

Four Rivers



From the Bishop



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am sure you have been looking forward to some warmer weather as much as I have. Spring seemed to begin and then revert to cold, wintery weather again. However, we are getting warmer again. Over the last month a few interesting things have taken place in the Diocese.



Relationship with the Diocese of Wangaratta

Bishop +Clarence Bester, of Wangaratta, and I have been working at co-operation between our two Diocese. As part of that, he invited me to Preach in Holy Trinity Cathedral Wangaratta for the Installation of the new Dean, the Very Rev'd Neil Hicks, on St Aidan's Day, 31 August. Our Dean, Fr Thomas, also attended this celebration.

Clergy Retreat

We began this co-operation last year by holding a combined Clergy Retreat with the Wangaratta Clergy, and on 16-19 September we held another Clergy Retreat with them at Pallotti College in the Yarra Valley. Our retreat conductor this year was the Very Rev'd Katherine Bowyer, Dean of Newcastle, who led us through some fascinating and helpful reflections with music and poetry. The theme of her addresses was "how can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land."

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Our Commitment to Safe Church Culture:

How We Treat Each Other

Our Diocese is moving forward in positive ways. I am pleased to announce an important new progression in 'Our Commitment to Safe Church Culture', approved by Diocesan Council, this month.

It includes the release of the new "How We Treat Each Other" documents.

As we all know, disagreements and human nature can be stressful at times for everyone in our parishes. Faithfulness in Service gives clear guidelines as to right values and behaviours for Clergy and Church Workers; and we now seek to extend this culture to all, and it must come from each of us.

The way any of us behaves towards others, makes a difference to how our parishes, church meetings, op shops (etc.), feel like good and safe places to be.

Safe Church Culture is a constant commitment. We need to be working together to ensure we're consistently achieving safety and community well-being. This new initiative gives us tools. Resources we can put into practice when we need to be doing things differently.

The new documents lay out an easy-to-read concise description of positive (prosocial) behaviours, and negative (antisocial) behaviours. These have been drawn up as a 'general rule of thumb' guideline for encouraging beneficial ways of behaving.

Two documents have been created for two different purposes:

- Poster/Noticeboard for public display of "How We Treat Each Other" for all church premises, (similar to the concept of Zero Tolerance notices in e.g. retail stores)
- A 'conversation starter' version for group or individual situations, guiding in-depth conversations

Setting public and clear guidelines for standards of behaviour shows the communities we serve how our faith in God is lived out following the example of Jesus. Treating one another by these standards makes real the love of God we proclaim. As the Apostle John said: *"let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."*

[1 John 3.18]

Licensed Lay Ministers Training

On Saturday 28 September we held a training day for all those who are LLMs in the Diocese. A good number of people registered and attended on the day, and we all enjoyed the gathering at the Cathedral. I know that not everyone who would have liked to attend were able to do so, therefore, the sessions on the day were video recorded and these recordings, along with the printout for the day will be made available across the Diocese for any, and all who may be interested. We sincerely thank Rev'd Gemma for her excellent skills in recording the sessions.

Companion Diocese Relationship with South Malaita

We have a long-established positive relationship with the Diocese of Hokkaido in Japan and look forward to that continuing. Alongside this we are going to establish a relationship with the new Diocese of South Malaita in the Solomon Islands. In part this is because we have quite a few faithful parishioners in Parishes across the Diocese who come from that part of the world. I will be visiting the Solomon Islands at the end of November for the celebration that will inaugurate this new Diocese in Sa'a Village on the Feast of Christ the King, Sunday 24 November. We hope and pray that this will bring blessing to both our Dioceses.



Please continue to pray for the Diocese as we seek to strengthen the financial foundation that allows us to continue ministering to far western NSW.

Grace and peace,

+ Donald

Safe Church Corner

Hello and Welcome,

This month, as you can read in Bishop Donald's words earlier in this Four Rivers, Safe Church Culture across the Diocese is gaining more momentum.

A refreshed approach is emerging from different areas within the Diocese, Clergy, Parish Councils, Wardens, and parishioners. Please be sure to see the Bishop's reference to - "Our Commitment to Safe Church Culture: How We Treat Each Other" - tools and guidelines.

Useful ideas for how to make changes are helpful. For the most part, we all mean to be good to each other. However, there are times when any of us may not be at our best. Those times are when a community should embrace and support us. Sometimes, though, people get into the habit of being negative, or whole communities become tainted with disagreement or even unkindness towards each other.

This trend can be hard to change - but it must. Our 'bottom line' for parish culture must be based on care, respect and kindness for each other. The Diocese's refreshed emphasis - "Our Commitment to Safe Church Culture: How We Treat Each Other" - gives us ways to make sure this base line is not only met but constantly improving.

The Diocese's momentum is in keeping with society's trends. It's common for any organisation, nowadays, to have basic expectations that everyone can feel safe, respected and share a reasonable sense of welfare, in communal spaces and activities.

If you have more ideas, please be sure to share them!

I am available by phone or email to hear any concerns you may have, or ... any great ideas you have that could help us improve our Safe Church Culture.

Connie



Connie Comber

Professional Standards

Director

Anglican Diocese
of Riverina

Email:

psd@anglicanriverina.com

Mobile:

0491 109 479

How We Treat Each Other Welcome!



It's good to have you here.

As you **come into our space**, we ask you to help us make this a **safe place for everyone**. By entering here **you are agreeing** to abide by our Safe Church culture, based on the principles of Faithfulness in Service.

We **affirm behaviours** that bring out the best in others.

Prosocial behaviours include:

- being kind and compassionate
- listening with the intent to understand
- resisting the urge to interrupt
- being aware of the tone of our voice
- allowing others to speak for themselves
- being considerate of the physical and emotional needs of others
- co-operating and collaborating
- seeking creative outcomes

We avoid **antisocial behaviours** such as: threats, belittling, shouting, intimidation, insults, malicious gossip and spreading rumours.

Antisocial behaviour causes divisiveness, reduces team effectiveness, and is upsetting and hurtful.

Our culture focuses on **prosocial behaviour** that encourages kindness, interest, care and compassion.

close contact

A WORD OR TWO FROM THE CATHEDRAL



Saint Alban
THE MARTYR ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL

The Very Rev'd Thomas Leslie
Dean of St Alban's and Rector of Griffith

CWA Delegates Fill over The Cathedral with Vibrant Singing

The Cathedral was filled to overflowing on Sunday 8th September, as the parish welcomed members of the Association of Country Women Worldwide (locally known as the CWA), gathered in Griffith for their South Pacific Region Conference.

The Conference program included an Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving, which the Cathedral was asked to arrange and host, and it was a delight that, as part of the service, choirs from three different churches in Griffith sang: each one of them representing a different Pacific Nation. We heard anthems from the Tongan Church Children's Choir, The Fijian Methodist Church Choir, and our own St Alban's Solomon Islander Choir. The congregation also had a chance to sing praises, with such classic hymns as 'Brother Sister, Let Me Serve You' and 'The Day You Gave Us Lord' included in worship.

Prayers were led by Mrs Jenny Rose, from Hillston Uniting Church, Major Lyn Cathcart, of the Griffith Salvation Army, and our own Rev'd Canon Sue-Ellen Chilvers, while the Rev'd Gemma Le Mesurier delivered a memorable sermon: skilfully weaving the story of the Death and Raising of Dorcas/Tabitha (Acts 9.36-42) with life lessons learned from the television classic 'The Golden Girls'. The Dean was informed at the conference dinner (on the Monday) that there are now a whole lot more members of the 'Rev'd Gemma Fanclub' !



Amongst the delegates was one with a very special connection to St Alban's Griffith. Mrs Christine King, Immediate Past State President of the Queensland CWA, was delighted to speak with the Dean after the service about one of his predecessors: her grandfather, Fr Walter Bennet, Rector of Griffith from 1925-37.

Christine told Fr Thomas that, after a very challenging time in Griffith (during which the Hall Church was erected in Noorebar Avenue and consecrated by the Bishop of London, while mission and youth meetings continued in the Banna Avenue Mission Hall), Fr Bennet went to Queensland to take up Rectorship of St Paul's Taringa, now part of the Parish of Christ Church St Lucia, where he served for many years, overseeing the construction of two Parish Churches and other facilities. Christine remembers her grandfather as a man of deep faith and quiet practicality, which has inspired her own sense of community spirit.

The Thanksgiving Service was greatly appreciated by ACWW delegates, especially for the generous welcome offered by the Cathedral, the sense of togetherness amongst the ecumenical church representatives present, the beauty of the space, and the vibrancy of the music. St Alban's certainly ensured that the Riverina standard of hospitality and worship was maintained.

From the Registrar

Mandy Walsh

Registry Office

Works on the new Registry office are coming along quickly now – the cabinets are in and the flooring and tiling will be completed soon.

The exterior works are also steaming along with a retaining wall built around two sides of the building. The grading of the yard is beginning so as to be able to install the access ramp to the front door.

There will be a few weeks when the back of the hall will be fenced off while the concreting is being poured, and temporary access to the Op Shop will be via Noorebar Ave.

There were many, many underground services on this tiny piece of land, and our designers and builders have done an excellent job avoiding them all!

When you are next visiting the Cathedral, take a look at the construction, which is behind the Cathedral and between the Hall, Medical Centre and Child Care Centre.



We are still hopeful of moving into the office in October. After this, a blessing will be organised, and all those who are able, will be welcome to attend.

HOPE25

Prayer

God of Hope

You call on us to be
your witnesses in this
uncertain world;

By your Spirit awaken in
us a true vision of
your kingdom,
a greater certainty of
our salvation, and
a deeper dedication
to your service;
that through our words
and actions the same
Spirit may bring many who
are lost to be found,
and for them to celebrate
the hope that we can only
have in Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray.

Amen



Blessing of the Stations of the Cross

*From Savernake to Berrigan -
the road to Calvary is but one*

On Sunday 23rd June, the parish communities of St Aidan's Anglican Church Berrigan and St Brendan's Catholic Church Savernake came together to celebrate the relocation and 'Blessing of the Stations of the Cross'. The 14 pieces were gifted to St Aidan's from the parishioners of St Brendan's after its decommissioning last year.

Reverend Jeni Bedding and Fr Marco Killingsworth held a service at St Aidan', after which a celebratory luncheon was well attended. It was an emotional service that culminated into *a joyous day, witnessing a meaningful ecumenical and historical occasion.*

The Stations of the Cross have been renovated by the Berrigan Men's Shed, including the addition of small shelves to ensure their stability. A commemorative plaque was also installed to acknowledge this truly historic event.

St Aidan's extends its heartfelt thanks to the generosity of St Brendan's and to all those who have contributed to this project. It will be remembered by generations to come.



Faith, Hope & Love Conference



The Families and Culture Commission of the Anglican Church of Australia held the National Conference on 2nd and 3rd September 2024 at St Jude's Anglican Church, Carlton, with this year's theme being *Faith, Hope, and Love: Churches Together Creating a Future Free from Family Violence*. Our Diocese was fortunate to be represented by **The Reverend Canon Sue-Ellen Chilvers**, Rector of the Parish of Coleambally-Darlington Point, and President of Diocesan Mother's Union. She writes:

This event was open to everyone from all churches and included delegates from the Domestic and Family Violence support and advocacy sector who joined together in connecting and learning together, exploring ways to enhance our efforts in preventing and responding to domestic violence, both within our church communities and in the broader society.

The aim of the conference was to deepen our understanding of the root causes of domestic violence and the critical role the church can play in both prevention and response. The hope is to create a future free from violence. The Families and Culture Commission of the Anglican Church of Australia partnered with Common Grace to hold this conference.



There were five keynote addresses:

1. **Patty Kinnersley** is the CEO of National DV Prevention organisation: **Our Watch**. She is a national leader in the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia. Patty spoke about the work that Our Watch has done in identifying the faith sector as one of the key next frontiers in our national goal to prevent violence against women.

2. **Dr Michael Flood** is a Professor in the **School of Justice at QUT**. His research agenda includes interpersonal violence and its prevention, engaging men in violence prevention, men, masculinities, and gender justice. His keynote was titled "Hope in the midst of violence – What we know about perpetration and its implications for prevention."

3. **Dr Leisa Aitken** is a clinical psychologist whose recent PhD investigated **theories of hope** across the domains of psychology, philosophy and theology. Leisa spoke on the difference that Hope makes. Her keynote presentation was titled: "What difference does Hope make? Psychology and theology in conversation." How can the gospel of hope help those impacted by domestic and family violence.



Rev'd Tracy Lauersen, National Program Manager,
Families & Culture, Anglican Church of Australia

4. **Gershon Nimbalker** is the Director of **Common Grace**, a national Christian social justice organisation that seeks to inspire and equip Christians to make a difference in our nation. Gershon spoke about *Engaging with Hope and Grace: How churches can be community advocates in the prevention of violence against women*.

5. **Alexander Dentener** is the Prevention Coordinator for communities at **The Men's Project**, part of Jesuit Social Services. Alex's focus is on working with men around their ideas, relationships and motivations to create a healthier community and challenge inequality. Alex spoke about The Man-Box research project: a comprehensive study that focuses on the attitudes to manhood and the behaviours of Australian men aged 18 to 45. His *keynote presentation was titled: Hope and the Man Box: what we are learning about men, masculinities and prevention of violence against women*.

A number of 30-minute workshops were also available, which were very useful. A number of Dioceses highlighted the work they are doing including Melbourne, Perth and Newcastle. The networking session held on Monday opportunity to make connections with others from across Australia.

The key message I have taken from the conference is that we all have a role to play in ending family and gender-based violence. It is up to each and every one of us to call-out men and boys, and likewise women, in initial circumstances when we encounter any abuse because actions early on lead to a reduction in the escalation and incidence of future violence. We can examine the Ten Commitments for Prevention and Response to Domestic and Family Violence in the Anglican Church of Australia, which is a great tool to help resource and empower our parish churches to bring about change and to continuously improve our preventative work.

<https://www.tencommitments.org.au/ten-commitments-overview>



Representatives from AMUA (Anglican Mothers Union Australia).

AROUND THE GROUNDS.

What's on in *Riverina*

AN EXCITING NEW
SPACE TO
SEE WHAT'S ON
IN OUR DIOCESE
THIS OCTOBER

ANGLICAN CHURCH



FETE!



SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER



10AM

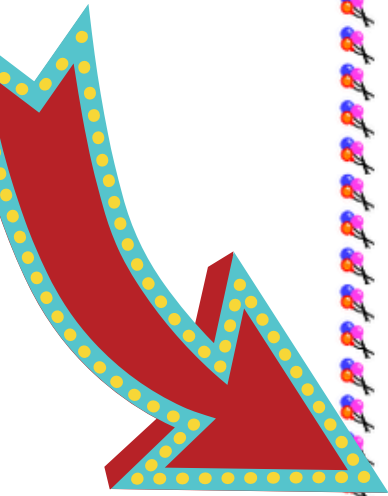


LAKE CARGELLIGO ANGLICAN

CHURCH YARD

- ★ STALLS
- ★ MORNING TEA
- ★ BBQ
- ★ RAFFLES
- ★ FLOWER SHOW
- ★ KIDS FACE PAINTING & GAMES

FETE @ LAKE CARGELLIGO



FETE & CELEBRATIONS @ THE NEWELL

THE PARISH OF THE NEWELL

ANGLICAN CHURCH FETE



MONEY TREE
PRODUCE
CAKES

PLANTS
MORNING
TEA
CRAFT STALL

THEME:
RAINBOW!
(WEAR
SOMETHING
COLOURFUL!)

CHILDREN'S
ACTIVITIES
BBQ
AND MORE..!

RAFFLE

SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2024 9AM - 2PM
Cnr Coree and Pinnuck Sts, Finley

You are invited to join us as we celebrate

125 Years

of

St Alban's Anglican Church, Tocumwal

at 10am, Sunday 20th October 2024,
13 Finley St, Tocumwal,
for a
Celebratory Eucharist
followed by a
BBQ Lunch
in the Church garden.

Guest preacher: The Very Reverend Thomas Leslie, Dean of St Alban's Cathedral, Griffith
Guest Organist: The Reverend Canon David O'Neill

All Welcome!





LEETON FETE

ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, LEETON

FETE

& Blessing of Pets

Saturday

19th October

9am to 1pm

Leeton Town Band

Aspire 2B, LPS Dancers

NEW - Solomon Island Dancers!

Cakes, Craft, Jams, Plants & Produce

Morning Tea, Coffee Van, BBQ

Rose and Geranium Show

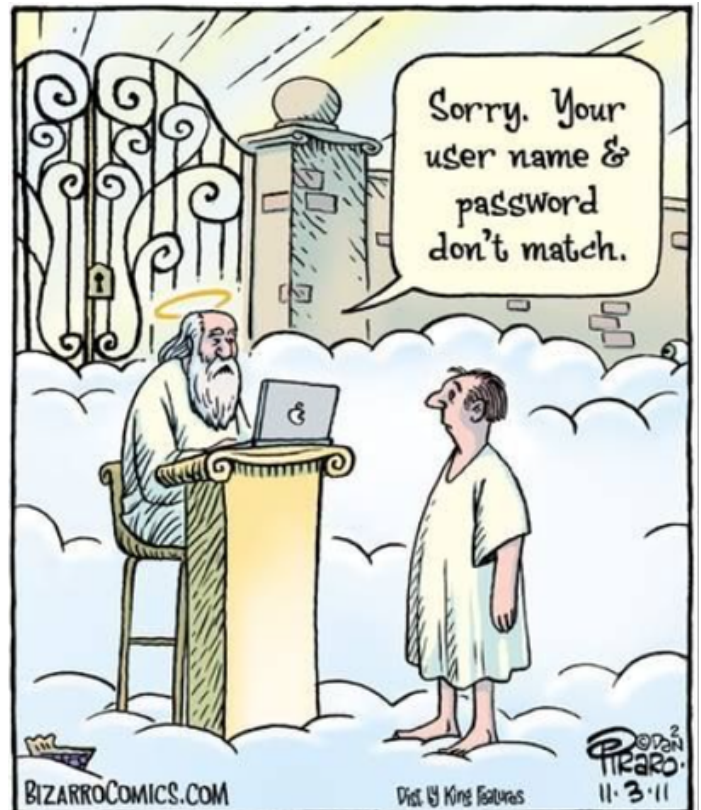
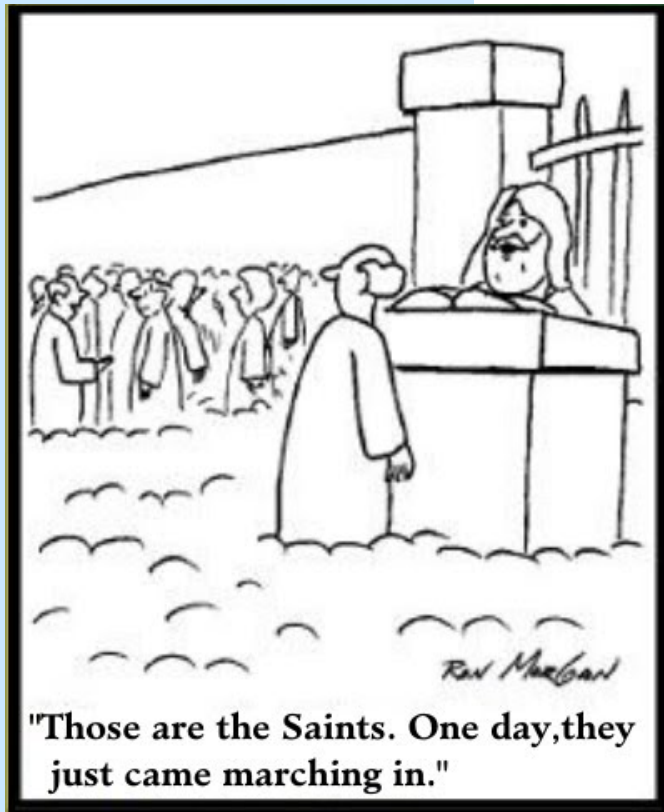
(entries taken Friday 18th 4-7pm)

and so much more!

St Peter's Op Shop open 9am-1pm



FRIDAY funnies



The Sin of Lying

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."