



To The People



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

AUGUST 2025

Greetings! We have apparently had the coldest and wettest July spell in the South-West for some years. Bluff Knoll has had 3 days of snow and Busselton has been deluged, although the Wheat Belt could still use more rain. In South Australia the rain has come at last but they too are praying for more. Bishop Jeremy James in Willochra spoke to me yesterday about their delight in seeing the hay trucks that had arrived from WA, the aptly named 'Convoy of Compassion'.

Meanwhile, we weep for the situation in Gaza and Israel, in Ukraine and so many places where human tragedy is occurring. One of the organisations who send me prayer requests is called *Embrace the Middle East*. Since the end of May they have been asking Christians to spend a day a week in fasting and prayer for Gaza.

Ever found change difficult? For some years pinprick cataracts in the centre of my eyes have been regularly monitored because of the risks to accurate vision, if they grew any larger, especially for piloting. Finally, this year they began to become a problem. Consequently, I have had two cataract ops over a space of a month. The result has been astonishing. Previously short-sighted, for the first time in six decades I can now see distance perfectly and unaided. (CASA prefer distance lenses being inserted for pilots in cataract surgery). The catch is I can no longer read print or operate a computer without glasses. Furthermore, with hastily acquired reading glasses to perform these functions, I cannot see anything further away distinctly. So, for the first time in well over half a century, I am needing to use glasses the complete opposite way round.

We are creatures of habit, something Google informs me was originally investigated by psychologist William James in the late 19th century. He apparently described habit as "a routine, behaviour, or even cognitive process that starts spontaneously but is repeated automatically as a result of prior experience." Thus, after decades of repetition, I am having to re-learn behaviour in order to see both near and far.

Habit can inhabit our ecclesial experience and expectations. Because 'church' can be so associated with particular forms of liturgy, music and worship and certain services and events, it is often hard to view a different concept of church. The New Testament did: as a living body of people, young, old and inbetween, joined together in worship, communion and mission to encourage one another, bear each other's burdens, share talents and resources, and bring glory to God. Covid was one way in which our experience and expectations of church were tested. Diminishing numbers in some of our parishes and communities is another way in which this is happening.

God, on the other hand, is in the business of change. John the Baptist called people to *metanoia* – repentance – literally: change of mind or heart, with an expectation that this is what is most needed to change practice. One of our ordinands recently quoted Romans 12.2 in an essay: "Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world but be *transformed* by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will." The Greek for transformed is of course *meta-morphosis*. This is radical change. You can find many instances of this throughout scripture, such as Isaiah 43.18-19: "Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

As we consider a new Vision and Strategy for the diocese, what is God's Holy Spirit leading us to be and to do? Can we find good and creative ways to fulfill God's plan of church? My glasses experience is only a short-term challenge and not significant. I will soon have different multi-focal lenses and no longer need to juggle glasses on and off. Being the church, I believe God is calling us to be, is a longer-term challenge, but an incredibly important and significant one.

A New Primate

The Board of Electors for the Anglican Church of Australia convened at Saint Andrew's House in Sydney on 19 July to elect a new Primate. Pictured right is the outgoing Primate, Archbishop Geoff Smith, who preached at the Morning Prayer service in St. Andrew's Cathedral prior to the election.

Following due process and discernment, the Right Reverend Dr Mark Short, Bishop of the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, was elected to the position. Bishop Mark (pictured below) secured the required majority votes across all three orders of bishops, clergy and laity. Upon confirmation of the result, he accepted the appointment.



Bishop Mark will officially take up the role on 1 November 2025, succeeding the Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith, whose resignation as Primate takes effect on 31 October. Bishop Mark is no stranger to our diocese as he was previously the Director of the Bush Church Aid Society and has visited here on more than one occasion. Please pray for him and for Monica his wife as he takes up this extra responsibility. It is the first time in a long while since the Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn has also been the Primate in the nation's capital.



Electors meeting at St. Andrew's House, Sydney

Retirement of Revd Audrey Payne & Revd Allan Taylor – Living Water, Albany

On Sunday 29th June, Living Water acknowledged and gave thanks to God for Revd Audrey Payne & Revd Allan Taylor for their many years of ministry. The following accounts were written to mark this occasion... (*with thanks to Revd Shane*). This story just missed last month's *To the People*.

Revd Audrey Payne

After a 40-year nursing career that took her from the UK to Kenya and PNG, Audrey joined Living Water in 2000 and quickly became involved in almost every part of church life. Ordained as a deacon in 2012 at the age of 69, and priest the following year, she served as locum at Southern Ranges Parish from 2014-2015 before returning to Living Water as an active "retired" priest and authoring her memoir along the way. From 2016, Audrey continued to serve faithfully on rosters and led services as needed, until recent health challenges signalled it was time to step back.

Revd Allan Taylor

Allan was ordained in 1990 after hearing the call to ministry a few years earlier. His early years were spent serving in Corrigin, then Kojonup from 1996, where he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Following successful surgery though with some limitations to driving, Allan continued to serve with quiet strength and dedication. He moved to Albany and spent the next 20 years as chaplain to the prison, nursing homes, hospital, and Mission to Seafarers, ministering from St John's on York Street. At different times, Allan also stepped in as priest-in-charge at both St John's and Living Water during vacancies, before settling into ministry based at Living Water. Allan and Audrey have been faithful servants of God's church, and for their dedicated ministry and service over many years we give thanks to them and to the Lord.

Also at Living Water Parish...

Shane Marques writes ... "On Sunday 6 July we had the joy of baptising Reyne Durrant at Emu Pt. Fortunately the weather was good."

An extract from Reyne's Testimony – shared with permission

"The first time I rocked up here months ago, I remember awkwardly saying hello to the few people I could remember as a kid coming here, and I sat down in an aisle on my own away from anyone because I didn't really want to be seen. And a girl called Abbey came and sat next to me. Within what felt like literally 20 seconds, Abbey introduced herself, reminded me that we used to do choir together in high school, and that I should come to her Bible Study group, which was ran by a guy called Cameron. And that's Abbey, she ended up running away, and after the service, Cameron Fildes spotted me like a deer in hunting season. He took the time to get to know me and invited me to the Bible Study Abbey had mentioned, and honestly everything after that has felt like a blur to me.



Since that day, I've either read the Bible or reflected on its message daily. I've read more of the bible in the last 3 months of my life than the rest of it in total. I pray nearly every single day. I've found a community that's openly accepted me and friends I never would have found without God. I feel loved again. I quit doing drugs and letting weed control my life. Through Christ, I feel my hearts been made flesh again. But most importantly, I've realised the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for everyone, myself included, and the forgiveness we obtained through that. I spent a really long time chasing external love, and I've

*realised the only love that I need to chase is my fathers in heaven. **Amen.**"*

Picture of a baby in Kapsabet wearing a shawl knitted in our diocese, with a message from her Mum to Mme Selline, passed on to Revd Cathie Broome:

"Good afternoon Mama Selline. Hope you're well.

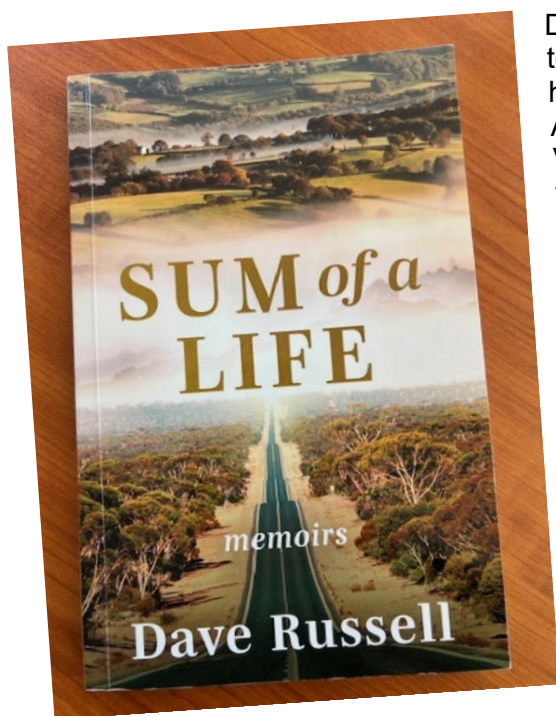
Thanks again so much for the shawl 🙏 . It looks beautiful on the baby. Thanks for visiting and praying with us

God bless you abundantly."



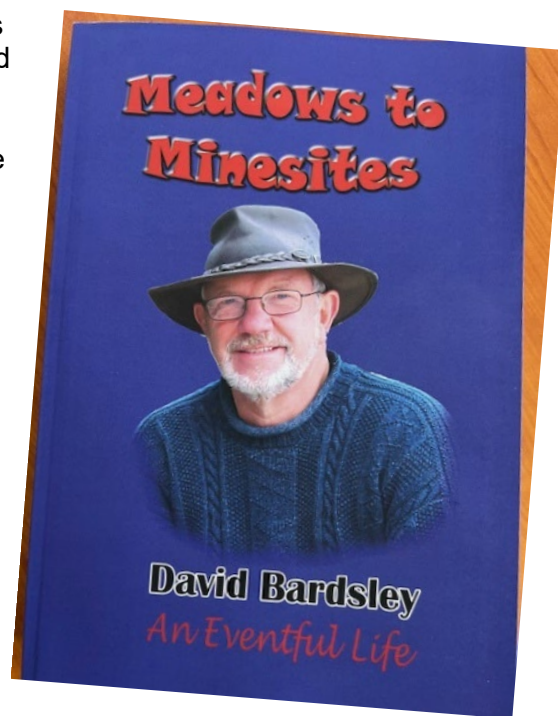
Revds David Russell and David Bardsley

This past month two Revd Davids – Bardsley and Russell - have entirely independently published their autobiographies, both of which make for fascinating reading. David Bardsley is an Assistant Priest at Bridgetown parish and has also been taking services at Augusta. David Russell has a long connection with Corrigin and has also assisted at Hyden and Lake Grace.



David Bardsley's autobio runs to almost 300 pages. By its end he has only just reached Australia in 1981! Apparently, Vol 2, up to the present, is due to be published shortly.

David Russell kindly presides at Corrigin once a month, travelling from Perth to do so. He is going to be missing, however, in December and January, as his relatively new son-in-law, Bishop Jeremy James, in Willochra diocese, has co-opted him to be the locum in Whyalla, which is no easy task.



Revd Paul Bartley and Family's Amazing Trip – a few more photos

We are very glad that Paul and Peggy and their children are safely back after an epic 3 month adventure and trip around a fair proportion of Australia!



Revd Alex Scutt from Christ's Church, Mandurah, visiting St. George's, Dunsborough



Revd Justine Richmond shared this picture of Revd Alex Scutt after he and wife Stephanie joined the Dunsborough congregation a couple of Sundays ago for worship.

Justine writes:

"I took them for a tour of the parish and we thought you might like to see this photo of Alex ignoring the signs we had so carefully placed on the piano. 🤪"

In addition to being a Priest, Alex was also a long-time organist in Melbourne Diocese.

Picture courtesy of Revd Justine Richmond

An invite for next Friday from St. Mary's Busselton...



A Night of World-Class Music at Saint Mary's Busselton!



FELIX HELL

LIVE IN BUSSELTON

One of the most sought after concert organists in the world



Friday, 8 Aug, 2025
7PM



St. Mary's Family Centre
119-121 Queen St, Busselton



<https://www.trybooking.com/DDOBN>



Don't miss the extraordinary **Felix Hell** in concert on **Friday 8th August at 7:00pm** at **St. Mary's Family Centre, Busselton**. Known for his thrilling performances and masterful technique, Felix is one of the most sought after concert organists in the world and brings the organ to life in a way few can.

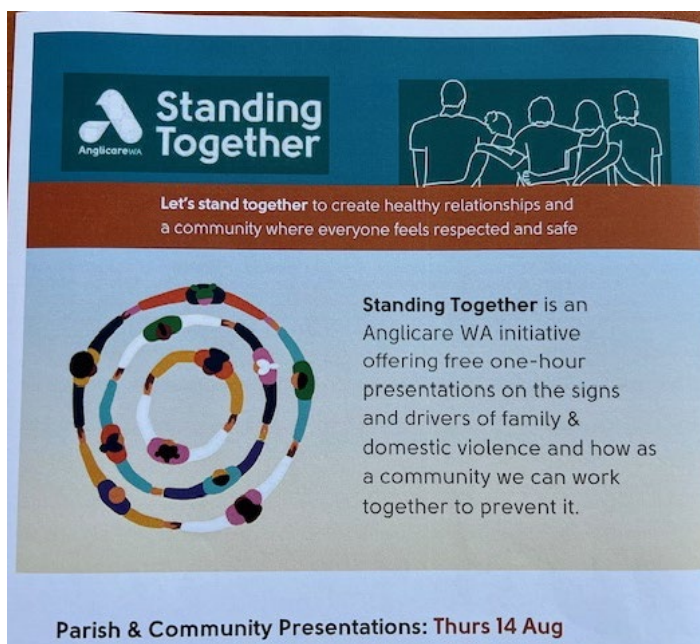


Tickets available now: [trybooking.com/DDOBN](https://www.trybooking.com/DDOBN)

Two developments in regard to Domestic Violence

1. This is very short notice but there are places still available for the Anglican Church of Australia Families and Culture Commission Conference in Melbourne from 18-19 August with a Mens' Summit stream on Day 2. Please contact Bishop Ian, if you are interested and can attend, for further details.

2. A couple of our parishes have taken up the offer and initiative by Anglicare WA, called **Standing Together**, to host parish and community presentations on the drivers for family and domestic violence and how as communities we can work together to prevent it. Revd Justine and St. George's are hosting one such event on 14 August to which they have invited about 30 community groups and to which the police are pleased to send a couple of representatives.



Recruiting a new Diocesan Secretary

As the Clergy and Busselton parish and some of you will know, we are currently seeking to recruit a new Diocesan Secretary in succession to the Revd Nick Freeland. Nick has done an amazing job but juggling being a parish priest and with a growing demand of diocesan governance and WHS responsibilities, Nick felt it was time to give way to someone else for his Registrar and Diocesan Secretary roles. We have re-jigged these roles to reflect the additional and changing responsibilities. Please pray as we seek the right person for this significant task.

Be Aware of Email Scams

We are seeing a growing number of scam emails circulating within the diocese. Some of these messages are becoming quite convincing, with scammers mimicking diocesan staff or clergy. Others, thankfully, are less sophisticated, like the one pictured here where the email address is clearly not legitimate. Either way, it's a reminder to stay cautious. If you ever receive a message that doesn't seem quite right, especially one asking for help, money, or personal information, please don't hesitate to phone your parish office or the diocesan office directly 9721 2100 to double check.

From: Ian Coutts <churchonline4real2316@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, 12 July 2025 8:16 AM

Subject:

Beloved,

I hope you're well. I kindly need your help with something, as I'm a bit tied up at the moment.

If you have a moment, I'd be grateful.

The Lord bless and keep you.

Ian Coutts

Sustainable Living Working Group August Update.

There are many events in August which link in with sustainable living, such as Keep Australia Beautiful Week. Homelessness week is also in August - we must not forget that this is also a sustainable living issue – the just sharing of the resources of the earth. However, perhaps preparing for the Season of Creation could be an important focus for parishes and agencies during the month of August.

The Season of Creation is a time for Christians to come together in prayer and action for Creation. It is observed annually from September 1st to October 4th.



**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

There are many resources available on the Season of Creation website - from liturgical and advocacy resources to activities for individuals and churches: <https://seasonofcreation.org/resources/>

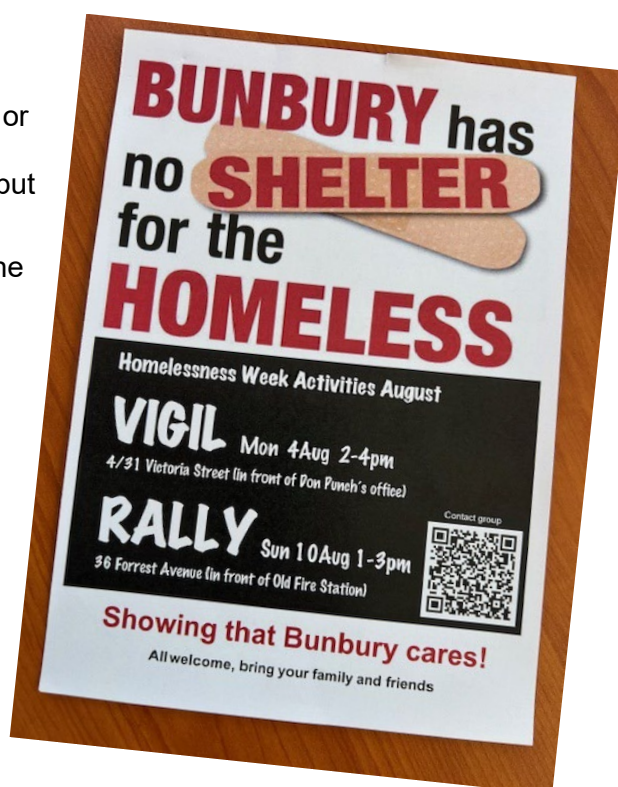
An event held recently at the Dunsborough Parish was a Sustainable Christmas Workshop, where a group of 23 people got together to share fellowship and to make Christmas decorations out of items that might have otherwise gone to landfill. Using all donated materials, sourced from the Op Shop and from parishioners, Christmas items were made from old books, scraps of yarn, glass jars, toilet roll tubes, discarded clothing and even single use coffee cups rescued from the bin! The group decided that the classy items they made were much better than the rubbish they buy from the shops – even though technically the items they made were all made of rubbish. One person's trash is another person's treasure indeed. If you would like more information on this, please reach out to the parish office: office@dunsboroughanglican.com.au.



Homelessness in Bunbury

Bunbury has been without a Homeless Shelter for some time. The number of people sleeping rough, or in cars, including women, is steadily increasing. A growing proportion of homeless people have jobs but still cannot afford rents.

Nikki Latham at the Cathedral asked to publicize the following Rally in Bunbury, from 1-3pm on Sunday 10 August, at the old Fire Station, to advocate for a Shelter.



A contemplative life? A Message from Dr. Don Reid

When I first heard this phrase, some people said 'What nonsense! You can't just sit around all day, being so heavenly minded as to be of no earthly use! It's just navel-gazing, no use to anybody!' Well, that may be one view, but as I have grown older in faith, and continue to reflect on life in general, there's more to living a contemplative life than many people think. It isn't only something far too high and holy to achieve.

Since mid-2017, I have been sending out weekly meditations to a group for a contemplation session the following day on Zoom. The pattern is usually some quiet music, then 15 minutes of silence, then more music to end. Do I distinguish between the words meditation and contemplation? Yes, based on a simple approach related to their word roots – 'med', middle, centre; 'con', with, and 'templum', sacred space. In summary, the program I offer is both: a meditation text to think about actively on one day; contemplation and not thinking, being still, on the next.

During the silence, our work is to willingly enter the contemplative process variously described as letting go, resting, floating, trusting and so on. It is more difficult than it looks because of our brain's constant activity. To help us during our prayer, another part of this type of prayer is to use our breath, or a sacred word or phrase, to constantly re-focus on when our minds wander.

Why am I talking about contemplation as a way of life? I see it now as a necessary contribution to the kingdom of God, to peace on earth. (Not the only way of course – the Spirit of God is full of variety! – but a way that has been, and still is, often neglected.) Over time, we slowly learn we can treat others as we are treating ourselves during contemplation: letting go hurts and regrets, being slower to anger, readier to laugh, refusing to express the feeling of pressure to be 'right' all the time, and so on to other growth areas in our relationships. We seek fairness for and kindness to others, because we discover this is possible for ourselves – because of the love of God in Christ. We might even be showing Christ to those people around us!

What I believe we don't do in contemplation is place demands on God – none, that is, beyond the hope, indeed the expectation, of God's continuing unconditional love, forgiveness and strength being poured out to us and so available.

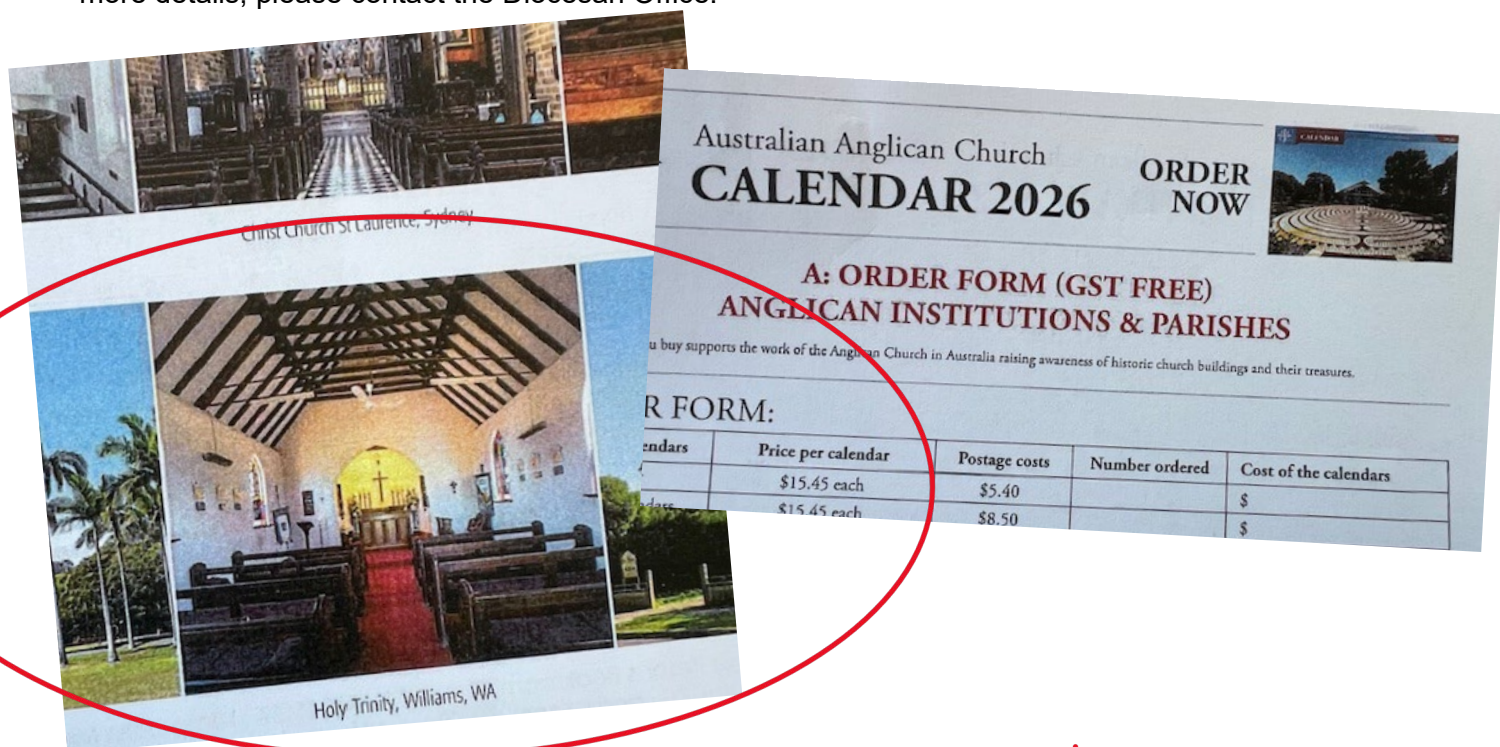
It takes time to be still, and some learning effort. All we have to do is continue to turn up, to sit in outer and inner silence as best we can, preferably with others, and allow God's Spirit room to work. The rest is up to us. You're all invited, so let me know if you'd like to give it a go.

Let's share the music!

Don Reid, 0417 948 141, don.reid1939@outlook.com

Williams parish church featuring in next year's ACA Calendar!

Each year about this time we receive invitations to purchase the Australian Anglican Church Calendar. For the 2026 Edition, Holy Trinity, Williams, features for one of the months. If you would like more details, please contact the Diocesan Office.



Bishop's Calendar

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|---------------|--------------|---|
| August | 8 | Secondary Senior Eucharist at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School. |
| | 14 | Boniface Care Emergency Relief Meeting via Zoom.
School Council Meeting, Georgiana Molloy Anglican School Busselton. |
| | 17 | Confirmation & Holy Communion, St Mark's Church Waroona. |
| | 19 | National Bishop's Planning Meeting via Zoom. |
| | 22-24 | Student Intensive Weekend, Bunbury. |
| | 25 | Anglicare Board Meeting via Zoom. |
| | 26 | Bishop's Ministry Advisory Council Meeting, Diocesan Office Bunbury.
Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School Board Meeting. |
| | 27 | Frederick Irwin Anglican School Council Meeting. |
| | 28 | Bishop-in-Council & Trustees Meeting, Diocesan Office Bunbury. |
| | 29-30 | Safe Ministry Commission via Zoom. |
| | 31 | Confirmation & Holy Communion, St Nicholas Australind. |

Blessings,