



RURAL MINISTRY CONFERENCE

A message from the Primate

Earlier this year the Victorian Provincial Council made the decision to convene a Conference on rural ministry for the Anglican Church in Australia and appointed Bishop Matt Brain, Bishop of Bendigo to convene a small organising committee. It has been some years since a gathering from across our Church has been held to look at rural ministry.

The conference is not designed to listen to experts, but to draw on the experience and insights of participants and dioceses attending.

While the economic contribution of rural Australia to the Australian economy from mining, sheep, cattle, horticulture and more continues to grow, the population of much of rural Australia is declining. We all know the challenges this presents to our Church in terms of the provision of mission and ministry. At the same time there are creative things happening out in rural and regional Australia.

The conference will highlight some of these initiatives, and also hear what is happening with indigenous ministry as well as some on the ground case studies. Participants will also receive before the Conference a paper written recently by Bishop Brain Farran reflecting on rural ministry.

I encourage all dioceses of our Church to be represented at this significant gathering, and particularly rural dioceses. I will be visiting the conference and look forward to meeting you.

Grace and Peace in Christ Jesus

+Philip