

Confirmation of the Election of the 12th Bishop of Bathurst

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

It is with joyful gratitude to God that I announce the **Venerable Dr. Stephen Carnaby** has accepted the diocesan Bishop Election Board's invitation to be the 12th Bishop of Bathurst.

We firmly believe that Stephen will help lead our diocese faithfully, courageously, and joyfully into the years ahead.

Stephen is godly, humble and personable; he loves the Lord deeply and is highly committed to serving Christ and His church in a prayerful and active way. The election board have been greatly impressed by Stephen's balanced disposition of gentleness and strength; along with his thoughtfulness, missional focus – especially in regional Australia – and his love and knowledge of the scriptures.

Stephen is married to Joanne, who works as a school psychologist. They have two young adult children, Stuart, who is married to Amy, and Caitlin. Stephen enjoys walking their energetic cavoodle, Rupert, playing soccer and golf, reading novels and spending time with his family and friends.



Stephen was born in Tasmania and had the blessing of growing up in an Anglican ministry family there. As a young adult, he recommitted his life to following Jesus and after studying economics and working for a few years in public administration, he was surprised to be called to serve God as an ordained minister. Together with his family, this has been a joyful experience, and he has been delighted to see God bringing new life into the Tasmanian church over the past few decades.

He served in ordained ministry across churches in regional Tasmania and Hobart for 18 years, with his experience including church revitalisation, planting new congregations, children's, youth and families' ministry, and general pastoral work. For the past nine years he has been the Director of Ministry Development, working closely with the Bishop and overseeing diocesan training, raising up leaders, supporting and resourcing churches, and other efforts to fulfil the diocesan vision to make disciples of Jesus. He also has board experience including chairing Anglicare Tasmania.

Before ordination he studied theology at Ridley College in Melbourne and later completed an MA (Theology) at Moore College. He recently was awarded a Doctor of Ministry degree from Ridley with a thesis title: From Decline to Renewal in a Regional Diocese: An Analysis of Revitalised Parishes in the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania in the 21st Century.

Stephen writes:

When I was contacted by the election board to prayerfully consider discerning with them, Joanne and I were pleased to discover the strong sense of unity of purpose and belief amongst all the members. The Diocesan profile stated that the Diocese has a deep commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ, faithful biblical ministry, and the mission of Sharing Jesus for Life across regional and rural New South Wales. These were clearly not just words on a page, but the foundation stones that churches and ministries were being built on.

I'm delighted to be able to join with you in upholding these same commitments to the gospel, the scriptures and our mission, which have also been the key focuses of my ministry in Tasmania. God graciously includes us in his plans and we have the joy of seeing Him bring new life to people, churches, dioceses and communities.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

The board is grateful for the way Stephen and Joanne have prayerfully, willingly and patiently engaged with this discernment process, and look forward to officially welcoming them to our diocese in the new year.

We firmly believe that Stephen's character, convictions, experience, and knowledge see him well-placed to lead our diocese under God in this new season of sharing Jesus for life across the Central West.

Stephen will be consecrated as Bishop at St David's Cathedral in Hobart on Friday 27th November 2026 commencing at 7:00pm. His installation as 12th Bishop of Bathurst will take place at All Saints Cathedral, Bathurst on Saturday 16th January 2027 at a time to be confirmed.

The board is deeply grateful for the prayerful support of many over the past several months and now exhort God's people to thank Him for graciously granting these prayers, to continue to pray for our diocese during this time of transition, and to pray for the Carnabys as they finish up in Tasmania, take some leave, and relocate to Bathurst in early January. Please also be in prayer for the Diocese of Tasmania as they receive and respond to this announcement.

*Praise be to the Lord,
for he has heard our cry for mercy.
The Lord is our strength and our shield;
our heart trusts in him, and he helps us.
Our heart leaps for joy,
and with our song we praise him. (from Psalm 28:6-7)*

To God be the glory.



Archdeacon Andrew Thornhill
Diocesan Administrator