May 2024 Vol. 41 | No. 4

Anglican News

a magazine for the Anglican Community of Canberra & Goulburn



Count Your Blessings - The 100 Voices Choir Swan Song

Read the full article on page 9

Meet Our New Assistant Bishop

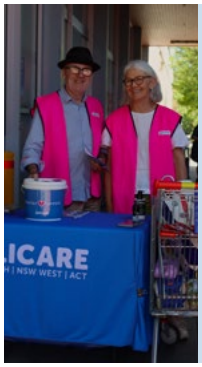


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Hope25

Full article on page 6



Community & Compassion
The Power of Partnerships

Full article on page 5

Letter from Bishop Mark

Sometimes the most precious gifts in life are the ones we so easily take for granted. Friendship is a case in point.

The truth is however that few things matter more to human wellbeing than the number and quality of our friendships.

Research has found that positive, supportive friendships predict higher physical and psychological wellbeing levels more than any other variable.

And yet, for many of us, friendships are becoming harder to develop and sustain. In a recent newspaper article Federal MP Andrew Leigh suggests Australia is dealing with a 'friendship recession'. Compared with four decades ago, Australians have almost half as many friends and we catch up with them only about half as often.

In John's gospel Chapter 15, which is part of Jesus' farewell speech to His disciples on the night of His betrayal, friendship is central to the gift he offers them and us.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends (verse 13).

We miss the full significance of Jesus death if we reduce it merely to wiping the slate clean and giving us the opportunity to make a fresh start on our own. Jesus comes to give us something better. He comes to restore intimacy – intimacy between us and God, and intimacy so rich that it can only be grasped using the language of friendship.

So what constitutes that friendship?

You are my friends if you do what I command you.[15] I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. (verses 14-15)

To be sure, there is a certain asymmetry between Jesus and his followers. They are to do what he commands, not vice versa. Nonetheless to call them servants is inadequate because a servant is kept in the dark and does not know what their master is up to.

Here Jesus taps into a particular understanding of friendship. This is more than friendship defined by a common experience, like going to school or university together. It's also more than friendship defined by a common interest, like bushwalking or trains.

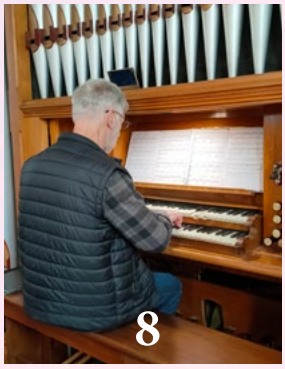
This is friendship nurtured by a common purpose, a common longing, a common love. This is friendship that grows as one party shares with the other what is on their heart and invites them to share that passion. This is friendship centred on God's purposes for this world and its people.

This month we begin our journey towards the Hope25 season of focussed outreach as together with other Anglicans we share the hope that Jesus offers in an uncertain world. We do so as His friends, inviting others into that same relationship and that same purpose.

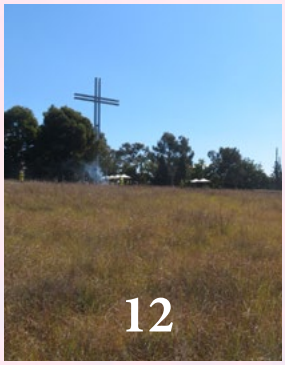
With prayers and blessings,

Bishop Mark Short

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Contribute to Our News!

Article Submissions

The Anglican News welcomes contributions of **up to 500 words** with pictures that highlight ministry and mission initiatives across the Diocese, or explore new ways of engaging a world of difference with the love and truth of Jesus. All submissions must be received by the **1st day of the month to be included in the edition for that month**. For example, submissions for inclusion in the May edition must be received by 1 May.

Advertising Enquiries

The Anglican News also accepts submissions for ads, events and positions vacant within the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn!

Inclusion of articles and advertising material is at the discretion of the editors.

Please email submissions and enquiries to:
anglicannews@anglicancg.org.au

Meet Our New Assistant Bishop



We are delighted to advise that, with the concurrence of Bishop-in-Council, The Venerable Vanessa Bennett has accepted Bishop Mark's invitation to be the next Assistant Bishop in our Diocese.

Vanessa currently serves as Archdeacon of Essendon and Vicar of the Parish of Moonee Ponds in the Diocese of Melbourne. In those capacities she has led an established congregation into growth and worked with a broad range of Parishes in a culturally diverse part of Melbourne to find new avenues for effective mission.

From 2010 to 2015 Vanessa served in our Diocese as Rector of Christ Church West Goulburn and Chaplain at Goulburn Hospital. Her previous ordained ministry was in the Diocese of Sydney as Assistant Minister in the Parish of Strathfield and Chaplain at Meriden Anglican School for Girls. She has a particular interest and expertise in clergy leadership coaching and pastoral supervision.

Anglican News had the opportunity to interview The Venerable Vanessa Bennett:

Vanessa can you tell us about yourself?

I grew up on the northern beaches of Sydney where I enjoyed sailboarding, playing squash and either participating in or watching most sports.

After finishing school, I completed a science degree majoring in Climatology, well before climate change became the issue it is today. I taught Mathematics, Geography and Studies of Religion before going into ministry and have been involved at executive and board levels in Anglican schools.

Paul and I celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary last December and we currently have two cats, a black cat called Micah and a tortoise shell called Esther.

How did you come to be in ministry?

I sensed a call to ministry at the time of my conversion to faith in Christ during my high school years. For me, if Jesus really was who he said he was, then he deserved the commitment of my whole life in ministry. Having not grown up in the church, I didn't realise that some places didn't encourage women to serve in leadership positions. However, a wise retired cleric once encouraged me to follow God's call one step at a time and see where he leads. I am ever grateful for his encouraging words and the ways God has opened up opportunities for ministry.

What other ministries have you been involved in since that time?

I have served in school and hospital chaplaincies, in parishes across three dioceses (Sydney, C&G, and Melbourne) and as an archdeacon.

What are you most looking forward to about the Assistant Bishop role and returning to Canberra and Goulburn?

Paul and I remember the warm welcome we received in the Diocese when I was priested at St Saviour's and inducted at Christ Church West Goulburn. We look forward to renewing friendships and meeting others involved in serving the Lord across the diocese and in many capacities. With the experiences I have had across different ministries and dioceses, I pray that the Lord might use me to encourage and grow others in their service of the Lord and his people.

What does a perfect day off look like for you?

In summer, watching cricket. In winter, curled up in a warm place with a good book. For holidays, it's camping and bushwalking with Paul and with a camera in hand taking photos.

Vanessa will be consecrated in St Saviour's Cathedral at 11am on August 24.

Community & Compassion:

The Power of Partnerships

Written by Anglicare NSW South, West & ACT

Every year, the bustling aisles of Curtin Coles become a beacon of generosity, thanks to a longstanding partnership between Good Shepherd Anglican Church, Anglicare, and St John's Care. For fifteen years, this alliance has fuelled our pantry appeals, transforming ordinary grocery runs into opportunities for community members to aid those in need.

Twice annually, church volunteers' station themselves outside the supermarket, encouraging shoppers to purchase and donate extra pantry items. These efforts support the mission to feed vulnerable members of our community, proving that even the smallest contributions can make a significant impact.

Good Shepherd's Senior Minister, Guy Matthews, shares, *"It has been an incredibly positive experience partnering with Anglicare and St John's Care. Together, we provide essential food items to those who need them most. It's a testament to the strength of community and the spirit of giving."*

The success of the pantry appeal resonates deeply within the community. *"Our church members relish the chance to participate in a hands-on way,"* Guy notes, *"and it's heartwarming to see the excitement in children as they donate, knowing they're making a real difference."*

This initiative not only fills shelves but also hearts, reinforcing the power of partnerships in building a compassionate and supportive society.

With the next pantry appeal scheduled for Friday 31 May and Saturday 1 June, get down to Curtin Coles and show your support.







How to Have Fun on a General Synod Taskforce (hint: Hope25)



Anglican News spoke with Monica Short, about her role in the Hope25 project as a member of the General Synod Mission and Ministry Taskforce:

What's it like serving on the General Synod Mission and Ministry Taskforce?

Fun!

We are a passionate group of people from around Australia who meet regularly and love to talk about what God is doing in our country. The members are great – they are diverse and not afraid of doing blue sky dreaming, which makes our conversations rich and exciting.

Hope25 is an initiative of the Mission and Ministry taskforce. What has encouraged you so far about the Hope25 project?

God's ability to bring people from every Diocese of Australia together through the Gospel for this project is astounding. God is so good.

People have wonderful, innovative ideas about sharing the Gospel, and I love listening to their hopes for this campaign. I love the idea that we can all have a unique relationship with God through Jesus wherever we live in Australia.

What are you hoping to see happen in our Diocese for Hope25?

People come together in their own way and in their own communities to express publicly that Jesus brings hope in uncertain times – such as through story, testimonies, art, music, proclamation, liturgy, church services, poetry, prayers and praying, Bible studies, art, painting, writing, dinners, acts of service, sharing little or big acts of kindness, podcasts, newsletters, school concerts, fun op-shop activities, drama, public lectures, theological discussions, sociological discussions, social events, travel, bake a cake, colouring in competitions for kids.

Let us have fun and laugh together.

How could we help other Dioceses with making Hope25 happen where they are?

Joining up with groups in rural and urban communities to co-create and run events, share ideas and resources, and visit each other - sounds good to me! I am always willing to make new friends.

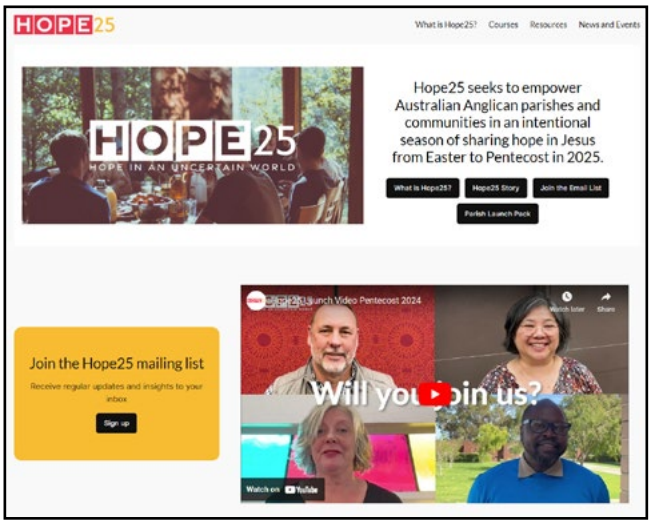
HOPE25
HOPE IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

What are you praying for, right now, about Hope25?

I am praying Australia for Christ and that God's will be done on earth as in heaven. And I pray that people will be excited about the hope Jesus brings and that everyone knows this hope is for them. This world is a tough place, we need hope, Jesus is great.

What can we do now, to be involved?

Get excited by the vision. Check out the website: www.hope25.com.au



And submit ideas that we can all engage with www.hope25.com.au/2024/04/22/submit-your-resources/

Start thinking about what we can do in our locations and Diocese. Maybe this question will help: what would need to happen for our Diocese to get to the end of 2025 and be able to look back and say, "Hope25 was a widely successful campaign; I really enjoyed it, and so did my neighbours, friends and family. Let us do it again."

God is good, our Diocese is beautiful, and I am very excited by our potential to serve God through this campaign in our own ways.

Clergy Moves

† **The Reverend Catherine Blythe** was granted an Authority to Officiate for three years on 6 May 2024.

† **The Reverend Luke Collings** was elected by his peers as Area Dean of Goulburn and the Southern Tablelands on 9 April 2024.

† **The Reverend Owen Davies** had his Authority to Officiate renewed for three years on 6 May 2024.

† **The Reverend Vicki Hancock** has been appointed as Pastoral Care Coordinator, Forrest Centre, from 13 May 2024 and Assistant Priest, Wagga Wagga.

† **The Venerable Tom Henderson-Brooks** has resigned as Diocesan Archdeacon, effective 8 July 2024. Tom is currently on leave until that date.

† **The Reverend Tracey Matthews** has been licensed as Locum Rector (part-time) of Kaleen-Giralang-Lawson effective 6 May 2024.

† **The Reverend Robin Miners** had his Authority to Officiate renewed for three years on 6 May 2024.

† **The Reverend Peta Thorpe** had her Authority to Officiate renewed for three years on 6 May 2024.

† **Bishop Carol Wagner** was licensed as Director of Vocations, effective 13 March 2024, on 9 April 2024.



The Churches of Harden-Murrumburrah



Written by Charles Body

The Anglican Historical Society's annual general meeting was held at St Paul's Murrumburrah on Saturday 20 April 2024. The beautiful building dates back to 1875-76 but the church has been an important part of the community since the establishment of the twin towns of Harden-Murrumburrah.

The day began with a magnificent morning tea provided by the parish, followed by a talk by the long-serving deacon in the parish, the Rev'd Don Jamieson.

An unexpected treasure in Murrumburrah is the Ross Memorial Church, which was built in 1915. Originally a Methodist Church, it is now a Uniting Church. Stewart Bruce, an elder of the parish and an excellent musician, gave a talk about the church then entertained the group with a short concert featuring both the grand piano and the pipe organ. With its wonderful acoustics and fine musical instruments, Ross Memorial Church hosts several concerts during the year, often featuring musicians from Sydney, Melbourne and further afield.

The Ross Memorial Church welcomes visitors to these concerts which are followed by afternoon tea and sometimes wine and cheese. Contact Stewart Bruce on stewartbruce75@yahoo.com to confirm costs and to book tickets. They are certainly worth attending.

After lunch and the AGM, the final visit was to St Anthony's Roman Catholic Church, a spectacular building on the top on the hill at Harden on the main road to Cootamundra – perhaps the best block in town. St Anthony's was built in 1934 and is open daily for locals and visitors to be inspired by its impressive light-filled interior and marble altars.

Like many small towns, Harden-Murrumburrah has lost many businesses, community services and employment opportunities in recent decades. The church is not immune from this decline, and now the only resident minister from the major denominations is Canon Kevin Stone who is part-time locum at St Paul's while the parish is between rectors. But the various denominations work closely together to ensure that the Christian gospel continues to be preached by both word and action.

Concerts for the remainder of the year are:

† **11 August at 2.00pm** featuring organist Sam Giddy, who is assistant organist at St Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney, and trumpeter Lachlan Mahoney;

† **1 September at 2.00pm** with John Martin (piano) with Sue Blake (cello);

† **10 November at 2.00pm** with Tonia Lemoh (piano), Rosie Gallagher (flute) and Deb de Graaff (clarinet).



Pictured above: Stewart Bruce playing in the Ross Memorial Church





Count Your Blessings -
The 100 Voices Choir Swan Song

Written by Reverend Doug Newman

On Sunday 5 May, the fourth 100 Voices Choir concert performed at St Christopher's Cathedral Manuka raising awareness and funds to support Disability Services. Over $12,000 was raised from donations and approximately 400 people attending. All the funds raised will be shared equally between the Cerebral Palsy Alliance, the Canberra Blind Society, the Deaf Resource Centre and the AEIOU Foundation for Children with Autism. The administrative and running costs are met by St Paul's and generous volunteers. I have had the pleasure of being Master of Ceremonies for all four events.

The concept of the choir is to gather together a number of smaller church choirs, as well as community/ school choirs, that each brings two or three pieces to perform as individual choirs at the concert, and to practice six items that are performed as a massed 100 Voice Choir to open and close the concert on the day. Maneerat Jeerapaet's vision is that the concert should demonstrate the unity of the church, as we gather to worship, and the service of God, through raising awareness and funds for organisations working to care for and support those in our community. Singers in the massed choir included individuals who are non-church goers and/or non-believers.

This year the Choirs included the Spence Community choir from St Paul's Ginninderra, the Good Faith choir combining St Margaret's Uniting and Holy Cross Anglican churches at Hackett, the Bushlarks choir (people with Parkinson's), the Indonesian Choir from St Andrew's Presbyterian, a Filipino Choir with singers from churches all around Canberra, the New Generation choir from St John's the Apostle Primary School Florey, the Indian and Sri Lankan choir from Holy Spirit Catholic Church and a Quartet from our hosts St Christopher's Cathedral led by Frank Den Hartog. We thank St Christopher's for their welcome and support in hosting this event. Technical support was provided by Jordon, St Paul's Ginninderra, and the staff and students of St John Paul II College.

The 100 Voices massed choir was truly a powerful demonstration of the diversity in unity of the gathered body of God's family and what we can achieve when we share a vision and collaborate together to bring what might seem our meagre gifts together and share them under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

This 100 Voices concert will be the last that Maneerat convenes – her Swan Song so to speak. When Maneerat approached me with her vision to do this in 2017, I was glad to encourage her to use her gifts and abilities to gather other musicians and choirs together and to inspire them to step forward in mission and ministry in this way. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for having the courage to say yes to God's call for this season and I wait to see what God will ask of her and the faithful people of St Paul's Ginninderra as they close this chapter of the story.

Pictured: Maneerat leading the 100 Voices massed Choir at St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka



Aged Care Volunteer Brings Joy to Wagga's Senior Citizens

Compiled by ACCPA (Aged and Community Care Providers Association) and reused with permission.

Wagga Wagga aged care volunteer Anne O'Connor is spreading smiles and warmth with the help of her faithful four-legged companion Ellie May.

Every week Anne and her beloved Maltese Shih Tzu visit The Forrest Centre, an 80-bed not-for-profit residential aged care home, bringing a ray of sunshine into the lives of Wagga's most cherished senior citizens.

With wagging tails and smiling faces, they lift the spirits of residents, visitors and staff, engaging all in lively conversations.

Ellie May's calming presence allows the pastoral care volunteer to connect with residents who often share special memories or updates about their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

"(Ellie May's) the best icebreaker. She's really good for that, then they love to chat. They're lovely people and it's a nice way to fill a little bit of time," Anne said.

Anne is not new to volunteer work having previously volunteered with Riding for the Disabled in Wagga.

Her association with The Forrest Centre began with taking communion to Catholic residents, but Anne now visits two days a week – one just with Ellie May and a second to assist with operating the music for hymns for the Anglican church service.

"It absolutely fascinates me how some of the residents with dementia don't know their own children, but they know Our Father and they know all the words to their favourite hymns," she said.

Anne sees volunteering as a way to give back to a community where she has lived all her life.

"I've lived 67 years in Wagga. There are quite a few people that I've known who grew up in the area and it's nice to go and have a chat with them. You only need to spend 10 minutes with four to five people. For them it's like fresh air and brightens up their day," she said.

"I worked for the government for 40 years and then looked after my parents who were quite ill in their last few years. After they passed, I thought what am I going to do now? I enjoy talking to the oldies. They just love having someone to talk to … and, most of all, they want to see the dog."

Aged and Community Care Providers Association (ACCPA) CEO Tom Symondson said the work of volunteers in aged care was highly valued and much appreciated.

"With a diminishing pool of people willing or able to volunteer, keeping and recruiting volunteers like Anne is increasingly important to the aged care sector.

"Anne was recently nominated in ACCPA's You are ACE! recognition awards. We applaud her volunteer work in aged care, her commitment, kindness and for making such an obvious difference to the lives of the older people in Wagga."

The Forrest Centre CEO Evan Robertson said Anne's generosity with her time and spirit made such a difference in the day-to-day lives of residents.

"Her smile and her companionship are a real highlight of our pastoral program. Not to mention the two-in-one combo you get with Ellie May. I wish we had many more like Anne and Ellie. The value and service to our community from Anne's contribution cannot be measured," he said.



Pictured above: Ellie May and Dorothy (a resident).



Pictured above: Ellie May and Anne O'Connor walking along the corridor to The Forrest Centre dementia care unit.

Pictured on page 6 - Smiling floof Ellie May often takes the spotlight during pastoral care worker Anne O'Connor's weekly visits to The Forrest Centre in Wagga Wagga. The charming ball of fluff likes all the extra pats and cuddles and absolutely loves riding in wheelchairs.

ANGLICAN COMMUNION ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK



On World Environment Day (June 5) ACEN will be launching the Season of Creation resource for 2024. A live transmission in English will be on **YouTube 11pm AEST.**



Ruth Valerio and Paul Kerensa offer 52 fantastic ideas for looking after the world – from cycling more and choosing fair-trade, to taking shorter showers and recycling. **CLICK TO READ MORE.**

St Mark's NTC
Protected Grassland Burn

Written by Julia Bell, Facilities Coordinator, St Mark's National Theological Centre

St Mark's NTC and CSU based in Barton, are custodians of the only remaining untouched natural temperate grassland in the City area of Canberra. Periodically the grasslands need to be burnt off. This happens every five years with the oversight of the ACT RFS.

On Saturday 13 April, with the help of volunteer RFS from Hall ACT, Chris Condon ACT RFS, set alight the grass and for the next three hours proceeded to slow burn 50% of the grass and woody weeds. Local residents had been warned that there could be smoke around as the biomass of the vegetation was large, however thanks to the cool slow burn and a slow NW wind there was not as much as expected. Some residents came to watch.

An ACT Government Fire Ecologist Beth Dunne and Dr Sarah Sharp from the Friends of the Grassland were present; available to advise where the mosaic burn had to be effected to best burn the invasive plants. Praying mantises were helped off vegetation before the burn, the two resident hares escaped into the area near the labyrinth and skinks were seen running through the burnt tussocks after the burn.

As the burn was so slow we were able to walk on the ground soon after, spotting the skinks who must have hidden in the centre of the tussocks. The burn took longer than expected so Chris and his team have to return soon to cover more ground.









The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Written by Reverend Robert Willson

Most preachers of the Gospel these days rarely quote poems in sermons. They should remember that so much of Scripture is really poetry, the Psalms for example.

Lately I preached on a famous poem which is really an extended Christian Parable, with a powerful Gospel message. I hope you read it. It is "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

I was deeply grateful long ago in Primary School because a teacher introduced me to that poem. Years later in the English Class of Professor Wesley Milgate he lectured on the book by Wordsworth and Coleridge, entitled "Lyrical Ballads", published in 1798. That book includes this poem.

Coleridge was born in 1772, soon after James Cook sailed up the east coast of Australia. Like many of his generation Coleridge was fascinated by tales, of the Pacific and the voyages of Cook. Coleridge was a good scholar and a devout Christian and for a time a lay Preacher. Sadly, in later years he was destroyed by opium addiction.

He was inspired to write of a long sea voyage from England to the Antarctic by a sailor whom he called "The Ancient Mariner". In this voyage the ship was helped by a beautiful Albatross, always a bird of good fortune and beauty. Coleridge passionately loved nature and all God's Creation.

When stuck in the ice, the beautiful white bird lead them to safety. The sailors praised and fed the bird but, with horror the Ancient Mariner recalls: *"With my Cross Bow, I shot the albatross"* and the bird, stained with blood, fell to the deck. This sinful action roused the anger of the other sailors. They blamed the Mariner. Perhaps it was anger or jealousy that led the Mariner to do this. They tied the bird around his neck, giving rise to an English expression for such a burden being tied to us and hindering our ambitions.

As we read the long poem we will see many of the same themes as in the Parables of Jesus, including the journey, the curse of jealousy, guilt and redemption, and of course the words of Jesus: *"Look at the birds of the air."* Finally there is the joy of forgiveness and the home coming for the Ancient Mariner.



I love the beautiful closing lines:

O sweeter than the Marriage Feast,
Tis sweeter far to me,
To walk together to the Kirk,
With a goodly company …

To walk together to the Kirk
And all together pray
While each to his great Father bends,
Old men and babes, and loving friends,
And youths and maidens gay …
He prayeth well, who loveth well,
Both man and bird and beast …
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.

This marvellous poem is a long narrative reflecting the Christian Gospel through the imagination of a fine poet. It is worth reading.

EVENTS

Pastoral and Spiritual Care Training

A Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) 5-day course is a great way to get a feel for pastoral and spiritual care and includes topics such as: What is Pastoral/ Spiritual Care; empathy, grief and loss, spiritual reflection and self-care. This course is excellent for Eucharistic Ministers visiting homes, volunteers in Aged Care, schools or prisons, or anyone contemplating a career change to Pastoral Care.

The course runs for five Wednesdays from July 10-Aug 7, 9-5pm in Deakin; cost is $450. It is followed by a longer CPE unit for those interested in more in-depth training in spiritual care. Enrolments by end May. For further details, please contact the trainer, Susanne Schmidt on 0431 243 486 or at susannecpe@gmail.com.

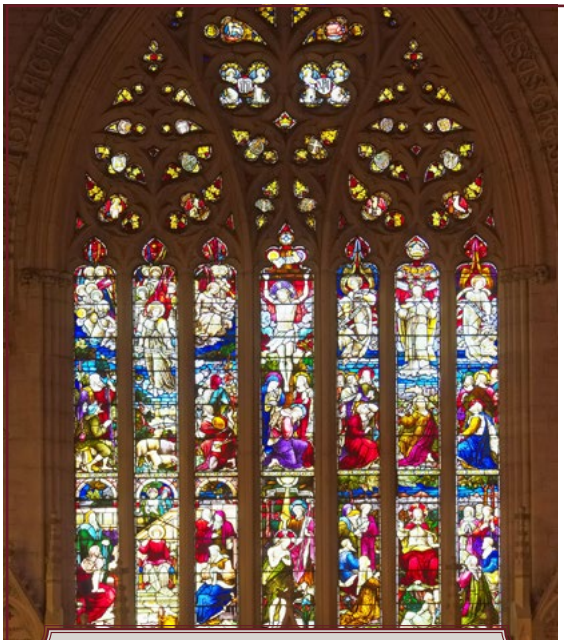


Shepherd Seminar

Thursday 30th May, 7:30pm onwards
Good Shepherd Church, Curtin & online

Please join us for the next Shepherd Seminar on the **Promises and Perils of AI** with a fantastic panel of experts. We will discuss questions like: What does AI tell us about Truth? Is AI ethically neutral?

The panel will be Michael Gately (CEO and Founder of Trellis Data - an AI specialist company with international presence) Nick Davis (a Industry Professor - Emerging Technology and co-leads the Human Technology Institute at University of Technology Sydney (UTS) - with a long global career) and Ryan Young (Director at the NSC Future Hub at ANU and a consultant philosopher with Queritas).



ST SAVIOUR'S CATHEDRAL

HELP PRESERVE THIS HERITAGE MASTERPIECE

National Trust-St Saviour's Cathedral Heritage Restoration Appeal Fund

St Saviour's Cathedral Heritage Restoration Appeal

We respectfully invite you to contribute to the important work of restoring and maintaining our Cathedral.

This widely known and admired building, that forms the spiritual heart of our Diocese, was built by Edmund Blacket and is a Gothic Revival treasure.

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St Saviour's interior. Image used with permission from St Saviour's Cathedral Archives













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- **Rector** St Philip's O'Connor
- **Rector** St John's Wagga Wagga
- **Senior Associate Priest** Bega
- **Afternoon Church Ministry Coordinator & Community Chaplain**
  St Mary in the Valley, South Tuggeranong
- **Voluntary Ministry Roles** Charnwood
- **Children & Youth Minister**
  Good Shepherd Curtin

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Please note, we only advertise positions vacant and events within the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.