025.

Day 16

Orange – St Barnabas: The Rev'd Bob and Mrs Fiona Cameron; Mrs Jo (children's ministry worker) and Mr Ian Watts

- Give thanks for new people who've joined St Barney's in recent months and who've been eager to get involved in serving; and for the many people who contribute to the life and ministry of the church.
- For wisdom in making decisions about ministry, including how best to use the resources God has entrusted to us.
- For a smooth transition for Jo Watts as she returns to work after parental leave, and for wisdom as we seek to grow and strengthen our ministry to children, families, and now an emerging number of teens.
- For the development of godly, wise, and skilled lay leaders in both ministry and governance.
- For increased participation in Life Groups (or home fellowship groups) and prayer gatherings.

Day 17

Cudal–Molong: served by faithful lay ministers

- That our parish will grow in God's love for each other and be an example to those who do not have Christ in their lives. We pray that we will be successful at attracting more people to the churches in our parish so that they are also able to know our God in a more personal way.
- For those involved in Bible studies in the parish, and scripture in our schools, and that more people will become involved in these activities. We give thanks for those who are already involved.
- Give thanks for and ask for wisdom, strength, and patience for those that are helping in any way with the running of our parish as we move into a time without a minister. Pray that they will feel God's presence with them. We also pray that more parishioners will be willing to help in this manner.

- Pray that we are able to find a way to afford a full-time minister, and that one is available and willing to come to our parish when the time is right. We pray for the successful sale of our rectories and that a house suitable for a clergy person and their family will be found for the parish to buy.

Day 18

Wellington: The Rev'd Carl and Mrs Jennie Palmer (Locum)

Please pray that:

- we will continue to keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, throughout the year ahead.
- we grow spiritually as we meet, pray, and study His Word together.
- we will faithfully model, speak and share the Good News of Christ within our community.
- that we turn our thoughts, ideas, and good intentions into actions, that show the love of Jesus to those who feel that there is no hope.
- the Lord will bring us a new minister.

Day 19

Dubbo: Archdeacon Andrew and Mrs Kath Thornhill; Mr Justin (student minister) and Mrs Alysha Baker

- That through our Bible study groups, weekly preaching, and other Word-based ministry: we will grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus, revelling in the grace of God.
- That our HOPE25 plans, in conjunction with others across the diocese, would encourage us all to regularly and naturally share our faith, and see people in our city turn to God in faith and repentance.
- That our renewed partnership with Anglicare will reach people in need physically, mentally, and most importantly spiritually.

- That God will continue to meet our needs, as we stretch ourselves financially to grow our children's and youth ministries; and for wisdom as we steward our resources to meet increased maintenance and other running costs.

Day 20

Narromine: The Rev'd Luke and Mrs Lauren Merriman

- That we will start a ladies and men's growth group this year - growing in Christ as we share the Bible together.
- That we will engage as a church with Kevin Simington's 'Believing Out Loud' seminars.
- That the Lord will revitalise and unify the churches in Narromine and Trangie - growing together as we worship God together.

Day 21

Gilgandra: served by honorary deacons, the Rev'd Anne Younghusband and the Rev'd Stuart Border, plus lay ministers

- That we deepen and grow in our home Bible study groups.
- That the whole church family (including the Uniting church folk with whom we worship) will enter into our plans for HOPE25.
- That our prayer life will flourish in faith and commitment.
- That we will increase our witness for Jesus in our community.

Day 22

Trundle: served by a faithful lay minister

- Please pray for all four church communities within our parish including (St Augustine's Trundle, St John's Tullamore, All Saints Albert, and St Luke's Bogan Gate).
- Ask the Lord for a minister who wants to be in rural NSW, with a heart for ministry and who is good at pastoral care.

- Ask for the Lord's grace to continue to grow our monthly ecumenical service in Trundle (currently being attended by Presbyterians, Uniting and Roman Catholics).
- Pray that we might be able to support all our people in the Trundle Parish, as we now have no minister of any denomination living among us.

Day 23

Warren: served by faithful lay ministers

- For God's blessing on this congregation as they persevere without an ordained minister. Pray that the bishop's sermons used in church each week will be a great blessing.
- For HOPE25 plans – that a special event might be planned, well attended and with a guest speaker who will clearly speak of Jesus our Hope.
- For wisdom in providing ministry here in the future and that the Lord will make clear how best to shepherd his flock and share Jesus for life.

Day 24

Coonabarabran: served by faithful lay ministers

- That as a parish we can be obedient, submissive, and willing to follow the word of God.
- That under all circumstances and trials we will look to Christ and grow under his authority.
- Ask the Lord to strengthen and encourage our church leaders and those who serve in the church – so that we may grow in our relationship with our Saviour and with each other.
- That God is preparing the heart and way for a new minister for our parish. Pray that the nominators may be wise in their deliberations.
- That we may fully use opportunities to speak to others about Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

Day 25

Coonamble: served by faithful lay ministers

- Please pray for a new minister to serve here who will love and shepherd the congregation and reach the towns of the parish with the good news of Jesus.
- Pray for those who minister here – for strength and wisdom.
- Pray for the desire to hold community morning teas for people who feel disconnected in the community.
- Pray for plans to hold an event during HOPE25 with a guest speaker.

Day 26

Nyngan: served presently by lay ministers Mr Philip and Mrs Deanne Gerber and others

- Thank the Lord for the willingness of Philip and Deanne Gerber to go out to Nyngan from Sydney and serve as lay ministers there for a time.
- Thank the Lord for the faithful people at St Mark's, for the warmth of their welcome to Philip and Deanne, and their care for the Gerbers in many practical ways.
- Pray that Sunday services will be encouraging and helpful and that Jesus is glorified.
- Please pray that the Gerbers and the congregation will make good connections within the Nyngan community so that they may share Jesus for life.

Day 27

Cobar: The Rev'd James and Mrs Brittany Damond

- That God will open people's hearts to the gospel.
- That God will raise up people to assist with ministry, not least of all for our outreach visiting to farms, people living in town, and shopkeepers.

- That our social media presence would increase so that we are able to reach more people effectively (not least of all people living on remote properties).
- Ask for children's and youth ministry to develop.
- Ask for HOPE25 to bear fruit during the campaign and in the months that follow.

Day 28

Bourke-Brewarrina: served by a faithful lay minister

- The obvious one for us is some form of regular ordained clergy visitation, accepting the inability of the parish to support a resident priest.
- For this faithful congregation, persevering through adversity and longing that they may one day have a shepherd to love and teach them.
- That this congregation will be nurtured and encouraged by God's word and given grace to keep trusting and serving him, though the way is hard.
- Ask God's special blessing on and strength for Cec Dorrington, lay minister, as he serves the congregation each week.
- For wisdom to know how best to be good stewards of the Brewarrina site as there are no regular services being held there.

Day 29

In the Diocesan office

Mrs Louise Hickey – admin assistant

Dr Warwick Baines – registrar and business manager

From Louise

- Praise God for our SRE teachers and their ministry to children across the diocese – and pray that God will guide them in wisdom, love, and patience so that children’s hearts will be open to hearing the good news of Jesus! Please pray for schools who don’t have SRE teachers, and that God will provide new and motivated volunteers in those areas.
- Pray for Parish Safe Ministry Coordinators who have the large, difficult but vital task in organising safe ministry documentation for their parish, so that all volunteers will be fully compliant in 2025.
- Please pray that I can be focussed, organised and effective in everything that I do so that I can better serve church members and those in ministry throughout the diocese, as well as those from the community with whom I am in contact.

From Warwick

- That in all the varied tasks I undertake, as per Hebrews 12:1, I’d focus on serving Jesus and on helping the diocese to share Jesus.
- Wisdom and patience in dealing with historical claims of abuse so that the limited diocesan finances available can support genuine victims.
- For the successful completion of the project to set-up Xero accounting software in all parishes so that, as per 1 Corinthians 4:2, parish finances can be most effectively applied to the cause of Jesus.

Day 30

Bishop Mark and Mrs Susan Calder:

- Pray that Mark remains faithful, clear, and compelling in preaching through the weekly sermon videos.
- Ask for God's grace to keep him fresh, humble, and dependent in his walk with the Lord Jesus.
- Pray for wisdom in his leadership and decision-making.
- Ask the Lord to grant safety for Mark and Susan in their travels and sufficient energy for its demands.

Day 31

Across the diocese

Please pray regularly for those parishes seeking clergy to shepherd them (as of January 2025):

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bourke/Brewarrina | 8. Trundle |
| 2. Coonamble | 9. Condobolin |
| 3. Nyngan | 10. Coonabarabran |
| 4. Gilgandra | 11. Wellington |
| 5. Warren | 12. Canowindra |
| 6. Coolah-Dunedoo | 13. West Wyalong |
| 7. Cumnock | 14. Cudal Molong |

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