

To The People



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

JULY 2025

Last month we asked you to let us know if you are receiving a regular copy of *To the People*. Thank you to the many who emailed us to say that you are. If you have not yet had the opportunity, please would you kindly email Jodi, or ask someone to do so on your behalf: bishopspa@bunbury.org.au.



The EOFY and passing 30 June is a scary reminder that we are halfway through the calendar year already. Although I thought the passing of time, and the sense it might be accelerating, was something only older people notice, I am beginning to hear much younger people echoing the same sentiments.

Attending funerals is also reminder not to take time for granted and a stock take for how wisely and well people have lived their lives. There is a prayer, used in the Church of England funeral service, that goes like this: "Grant us, Lord, the wisdom and the grace to use aright the time that is left to us here on earth. Lead us to repent of our sins, the evil we have done and the good we have not done; and strengthen us to follow the steps of your Son, in the way that leads to the fulness of eternal life; though Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**"

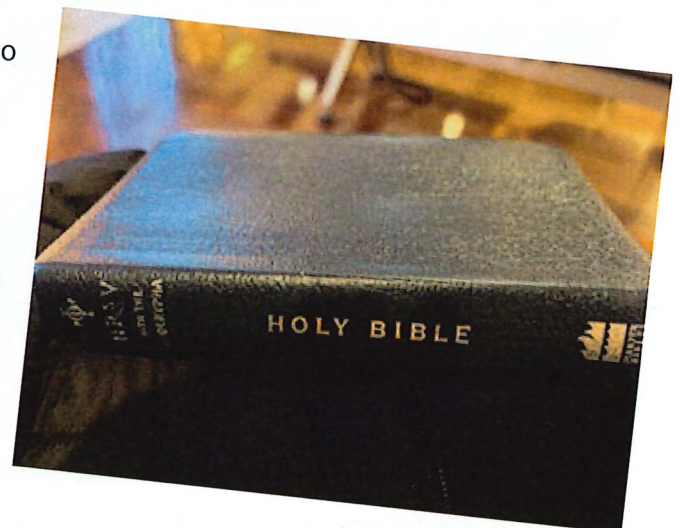
Just a reminder for Synod representatives that Synod registration is due by 18 July

19 July is the day set for the Election of the new Primate, who will, God-willing, take up office from 1 November. Please hold this election in your prayers.

Revd Justine Richmond and a dangerous item!

"I thought you might be interested in the attached photo of a dangerous item picked up by airport security! This item was picked up on the x-ray and swabbed by airport security twice, once on my way to Europe and again here in London just now. Another man in the line also had his bag searched and his copy swabbed just before me.

We shared a smile and agreed it is indeed a powerful book!"



The following article on the Blessing of the Fleet at Augusta arrived after last month's *To the People* had gone out. Thank you to Sally Francis, Warden at Augusta/Margaret River for sending it in.



Blessing of the Fleet

After a few days of rain and stormy weather, during a break in the weather on Saturday 31 May, people headed to the Augusta boat harbour for the annual blessing of the fleet. The local Volunteer Fire and Rescue crew arrived early to light up the BBQ and bacon and egg burgers were soon enjoyed by all. Marine and rescue boats and jet skis were on display and the crowd had the opportunity to tour the impressive sea rescue boat.

Archdeacon Geoff, along with the crowd, walked around the jetty blessing the whale fleet, people and fishing boats. The ceremony included the casting of flowers into the water to commemorate all those who have lost their lives at sea. Archdeacon Geoff was continuing this annual tradition that commenced a few years ago and a wonderful morning was had by all those in attendance.



After the ceremony was complete, out of gratitude for the

blessing, one of the whale boats offered Archdeacon Geoff and members of our church a trip out to see the whales. This was gladly accepted and those who took the tour were rewarded with breaching whales on display. Our church was very thankful to Archdeacon Geoff for



travelling down, at quite the early hour in inclement weather, to provide this service to our community. Also, thanks to Christine who liaises with our local Community Resource Centre each year to organise

the event and for assistance on the day. (Photos credit Sarah Jordan and Carol Huren)

Article and photos kindly supplied by Sally Francis,
Warden Augusta/Margaret River Parish

Saints at Work

Trinity Sunday weekend I was *en route* to Manjimup on the Saturday afternoon, stopping briefly at a couple of our Anglican churches en route, including St Peter's, Balingup. There I found John Pritchard preparing the flowers for the service the following day, which he was also going to be leading. I kicked myself afterwards for not taking a photo of John at work as he carefully ensured all was done well for the Sunday service.

Manjimup hold their service on a Saturday evening, as it is getting dark, with afternoon tea in the hall beforehand. All below had contributed to the afternoon tea. Pewsheets for all three churches were prepared and printed and ready to go. David Swain had, as usual, carefully arranged music, hymns and songs for worship as well as a video from Open Doors to focus part of the intercessions.

Nor was David's work for the weekend done as he introduced me the following afternoon to the Seventh Day Adventist Pastor in town to talk about Emergency Relief. Pastor Ross Craig spoke movingly of the impact David has had on very many people in the area through his caring administration of Emergency Relief. David is about to finally retire from his Forestry work and is hoping to head round Australia in December time. Because I thought he might be going much sooner we presented him with a Thank You card signed by all the churches in Southern Forests' parish for his invaluable service to the parish spanning 38+ years. Please see the photo below:



First stop on the Sunday morning was Northcliffe. Again, it was touching to find the LLM, Warwick Backhouse, carefully hoovering the church before the Holy Communion service.



Wrap up of Hope25

I may not be alone in thinking that whilst Pentecost marked the official ending of **Hope 25**, the intent of **Hope 25** is really part and parcel of what it means to be the church and therefore should not be finishing as a consequence. Nevertheless these two reports, from Gelorup and Christ's Church, Mandurah, came right at the end of **Hope 25** at Pentecost itself:

A message from the Parish of Gelorup:



Another Hope 25 commitment completed today. Prayers were offered by the participants at the Good Friday combined churches service. These have been prayed over by a prayer team between Good Friday and Pentecost. Today the written prayers have been destroyed, as promised, but God has heard the people's prayers and he will answer them.



Pentecost at Christ's Church

Christ's Church, Mandurah held a Baptism, Confirmation and Reception service at 8.15am and a Children and Young People's service at 10am where they had invited all who had been baptised and married over the past to a special service. Several hundred attended between these two services.



Elijah House at Living Water



Revd Shane Marques shared this report and pics:

"Elijah House ministries held a mini conference at Living Water on 18-19 June on the topic of 'Embracing our God given identity'. Sandra Sellmer-Kersten was the speaker and it was attended and appreciated by many from across the region."

Church of the Way and Pinjarra/Waroona parish celebrating a 5th Sunday worship together at St Mary the Virgin, Coolup



Cursillo in the Diocese

A few weeks ago, I had a meeting with Canon Ian Mabey, who is the current Spiritual Director for Cursillo, and Anne Ritson and Barbara McDowell, who are the Co-Lay Directors. As you may have seen, the Ultreya had to be cancelled earlier this year and also the Cursillo scheduled for later this year. This is primarily not due to lack of interest from potential attendees but from a dearth of suitably experienced and able-bodied leaders.

It appears that of the 15 out of 23 Anglican dioceses in Australia, only 9 still have Cursillo running. It seemed therefore a good time to consider what we can do to re-boot Cursillo in our diocese. For the time being, I have requested the Cursillo Secretariat to stand down whilst we consider what should happen next. This is in no way a reflection on their combined and dedicated efforts but an acknowledgement that this is not a straightforward or easy matter to solve. I should also add the important rider that we are not cancelling any of the existing Cursillo groups wherever they are. Cursillo is a lay-led grassroots movement so we want to encourage these groups to continue. Please would you add Cursillo to your prayers?

Revd Julie Baker

It has been announced that Julie is to become the chaplain at Perth College, which we have a part share in as the Provincial College. She commences after the school mid-year holidays and is looking forward to this new role.

Financial Gifts to Kapsabet

Thanks to a very generous donation and to a number of donations from parishes and individuals, Laura was able to send Bishop Paul and Kapsabet Diocese the sum of \$24,360.50 last week. This was Bishop Paul's reply when the money was received:

Dear Laura, Bp Dr. Ian and the good people of Bunbury Diocese

It is another beautiful morning that the Lord has blessed us with for us to serve him and his kingdom. During this holy season of Trinity, the church is called to share the power of unity, friendship and cordial relationships! Indeed we are serving a God of unity, the Triune God! Hope this email finds you all in good health and in high spirits!

We write to officially communicate to you that the bank has notified us that your generous support to our diocese of **Australian dollars 24,360.50** which has translated to **Kenya shillings 2,018,254.57 (two million and eighteen thousand, two hundred and fifty-four and cents fiftyseven)** has been successfully credited to our account. We thank God for your kindness.

Our undertaking is that these funds shall be utilized for the intended purpose in the spirit of accountability and transparency as we honor the sacrifices made by your diocese and your people. This generous support will facilitate the realization of our ministry priorities as we respond to the needs of our people through outreach programs and the execution of the vision and mission mandate of the diocese of Kapsabet. The utilization of the funds shall be accounted for as we shall use the same to touch and transform lives to the glory and honor of God.

In the meantime, we assure you of our prayers and continued gospel partnership. Let every individual person and family and every parish that contributed towards this generosity know that they are highly appreciated and you all will always remain in our prayers and in our thoughts. Let us pray together **Job 42:10, after Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before.**

With Gratitude & Thanksgiving

Bp Dr Paul Korir

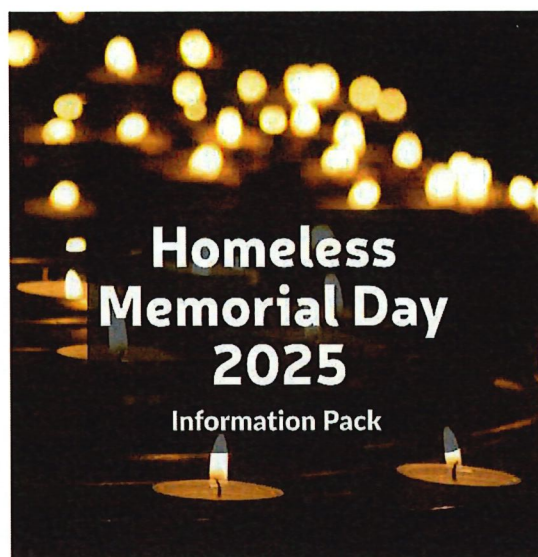
For and on behalf of the good people of the Anglican diocese of Kapsabet, Kenya

Homelessness Service at the Cathedral

This was held on Friday 20 June, deliberately almost the longest night of the year. The service material had come from Revd Julie Baker, presently chaplain at St. Bart's, and Nikki Latham steered this for the Cathedral. There were not huge numbers but people appreciated this service very much. One person, a housing worker, had brought a large photo of someone she had assisted who had died.

As we were reminded, mortality for homeless people can be as relatively young as 50 years old.

The sense from those who came was that we should do this again next year.



Revd Gaerlan Baguil and an International Gathering of Seafarer Chaplains in Poland

Revd Gaerlan, who is our chaplain to Seafarers at Bunbury port, and is pictured on the far left below, had the opportunity to represent Australia at an International gathering of chaplains in Gdansk, Poland. Here are some of the photos he brought back from this conference and trip. Revd Gaerlan has impressed the Bunbury PortWelfare Committee with the sheer number of ships (now over 50) he has visited since he started earlier this year. With many crews being Filipino, it helps that Revd Gaerlan is also Filipino.



Some new Diocesan Policies approved at Bishop in Council

1. Prompted by our insurer AIRS insisting we complete a **Risk Maturity Assessment** ahead of the next round of insurance quotations and bills, and with a view to compliance saving parishes and the diocese from additional costs, Revd Nick Freeland drafted a new **Risk Management Policy** to "establish a clear and consistent approach to identifying, assessing, managing, and monitoring risks within the Diocese of Bunbury." This policy is available on our Intranet.
2. Revd Nick has drawn our attention to the need for Parish Council minutes, and indeed minutes of other meetings, to cover the following: full names of all those present, whether or not the meeting was quorate, accurate recording of resolutions and the approval and storage of minutes. This arose because of an insurance claim investigation where the minutes of the relevant parish were not adequate to address the matter being probed. Accordingly, Nick has written a **Minutes Policy**, which is attached and is also available on our Intranet.
3. Revd Nick has written a **Reportable Incidents Policy** to clarify what are and what are not reportable incidents, and what actions need to be taken if it is reportable. This is a handy brief guide consistent with the WorkSafe WA regulations and the Work, Health and Safety Act in WA.
4. Finally, Revd Nick has also produced a draft diocesan **Use of AI Policy**. I am not sure if this is a first for any Anglican diocese in Australia but I have again added it as an Attachment for your perusal and it, like the others, is available on our intranet.



SAVE THE DATE

Monday September 22nd

Spiritual Reflection Day

with Fr Iain Radvan SJ

Iain was ordained a Jesuit priest in 1994 and spent 20 years as a chaplain and teacher (humanities). More recently he has moved into the ministry of spirituality, running retreats and giving spiritual direction and supervision. He gives the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius; his PhD was on their transformative nature for Jesuits. He is at present working at the Jesuit retreat centre in rural South Australia (Sevenhill). He has had the blessing of visiting many parts of the world. His hobbies include gardening, bushwalking and cycling.

The Bunbury Christian Life Community (CLC) is excited to invite you to spend time in reflection with Iain Radvan who is coming to Bunbury after running the CLC Annual Retreat at Shoalwater.

Venue: St Boniface Anglican Cathedral Hall
Date: Monday 22nd September
Time: Sometime between 10.00am and 3.00pm

Please email Carol Reid (carolreid@westnet.com.au) or leave a message on 0455 588 382 if you are interested.

More to follow when we have an idea of numbers and program details

Lent 2026

Following the success of the **Hope 25** Lenten Studies, the bishops are again going to write another Lenten series for next year on the theme of Joy.

Sustainable Living Working Group

Mr Adrian Price submitted his resignation at the second attempt from his position as Chair of the Sustainable Living Working Group (SLWG), citing his age of being 87. This seemed an entirely reasonable request. We want to thank Adrian for his faithful, regular and informative articles in *To the People* and for reminding us all about the significance of the 5th Mark of Mission. Namely: to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. This means working to protect and preserve the environment, and to promote sustainable living practices. Revd Justine Richmond has been nominated by Adrian as his successor and I am delighted Adrian wishes to remain a member of the SWLG. Please find their latest article below.

From the Sustainable Living Working Group:

Plastic Free July is our focus this month. Did you know that the founder of this worldwide movement was born and raised in Boyup Brook?

"Rebecca Prince-Ruiz OAM, the founder of Plastic Free July, is a change maker. In 2011, concerned by the amount of plastics going into landfill, Rebecca Prince-Ruiz encouraged 40 of her friends to avoid single-use plastic for the month of July. Over the next few years, the campaign rapidly grew from 40 to 400 then 4000 and Plastic Free July was born. The Plastic Free Foundation was established as an Australian based registered charity in 2017 to support the growing global movement." (from the Foundation's website: <https://plasticfreefoundation.net/about-us/founder/>)



The government has regulated many items, but it is still consumers who need to lead the way with single use plastics. The Plastic Free July Website has some great ideas – here is the link to get you started: <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/category/getting-started/#categories>

In parishes and ministry settings, we can role model good practices with single use plastics. If you give out fruit and vegetables, diverting waste from the supermarkets, consider following the example of one of our parishes. They fundraise to buy soft plastic recycling boxes from Terracycle so that the plastic wrappings from the fruit and vegetables don't go home with people and into landfill. This also means that the fruit and vegetables can be arranged nicely – in the style of a fruit and vegetable market. The market style set-up gives a sense of dignity and normality to those accessing food relief and enables food that is past its best to be diverted to people who have chickens, or to local farmers. Some community gardens may take fruit and vegetable scraps for composting.

Other ideas:

- host a "make a beeswax wrap" workshop.
- recycle unwanted t-shirts by making them into shopping bags.
- If you have children and youth, get them involved with planning sustainable initiatives and ideas for reducing the use of plastics.
- Waste audits – this is also a good activity for children and youth.
- Parishes with community kitchens can encourage people to bring their own containers for take away meals or recycle ice cream containers for people to take salads home in.

If you would like any information on any of these initiatives, please reach out, we would be very happy to help you.

Adrian Price and Rev'd Justine Richmond
Sustainable Living Working Group
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parishpriest@dunsboroughanglican.com.au.

Bishop's Calendar

July	1	Revd Bob Booth's Funeral Service, St George's Cathedral
	4	Visiting Wonnerup House, Busselton
	5	Safe Ministry Commission Meeting, via Zoom.
	7	Visiting Bunbury Prison for NAIDOC
	7 - 13	NAIDOC WEEK
	8	Diocesan Executive Planning Day, Bunbury
	11	Funeral Service of Revd Leonard Backler, Busselton Cemetery
	12-18	Annual Leave
	19	Meeting of the Board of Electors, Sydney
		- Election of the new Primate
	22	Welcoming of the new Deputy Principal & Staff Eucharist, Frederick Irwin Anglican School
	26	Special Session of General Synod
	29	Finance Committee meeting, Diocesan Office

Blessings,

