



## To The People



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

January 2026

Wishing you a blessed New Year!

**The WA Council of Churches sent this prayer for 2026 in their January Newsletter:**

Heavenly Father, as we step into 2026, we thank you for your faithfulness and the gift of a new year.

**For Guidance:** Help us to surrender our plans to your perfect will, trusting you as our Good Shepherd to lead and direct our steps.

**For Strength and Courage:** Equip us with your power to face challenges, overcome obstacles, and live with faith, patience and grace.

**For a Fresh Start:** Lord, help us release past regrets, failures, and fears, receiving your forgiveness and new mercies for a hopeful beginning.

**For Your Presence:** Remind us that you are always with us, assuring us of your unchanging love and providing comfort in uncertainties.

**For Purpose:** Open our eyes to the needs of the world and give us compassionate hearts to be instruments of your love, bringing glory to your name.

**For Peace and Healing:** Transform our sorrows into joys, our conflicts into understanding, and our divisions into unity. Bring healing to broken places and reconciliation where there is strife. Let your peace, which surpasses all understanding, reign in our homes, communities, and across the globe, silencing the noise of war and violence.

We commit this year to you, asking for your protection, peace, and a deeper walk with you. May our lives reflect your goodness in Jesus' name. **Amen**

In your prayers please remember the people of Ukraine, the peace process in Gaza and all who are affected by the many fires in Victoria, NSW and the ACT.

### Ordination Service on 7 February at 11am

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, the CEO of Anglischools, and some other Anglischools' staff and school 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 and we are planning to livestream - link details to follow.

## Some pics from Christmas:

Nativity outside Christ's Church, Mandurah, Christmas Eve



Nativity at BCGS Reception



Nativity scene at Coolup, The figures are lit at night to be seen by traffic travelling north on the Southwestern Hwy.



Cathedral decked for carol concerts and Christmas

## Christmas pictures at Frederick Irwin Secondary and Primary Campuses

These were just some of the many pictures on display. The Primary ones, in particular, captured an element of joy and we ended up using these scenes for our Christmas cards this year.



## Collie Baptisms and Confirmation service on Sunday 14 December

A year on from the previous baptisms in Collie River, another entire family asked to be baptised there. It is very biblical for an entire family to be baptised, and in a river!

The Confirmation service was held a little while later that morning at All Saints, Collie, heralded by the bell ringing of these Eddison Chimes (pictured below). At St. John's, Albany, their Eddison Chimes are operated by pulling vertical ropes on the wall. In Collie they are played halfway up the bell tower using huge keys that are depressed, like a piano.



## Revd Margaret Maina and her family visiting from Kapsabet Diocese

Bishop Paul wrote to say that Revd Margaret Maina was visiting Perth as her daughter Flavian was graduating with a Masters' degree in Computer Science from UWA. The Dean invited Margaret to the Cathedral on Sunday 21 December. Margaret duly came and it was a joy to have her preaching and sharing in the worship with her family. She is returning to a new post as President of the Kapsabet Mother's Union with only 5500 odd members!



**Above:** Revd Margaret and her husband, David.

**Top right:**

Margaret and David, their son and daughter and nephew.

**Right:** Margaret, her daughter, Flavian, with Revd Cathie Broome delivering knitted characters for Kapsabet

**Below:** They wanted to see kangaroos, and we also found dolphins!



## The horrific attack at Bondi

In the wake of the massacre at Bondi, amid the commentary about multi-culturalism, terrorism, antisemitism and a Royal Commission, there has been an underlying concern about hate and its impact on Australian society. Jesus' summary command to "love our neighbour as ourselves" is the exact opposite and antidote to such hatred. Furthermore, our Lord was clear it was not just our actions that needed to reflect that love of neighbour but also our thoughts, for loveless actions, Jesus taught, stem from loveless thought. The parable of the Good Samaritan is remarkable because it was the despised outsider who loved the Jewish victim enough to provide life-giving succour and rescue. Christians have historically not always treated Jewish people well and had to re-evaluate this legacy following the Holocaust. St Paul, a Jew himself, but charged with a mission to non-Jewish people, wished to break down the barriers between these two groups. The results of his prayers, thinking and efforts can be found in his epistles to the Galatians and the Romans, in particular. For example, Paul goes out of his way in Romans chps. 9-11 to spell out why the Jews are special and should be held in respect. In chp.11 he uses the image of an olive tree where non-Jewish Christians are grafted in but nonetheless depend on Jewish roots. Furthermore, his well-known entreaties to love one another often occurred in the specific setting of Jews and non-Jews. For example: Romans 12.9-10: "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour."

## Events in Venezuela and the USA

One of our clergy wrote to me out of deep concern about the events in Venezuela. This was my reply:

"It is without doubt a deeply troubling occurrence, which also weakens the moral argument should other countries attempt regime change, or the removal of the leader, or the annexation of another country or part thereof.

What makes the matter more complicated are serious questions about the legitimacy of the election of Venezuela's President, and the concern that corruption, economic mismanagement and misgovernment are rife (which has purportedly led to 8 million people leaving the country).

Listening to the commentary, some Venezuelans are delighted about this news whilst others feel angry and shocked.

One of the greatest concerns is what will happen next. The experience in Iraq of what occurred for the people of Iraq when Saddam Hussein was toppled should be a salutary lesson about the risks and dangers of creating a power vacuum.

With the attack at Bondi, I contacted the Primate who issued a statement from the Anglican Church and I will write to him about this as well. In the meantime, we need to pray for all who are affected. Ultimately, we believe even the leaders of the nations will one day have to give an account to God for their actions."

I have since written to the Primate, Bishop Mark Short, but he is currently on leave.

## Bunbury Mission to Seafarers' Awards

On 14 December Bunbury Mission to Seafarers held a lunch at Back Beach to thank volunteers for their dedicated service and to award long-service certificates. These certificates ranged from 5 – 35 years of service. Particular congratulations to Vern Ward and Jim Hamilton for 35 and 20 years! Here are some of the Awardees:

**Dean Darryl** receiving his 10-year certificate and **Revd Gaerlan** with his Mission to Seafarers' hi vis Chaplain vest.



**Cheryl Willett** – 10 years



**Vern Ward** – 35 years and 3 certificates from Bunbury, Australia and London HQ



**Jenny Ward** – 5 years



**Jim Hamilton** – 20 years



**Congratulations to Ven Emeritus Brain Newing** who celebrated 60 years since he was ordained Deacon on 12 December 1965. He is still very active as Prison Chaplain at Bunbury prison and with his many connections across the diocese.

### **A new Archbishop of Adelaide and a new Assist. Bishop in Grafton Diocese.**

It was announced on 7 December, commendably quickly after Archbishop Geoff Smith laid up his staff, that the Rt Revd Brad Billings, currently Assist. Bishop in Melbourne, is to be the new Archbishop of Adelaide. No date has been set yet for his installation.

Meanwhile, in Grafton, the Ven Tiffany Sparks is being consecrated as Assistant Bishop on 12 March.

### **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:archdeacon@bunbury.org.au) if you would like to enrol.

#### **The Diocesan Calendar**

Some have been asking about dates this year. The new 2026 Calendar should be up on Monday

Farmers in the Wheatbelt enjoy decorating for Christmas. This example was on the road between Kulin and Hyden.



### And finally... A Christmas Day Tale – from Revd Justine Richmond

An initiative this year from *a member of the congregation* was to hold a Christmas Day lunch for our parish family, including parishioners, volunteers, Emergency Relief (ER) clients, and those that we help through Share and Care. We wanted to keep it a low key 'family' lunch to see how it went and so that we didn't need a huge team of volunteers to run it. We had about 17 people attend, including parishioners on their own at Christmas, ER clients and a lady whose children were at their father's house this year - she was expecting a sad Christmas. A nice mixed group, and they had a gourmet lunch - the food was prepared beforehand and they all helped to put food out, set the table etc. Barbara said some of the people were quite emotional at being part of a 'family' Christmas lunch. It is something we will consider holding again in the future.

Blessings,