Welcome | Synod 2025

Bishop Mark, Archbishop Kanishka Raffel at synod

Bishop Mark at Sydney synod to say 'thanks'

Pre-synod clergy and lay worker mini-conference

Archd'n Andrew Thornhill & the Rev'd Andy Martin at SMBC

In brief

Synod began on Friday night, 19 September with a service of Holy Communion in the cathedral with Archbishop Raffel – his second visit to us this year as Metropolitan. You can view his sermon **HERE** or listen to the podcast by searching "Bathurst Diocese" wherever you access your podcasts.

Synod passed two lots of legislation: four measures which brought our safe ministry ordinances up to date with state legislation. We adopted a new Ministry Standards Ordinance which deals with clergy and lay people who breach protocols. The second raft of ordinances made further amendments to the Parishes Ordinance and Administration Ordinanced. These included matters such as receiving nominations *prior* to an APM, how a chair for parish council is chosen where the minister chooses not to chair; retirement age of clergy, and the bishop licencing lay people to baptise, where appropriate. A memo will be sent explaining the implications of these changes in due course.

NOTE THESE 2025 DATES:

25 Oct Women's conference with Alison Whalley – Bathurst Cathedral - Rego **HERE.**
26 Oct ABM Thanksgiving Sunday
31 Oct in Dubbo and 01 Nov at Kelso - Safe ministry training.
01 Nov BiC planning day – Dubbo
01 Nov Youth day – Lake Canobolas
10 Nov LLM training – 7.15-8.30pm

DATES TO NOTE 2026:

09 Feb LLM training 7.15-830pm
16-19 Mar Retired clergy retreat – St Clement's Galong
21 Mar Diocesan conference – Dubbo – the Rev'd Nigel Fortescue
24 Mar Renewal of ministry vows
11 May LLM training 7.15-830pm
24 May Pentecost
27-30 Jul Clergy retreat – Galong – with Canon Greg Harris (BCA)
07-09 Aug Diocesan camp with the Rev'd Paul Dale (Bridgechurch)
10 Aug LLM training 7.15-830pm
18 Sept Stipendiary clergy gathering prior to synod – 2pm
24 Oct Women's conference

Presidential address

Bishop Mark began with the sobering realities of property sales and redress. Church buildings at Binnaway and Stuart Town were closed this year, reflecting population decline and the Diocese's continuing need to fund redress for survivors of abuse.

Appropriately, Bishop Mark then underlined the importance of Safe Ministry training. While compliance feels demanding, he insisted it is non-negotiable so that we might provide a safe environment for all. Currently, fewer than half of all volunteers are compliant. Bishop Mark urged all volunteers to persevere towards compliance.

Bishop Mark reported that the HOPE25 initiative sparked fresh energy across the Diocese, with stories of renewed faith, new families joining churches, greater outward focus, and fruitful evangelistic courses. He linked this with our own vision of ***Sharing Jesus for Life***, which continues to shape parish priorities, and inspire creative gospel initiatives.

Acknowledging challenges such as declining volunteer numbers, ageing congregations and buildings, and financial pressures, Bishop Mark nevertheless pointed to clear signs of growth. Bible study groups have doubled since 2019, children's and youth ministries now run in almost half our parishes, clergy numbers have increased, and offertory has risen by 28% since 2021.

Bishop Mark concluded with a call to perseverance: though the work is demanding, God is faithful, and as we keep Christ central and commit to ***Sharing Jesus for Life***, we can be confident of his sustaining grace.

Bishop's video sermon series

How long O Lord? *A four-week journey through lament, longing, and hope.*

OCT 05 When God feels distant Psalm 13
OCT 12 When the wicked thrive Psalm 73
OCT 19 When injustice reigns Habakkuk 1:1-5
OCT 26 The end of all our cries Revelation 6:9-11 and 21:1-5

Four Portraits of Enduring Hope – with Archdeacon Tim St Quintin

NOV 02 All Saints: The Communion of the Saints Revelation 7:9-17
NOV 09 Remembrance Sunday: In War and Peace Micah 4:1–5, John 15:13
NOV 16 Living in the Meantime Romans 8:18–25
NOV 23 Christ the King: The Reign of the Risen Lord Revelation 1:4–8

ADVENT
Advent in and from the Psalms – with Archdeacon Andrew Thornhill
NOV 30 HOPE: Psalm 130
DEC 07 PEACE: Psalm 46
DEC 14 JOY Psalm 98
DEC 21 LOVE: Psalm 86

CHRISTMAS – with Bishop Mark Calder
DEC 25 Shocking news; wonderful news Matthew 1:18-25
DEC 28 *To be advised*

SUMMER SERIES – **Year of provocation** Hebrews 10:19-25 – Bishop Mark Calder
JAN 04 Draw near Hebrews 10:19-22
JAN 11 Hold firm Hebrews 10:23
JAN 18 Stir up Hebrews 10:24
JAN 25 Turn up Hebrews 10:25

Please Pray

Give thanks for the opportunity for synod to gather and the blessing of Archbishop Raffel's sermon and Bible study. Pray that the decisions made at synod will be effectively implemented and helpfully communicated. Give thanks to God for your synod reps and the time they gave in traveling and serving.

Pray for Louise Hickey and all our parish safe ministry coordinators as we aim for 100% compliance for all our volunteers. Pray for patience for those undertaking screening and training and for Louise as she facilitates and coordinates.

Please pray for those parishes without permanent clergy at this time that the Lord will sustain those carrying the work and raise up ministers for these towns. We especially pray for the parish of Blayney recently added to the list of those searching for clergy. Please pray that the Lord would raise up the right person for this parish and in a timely manner.

Give thanks for the recent increase in people seeking conversations with Andrew Thornhill or Bishop Mark about serving here. (See photo opposite of a recent visit to SMBC.) Pray that many of these conversations would eventually result in people coming to serve with us!

Pray for our clergy and lay workers – that the Lord will sustain and encourage them as the end of the year rolls on. Pray for effective planning for 2026. Pray that as they lead worship, preach, visit, disciple and evangelise, they may by God's grace see the fruit of their labours as people grow in their understanding of God's love.

Pray for the Bishop-in-Council planning day on 01 November in Dubbo that they will know the Lord's clear guidance and direction and see how to effectively plan and prepare for the ongoing strengthening of the diocese in the coming years.

Contact Info

Bishop
The Rt Rev'd Mark Calder
Phone: 02 6331 1722 (office)
Mobile: 0412 585 686
bishop@bathurstanglican.org.au

Dean
The Very Rev'd James Hodson
0422 372 589
revjhodson@gmail.com

Business Manager and Registrar
Dr Warwick Baines
Phone: 02 6331 1722 (office)
Mobile: 0439 550 051
registrar@bathurstanglican.org.au

Administration Assistant
Mrs Louise Hickey
(Not available on Wednesdays)
Phone: 02 6331 1722 (office)
louise@bathurstanglican.org.au

Archdeacons
Andrew Thornhill 0418 944 506
rector@dubboanglicanchurch.org

Tim St Quintin 0408 160 454
priest@mudgeeanglican.org.au

James Daymond 0407 650 887
j.daymond@bushchurchaid.com.au

Ministry Consultant
Kevin Simington 0409 366 806
revkev182@gmail.com

Bishop's Chancellor
Adrian Ahern

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

Office: 11 Church St, Bathurst 2795
Mail: PO Box 23 Bathurst 2795
Phone: 02 6331 1722
www.bathurstanglican.org.au

Cathedral Services

Saturday Vigil
6pm (5pm when no daylight saving)

Sunday
8.30am Traditional
10am Contemporary
Also 8.30am Mon, Wed, Thu (BCP); 10am Fri

Supporting our clergy

Click **HERE** for information on how to support our work. (Or visit our website and navigate to 'support'.)

Account: Synod Management Fund
BSB: 082-441
Account Number: 392 655 240