



To the People



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

February 2026

Please find details below of two recommended Lent courses for this year, as Ash Wednesday fast approaches us on 18 February. The first is a sequel to last year's theme of Hope. For a successive year all the bishops have again contributed, this time on the theme of **Joy**.

Before then we have the joy of seven candidates being ordained, God willing, on 7 February, at St. Boniface Cathedral. Please find their names overleaf and pray for them as they prepare and minister and for Revd Nick Freeland as he leads their retreat and preaches at the service. Because of the numbers being ordained we have had to restrict admission into the Cathedral to friends and family of the candidates, but there will be seats in the Hall with a livestream, and the service is also available where you are via livestream – the login details are overleaf. We are scheduled to have a further Ordination Service on 27 June because we have been blessed with so many candidates seeking and preparing for ordination.

For some time we have been working on a new diocesan plan and it is almost finished. A version is going out to all the clergy today and I hope to be able to distribute it more widely as soon as possible. It has been informed by discussions at Synod, Bishop in Council, and the deanery hub meetings we held back in October and November.

I was privileged to be a guest at the citizenship ceremony in Bunbury on Australia Day. I noted the careful and sensitive tenor in the speeches about the responsibilities, as well as privileges, we have as Australian citizens. This comes at a time of heightened tensions in our nation. St. Paul wrote to Timothy urging “that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.” (1 Timothy 2.1-3)

Lent 2026 – Bishops' Lent Course on Joy

This is available now for \$10 each **but will go up to \$14.99 from 31 January!** Orders can be made with this link: <https://www.garratpublishing.com.au/product/9781922441195/>

If you would prefer an E-book version you can also download from the following links for \$15.99

Kobo: <https://www.kobo.com/au/en/ebook/joy-lenten-studies-2026>

Booktopia: <https://www.booktopia.com.au/joy-lenten-studies-2026-robyn-o-sullivan/ebook/9781922441201.html>

If you are looking for an alternative Lent course then I can also commend one written by Revd Bill Robinson at Christ's Church, Mandurah, about some of the less featured people in the story of Holy Week. However, this Lent course comes with a warning that trauma and PTSD are mentioned in Week 2, so please contact Bill for a copy, if you wish to, and he will explain more:

billr299@outlook.com.au



Cam Fildes, the Lay Youth minister at Living Water

and his wife, Liz, welcomed Joshua Malachi, who was born on 30 Dec, at 5.51am – a healthy and happy baby boy. Mum and Dad are very pleased.



Ordination Service on 7 February at 10am

Please pray for the following candidates as they prepare for ordination on 7 February

Deacon – Mrs Tracey Gray, Principal of Frederick Irwin Anglican School

Priests – Revds Carolyn Ball, Allyson Charles, Brent Findlay, Richard Goetz, Gail Smit & Vicki Webb

Revd Nick Freeland is conducting their Retreat in Bunbury

We will also be installing Mrs Jenny Duncan, who is our new Diocesan Secretary

Assist Bishops David Bassett and Hans Christiansen are attending in support of three of the candidates. Revd Peter Laurence and some other Anglican schools' staff and Principals will be present.

Due to numbers, we are allocating tickets to the candidates for seating their family, friends and supporters inside the Cathedral. There will be a TV screen in the Cathedral Hall.

This is also a livestream link for the service: <https://www.bunburycathedral.org.au/live-stream>

Christ's Church, Mandurah, and Living Water, are live screening the service.

Figures for Ministry Support Fund 2025

I promised we would publish the results of the Christ the King Appeal for the Ministry Support Fund. In practice this is quite hard to do, because we do not always know exactly which payments are for which funds because they are not necessarily labelled on our bank income statements. Furthermore, and valuably, some givers give regularly every month towards this fund.

What we can say is that in the first half of the financial year 2025-26 (the second half of 2025) the income was up by comparison with previous years and we currently have \$7170 in Existing Ministry Support, \$17,856 in New Mission Initiatives and \$69441 in training costs. That last figure is an enormous help, because mandatory psychological assessments alone take up quite a chunk for the numbers of formation students we currently have at present. **Thank you all for your response to this need.**

The risks associated with distribution of Emergency Relief

Please spare a thought and some prayer time for the volunteers who administer Emergency Relief across a number of our parishes. Not only are some of the stories they hear harrowing, but people may also be desperate. These factors sometimes emerge in abuse and threats and can be very scary. There have been recent incidents at Coodanup, Busselton and the Cathedral. The volunteers would value your prayers and, if you have an ER program in your parish, please check in with them when you can.

Prayers for the Frederick Irwin Community

You may be aware of significant child sexual abuse allegations concerning a member of staff at Frederick Irwin Anglican school. The member of staff has been suspended pending police investigation and the court process. The impact of this on the staff, students, and families is considerable. Please pray for the school community and especially for Tracey Gray as Principal, who is also one of our ordinands, and for Canon James Tabor, as school chaplain, in this situation. Archdeacon Geoff and I were at the school yesterday (Weds) with James and Aleisha, the lay chaplain, when staff returned from their holidays.

From the Sustainable Living Working Group – feedback needed for General Synod

In 2008 our diocese adopted the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007. As a result, we are required to submit a report on our progress to General Synod, advising the mechanisms we have put in place to protect the environment. We would therefore appreciate the following information on the period January 2023 to 31 December 2025 being sent to Rev'd Justine Richmond before the end of March. (email: parishpriest@dunsboroughanglican.com.au):

- Any undertakings to reduce environmental footprint by increasing the water and energy efficiency of current facilities and operations, or things put in place in any new facilities or operations.
- Has there been special church services and events regarding the environment, eg did your church or ministry area participate in the season of care for creation?
- How has your parish or ministry area facilitated and encouraged the education of Church members and others about the need to care for the environment, used the resources of God's creation properly and acted responsibly about the effect of human activity on God's creation.
- Environmental programs that your parish or ministry area has conducted or been involved with, including the scope of the program (i.e. does it extend to the wider community).

Any community partnerships that your parish or ministry area has been involved with.

Every blessing, Rev'd Justine Richmond

Bunbury Diocesan Sustainable Living Group

A new Diocesan Plan for 2026ff....

It has taken much longer than I intended, but coming your way, hopefully quite soon, is the result of the Hub meetings in October/November, together with inputs from Synod, Clergy Conference and Bishop in Council. This is a document we can add to, or amend, and which we will review. It sets out some practical priorities and particular strategic objectives. It is not the same as our previous Vision and Strategy but does build on it, and on **Hope25**. Indeed, some of the materials we used for that Vision will still be available, if you wish to revisit them.

Messages from Archdeacon Geoff about Australis and a special online course open to all on Matthew's gospel for our current Lectionary Year A

AUSTRALIS

Australis is an on-line ministry development course produced by the Diocese of Bendigo. There are seven, eight-week Units including such themes as *Experiencing Christian Faith* and *A User's Guide to the New Testament*.

Whilst most of our *Australis* participants are *Theological Students*, we have opened the Course to all interested parties. So far, the feedback we have had from the students has been very positive. The Diocese has a loose partnership with Bendigo where Facilitators, Tutors and Assessors may be shared across the digital network. Furthermore, students from across the country are able to study together.

The next Unit: *Confessing Our Faith*, begins on Monday 30th March at 5:00pm via Zoom (or in person at the Diocesan Office).

The cost is \$65.

Please email Archdeacon Geoff at archdeacon@bunbury.org.au if you would like to enrol.

For more information on *Australis*, visit: <http://www.bendigoanglican.org.au/?s=Australis>

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING ABOUT MATTHEW

The Diocese is running a 7-week online course on Matthew's Gospel, for those who'd like to know more about Matthew or might be preaching or leading bible studies this year. You will need to purchase the set book:

Senior NJ, 1996 *What Are They Saying About Matthew*, Paulist Press: Mahwah. It is available online at many book sellers either new or second hand.

Cost: Free, other than your book purchase.

Time and Location: Monday evenings at 5:00pm, via Zoom or at the Diocesan Office.

Dates: 2/2/2026-23/3/2026

Please email Archdeacon Geoff at archdeacon@bunbury.org.au if you would like to enrol.

Anglicare WA Workshops

In 2025, Anglicare WA delivered 30 '**Standing Together**' presentations across the Anglican Diocese of Perth and Bunbury, building a shared understanding of family and domestic violence and its drivers and generating conversation around how communities including church-based communities can be a part of preventative action.

While it is acknowledged that the presentations are a 'first step', participant feedback is indicating that step is pointing in the direction of positive change.

For 2026 we hope to broaden our reach by way of continued delivery of presentations to new and returning parishes, supporting those communities with a keen interest in creating safety and respect for all people.

BOOKINGS:

Bookings are open until August 2026, with all parishes welcomed and encouraged to host a presentation. (**Bishop Ian - these workshops have gone down well at Dunsborough, Harvey, Albany, Christ's Church and the Cathedral, so please ask the relevant clergy or Wardens if you would like more information.**)

For new and return bookings, the first step is to complete the following

[Presentation Booking Request - Anglicans Standing Together – Fill in form](#)

Upon receipt of this form, I will check availability of our presenters and then offer a return confirmation.

Please note, there is also opportunity for bookings to extend to connected community groups so please feel free to share information regarding the presentations, or direct any interested groups to StandingTogether@anglicarewa.org.au

Warm regards



Tamara Artemis

Pronouns: [She/her/hers]
Community Education Officer
Philanthropy and Enterprise

Mon/Thurs 8.30 - 4.30pm
Tues/Wed 9.30am - 4.30pm
Fri 8.30am - 3pm

T 08 9263 2078 | M 0414 340 194
GPO BOX C138, East Perth WA 6892

anglicarewa.org.au

Family and Cultures Commission

Please **save the following date for 2026** as part of our shared commitment to preventing and responding to domestic and family violence affecting those in our church communities.

Domestic Violence Sunday – Sunday, 3 May 2026

Parishes are encouraged to observe Domestic Violence Sunday to highlight God's concern for those experiencing harm. Prayer, preaching and other service resources will be made available in late February. The Standing Committee of the General Synod has also asked that members of our churches be invited to make a donation towards the church's work of prevention and response. There will be various ways to opt in to marking this day for your parish, including materials for a training workshop you could run in-person or online in your parish. For now, please mark the day in your church calendar. You can sign up to receive resources as soon as they are available at the website for our Anglican Families & Culture Commission: www.tencommitments.org.au



On behalf of the Families & Culture Commission
Rev'd Tracy Lauersen, National Program Manager, Families & Culture
 General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia



Anglican Church of Australia

STOP PRESS:

Volunteers needed for the Diocesan Reconciliation Working Group

Dr Don Reid is looking for a volunteer, or volunteers, especially from the Bunbury area, who would be willing to join this important working group. If you are interested in helping, please email Don at: don.reid1939@outlook.com

Bishop's Calendar

February	1	St Peter's Badgeup, Katanning Harvest Festival
	3	National Bishops' Planning Meeting
	5	Holy Communion with Ordinands
	5-6	Ordination Retreat, Bunbury
	7	Ordination Service, St Boniface Cathedral 10am
	8	Secret Harbour Anglican Church, 10 th Anniversary Service
	12	Georgiana Molloy Anglican School Council Meeting
	13	<i>Anglicare Board & Exec Retreat (still to be confirmed)</i>
	17	National Bishops' Planning Meeting
	19	BMAC Meeting, Diocesan Office
	20-22	Student Intensive, Bunbury
	20-21	Safe Ministry Commission Meeting
	22	Church of the Resurrection Narrogin, Service & AMP
	26	Bishop-in-Council & Trustees Meetings, Diocesan Office
	28	St Mary's Busselton, Men's Breakfast
March	1	St Peter's Balingup, Service & AMP

Blessings,

