



Dear Friends,

It has been a while since I shared an update on diocesan matters and other things of interest. I have a few things to share today.

1. Those who attended Synod will remember that Rev Shannon Smith was elected Canon of the Cathedral. The Dean and I have set Sunday evening 23 July for Canon Shannon's installation! Further details will be circulated soon.
2. It is with great sorrow that I share with you all the news of the death of Rev'd Wendy Hudson. Rev'd Wendy was a parishioner at Woodend and also a regular attendee the mid-week communion service at St Paul's Kyneton. Wendy had been in hospital battling cancer over the last month and succumbed early yesterday morning with her daughter Louise at her side. Her friendship, sense of humour, intelligence, faith and insightful input with many will be deeply missed. Rev'd Wendy's funeral will be held on Friday 7th July, 11am at Saint Mary's Anglican Church Woodend. It is a short walk to the cemetery where her ashes will be interred. Tea and coffee will be available in the Norma Richardson Hall after the service for any and all who would like. May Rev'd Wendy rest in peace and rise in glory.
3. The diocesan Cursillo movement has been in recess for some time now. A small group headed by Don Gilmore has been working on a gathering to plan a BBQ, catch up and visioning day on Saturday August 14th. Further details will be sent to Cursillistas and via the Diocesan Update. I encourage those who have been nurtured by Cursillo to be part of this gathering and consider how they may lend their hand to what God has in store next for Cursillo.
4. Sea Sunday: This Sunday (9/7) is Sea Sunday. Please find attachments which can assist you in remembering those we rely on as without seafarers, our community would simply stop operating; cargo and transport would stop, fishing would stop. And yet they are among the most vulnerable people who touch our shores. We all rely on seafarers. With your help, they can rely on us. On the 9th of July 2023, Sea Sunday we gather around the world to think of seafarers' welfare. We ask you to celebrate this important day, both in worship and in your help for those seafarers we care for. On Sea Sunday, please remember the contribution that seafarers make to your daily lives, and the Mission to Seafarers that supports them. Please feel free to distribute this letter to your parishes and your people and please encourage them to support our Seafarers, especially in their prayers and practical support.
5. Freedom for Faith: A recent motion at our Synod (which will be considered by BiC in due course) highlighted concerns some have regarding the way that faith is free to be expressed within public life. A new organisation 'Freedom for Faith' has been established to focus on widely on religious freedom. Their website contains a range of resources and can be found at: <https://freedomforfaith.org.au/mpmeeting/>



6. ISCAST Conference: Christians are facing some of the hardest ethical dilemmas today, as science and technology continues to develop at a rapid pace. To help Christians think about such issues, ISCAST is hosting a 1-day, in-person conference on the 22nd of July at Trinity College Theological School, Melbourne, called "The Scientific & Spiritual Human: Faith for our Genetic Futures." We'll be exploring how faith and science can shape humanity's future, with some of Australia's best thinkers in science and theology. Topics include genetic editing, artificial intelligence, transhumanism, and climate change. Registrations and all event info can be found at: iscast.org/human2023. We're offering 30% off for groups of 5+ (email contact@iscast.org to register a group). Further information can be found in the 2 TSSH attachments.

7. In a constantly changing culture where people look for identity, meaning and belonging, what can we do as Christians to hold out the hope of Jesus, and share the Better Story of the gospel?

I am very excited to tell you of a co-production with City 2 City in which Steve McAlpine, Sarah Hemmings, Dean Elizabeth Dyke and I have a discussion about what it means to hold out our faith in a changing culture. You can access this video at <https://vimeo.com/839964622>

Your servant in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt".