

Anglican Diocese of
BENDIGO

The **Spirit**

169 AUGUST 2025



The Bishop writes...

Dear Friends,

Recently I had the privilege of spending some disciplined time reading and thinking. Thank you for allowing me to take it!

I will try and share with you what I gained through this over time, but thought I could begin with a little poem and a prayer; both of which try and express how the fullness of God's nature is the substance and goodness of God's gift to us.

I built a house which ne're did stand before
and tarried in behind fast locked door.
But whence the bricks and wood did find their way
to build my house aright I cannot say.
'I only know,' the builder says to me,
'that I stumbled on the parts of this home
a useful pile laid out like so many thrown sticks
a useful pile, a delightful coincidence.'
'But Thou,' I said, 'Thou, do not think it strange
that the pile laid naught a donor's open hand
the bricks and wood and rock hewn into shape
did so find their form and your plans escape.'
The home's shape and size is the donor's gift.
Form cannot be thus rent from its content.

Oh Holy Trinity,
One God, three Persons
indivisible, whose persons are not confused.
You are as one and three
the source of all that is
true, and good, and beautiful.
May our hearts never cease to
number your beautiful attributes
and find in marvelling at your
proper form what it means to have your image
chiselled on the stuff of our being.
In Jesus the one who dwelt with us. Amen.

Your servant in Christ,



**Bishop
Matt Brain**

Greetings from Numbulwar

Josh and Steph Mackenzie recently visited Holy Trinity, South East Bendigo during their home assignment. They are missionaries with the Church Missionary Society in Numbulwar, Northern Territory. Here is a description of their ministry:

‘The Northern Territory is vast with a range of cultures and serving as an Aboriginal church leader is often tiring and isolating. For Aboriginal Christian leaders, setting themselves apart for the gospel in cultures that have deep spiritual beliefs can be lonely. However, the church in Numbulwar is vibrant and active, and the people of Numbulwar have a strong connection with the church. By sending us to live alongside them, to offer friendship and support, Aboriginal church leaders know they are not alone and are encouraged to keep loving and serving their communities with the good news of Jesus.’

The visit was an opportunity for the congregation to give thanks for the blessings of their ministry and to encourage and pray for them as they prepared to return to Numbulwar.



The congregation at Holy Trinity with Josh and Steph

Singing Hymns of Hope

Revd Josephine Snowden

The Hope25 Hymn Fest at Christ Church, Daylesford was a great success. There were approximately 80 people in attendance despite the wet, cold day. The church was beautifully decorated with arrangements of golden yellow, brown, and white flowers, along with autumnal leaves, for which we are very grateful to Denise, who often volunteers to assist with our concert arrangements.

The congregational members selected the hymns sung. This selection was influenced by personal associations with past and present worship experiences and contexts. The program was divided into three sections, beginning with hymns of hope in the God of creation, then hymns of hope in Jesus who came to save us, and finally hymns of hope expressed in devotion, prayer and praise.

The nave of Christ Church was designed by the noted 19th-century Melbourne architect Leonard Terry and built in 1863. In 1896, a substantially elevated chancel in red brick was erected to the designs of Inskip & Butler. The organ was built in 1871 by George Fincham and is one of only a handful of early examples of his work to remain intact; the cost was £320. It was opened at a recital given on 1 October 1871 by P.C. Plaisted. It is now located in a chamber to the right of the chancel. The historic Fincham organ has hardly been played in recent years and perhaps there was even some healing in hearing it played again.

Archdeacon George offered our Prayer of Thanksgiving before we retired to the Stanbridge Hall. Here we were treated to a performance of hymns of hope by the fifteen-strong Castlemaine Solomon Islanders choir, who sang during the excellent afternoon tea, also prepared by the congregation!

Many former congregation members attended; their memories were enlivened, and several expressed their gratitude. The parish was united in its enjoyment of the event.

Revd Karen Reid

What a joy to spend an afternoon singing wonderful old hymns together as a special Hope25 event at St Mary's, Kangaroo Flat. In a little over an hour we belted out thirteen hymns of praise and hope, and there were so many more we could've done! Further blessed by a local chaplain who was our MC and had a repertoire of amusing stories and anecdotes to keep us laughing out loud, there was such joy in the room.

One of the highlights for me was hearing from our St Mary's people; those who had requested a favourite hymn to be a part of the event then shared why this hymn was special to them, how it had encouraged them in faith, how it had kept them standing on the sure hope we have in Christ. It was something that many had never done before and yet was such a powerful part of the afternoon, all these brief personal testimonies to our Saviour and his faithfulness in their lives. I was

so grateful to each one who stood and shared, and then further grateful to God for how he had been at work in these saints!

Planning is already underway for the next one.

The response was also fabulous. Straight away it was the request and insistence of many that 'we must do this again!' and planning is already underway for the next one. For this alone it was a great event, to help us to grow in looking outward, actively seeking to invite others in.

Hymns of Hope at St Mary's was a blessing, a lot of fun, a step out in faith, and all built upon the HOPE we have and want to share. Thanks Lord!



Singers at Christ Church, Daylesford



Castlemaine Solomon Islander Choir



Musicians at St Mary's, Kangaroo Flat



St Mary's, Kangaroo Flat



Moama Anglican Grammar students with Revd Tim Bowles

Revd Phil Zamagias

A cold and wet Pentecost afternoon failed to dampen the spirits of those who gathered at Christ Church, Echuca for what has now become a parish tradition: the annual Pentecost HymnFest. This year the parish adopted the theme of hope in selecting classic and modern hymns to celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Revd Phil Zamagias welcomed everyone to the event, introduced the hymns and provided a brief description of their background. Christ Church is blessed to have a beautiful pipe organ which is played most weeks by its resident organist, Mrs Glenise Masters. Glenise kicked off the programme with a stirring rendition of 'My hope is built on nothing less.'

The junior and senior choirs from Moama Anglican Grammar (MAG) then presented items. Revd Tim Bowles, MAG Chaplain and deacon at Christ Church, gave an overview of the school's music programme and introduced their musical items. Christ Church's Thursday morning vocal group, 'Sing For Joy' provided accompaniment while resident pianist, Margaret Monro, played a modern version of Psalm 23.

Members of the Campaspe Deanery also pitched in to serve the assembled crowd: Revd Christine McWilliams

This year the parish adopted the theme of hope in selecting classic and modern hymns to celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

from Elmore Parish played 'To God be the glory' while our youngest clergyman, Revd Samuel Kelly from Rochester/Lockington played the 'youngest' hymn of the program; 'In Christ alone'.

The parish made copies of the Hope25 Gospel of Luke publication available thanks to the generosity of the Registry office. These were warmly received by visitors along with other gospel tracts and Bibles. By all accounts, HymnFest25 was a warm and encouraging distraction from the dreary weather which pointed people to the One in whom we can hope; Jesus Christ.



Archdeacon George, Mark and the congregation at his commissioning

Lay Ministry for Inglewood

Mark Watkins has accepted the Bishop's invitation to take up the role of Licensed Lay Minister in the Parish of Inglewood. Mark is a theological student and is part of the diocese's ordination discernment process.

Mark was commissioned for his new role on Sunday the 3rd of August at St. Augustine's, Inglewood. He will be ministering part-time while studying and growing in ministry skills and experience under the supervision of Canon Dale Barclay. Please pray for Mark, his family, and the Parish as they embark on this new expression of ministry together.



Those who stayed for morning tea to farewell Canon Heather

Farewell Canon Heather

On Sunday the 27th of July the Anglican Parish of Maryborough with Avoca farewelled Canon Heather Blackman, who celebrated her final service at Christ the King, Maryborough after many years of faithful service.

An Ordination at St Peter's, Elmore

On Saturday the 24th of May Revd Christine McWilliams was ordained priest at St Peter's, Elmore. Christine's ministry in the Elmore Parish incorporates Elmore, Colbinabbin, Goornong and Raywood.



Christine receives her certificate of ordination from Bishop Matt



Honnie Lonsdale giving a Bible reading



Clergy after the service



A delicious Mother's Day high tea

A Message with a Bike

Revd Edward Barkla

Why would I bring a bicycle into a message about prayer? The simple answer is unity. The bike requires unity. The bike has two wheels, two pedals, two hand brakes; but is one. Our feet must work in unity in making circles round and round. As one foot is going down the other is going up; the hard part of the circle is getting the same unity across the top and bottom of the pedal rotation.

It is the same with the Holy Spirit and unity in prayer. We might think we have hold of the Holy Spirit but the Holy Spirit needs to have hold of us surrendered, yielded, available, obedient, trusting, open in heart and mind.

To be effective in prayer we are in unity with the Holy Spirit's direction and leading. Jesus was one with the Father and the Father one in Him, hence Jesus demonstrated such power united with God in prayer.

It does not happen all the time, but sometimes cyclists let their body and the bike work together in unity and literally feel like they are flying. Prayer in the spirit comes when we try less, trust more and love as God has loved us.

Can we pray like this? Yes, we can when we let go and work in faith and belief in the Holy Spirit's leading, in unity and oneness, praying not our will but His will be done in us.

Looking forward to seeing you on the pedals of prayer!

MU Mother's Day High Tea a Delicious Success

Revd Julie Worrall

On Saturday the 10th of May the Nyah West branch of MU provided a Mother's Day high tea for the parish. It was a great turn out, with over fifty people in attendance.

A fantastic afternoon was had by all with plenty of good conversations and lots of laughter. And of course, the

food was spectacular! \$350 was raised through raffles and donations for the Cancer Council as part of the Australia's Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser. An additional \$500 was raised for parish community activities.

Thank you to all those who helped to organise, all who attended and all those who supported from a distance.



Centenary Church Service

Archdeacon Peter Blundell

If you continue driving past Victoria's remotest pub (at Werrimull) for a further 24km you will come to the Millewa Pioneer Park at Meringur. At the rear of the Pioneer Park, facing the dusty side street, is All Saints' Anglican Church.

On Pentecost Sunday a little over twenty people gathered at All Saints' for a church service as part of the district celebrations, to thank God for his faithfulness over the years and to recognize an Anglican presence in the community throughout its one hundred year history.

The building began its life in 1927 as All Saints', Billabong near Irymple, and was relocated to Meringur in 1964. From that time it was served by the priests of the former Parish of St John's, Merbein. Around 2005 ownership of the building was transferred from the diocese to the Millewa Pioneer Park. This may have been the first church service held there since then. Nowadays, the nearest clergy are at Red Cliffs approximately 80km to the east.

Only two of the congregation still live in the district; Ron and Margaret retired from the farm at Yarrara (east of Meringur) to be near the lake at Cullulleraine a few kilometers to the north. I had met Ron on a previous occasion when he waxed lyrical about some of the old Archdeacons who visited the district in a by-gone era.

As I learnt where the folk had scattered to over the years I was encouraged that many were still engaged in church life in other places. How good it is that ministry in this remote corner of the diocese from the 1960's through the rest of the twentieth century laid a foundation for the faith of these people.





Bishops Richard Treloar (Gippsland) and Matt Brain with Canon Shannon Smith in front of artwork by Archdeacon Canon Glenn Loughrey. Picture: Lesa Scholl

‘Silence is not our inheritance’: Yoorrook commissioner

Lesa Scholl

Anglicans are celebrating truth-telling and first nations’ strength and resilience as they join thousands of Victorians in the Yoorrook Walk for Truth. Yoorrook Justice Commissioner Travis Lovett’s more than 500km Walk for Truth culminated on the steps of Parliament House this morning. Mr Lovett started his journey where colonisation began in Gunditjmara Country at Portland on 25 May.

Bendigo’s Diocesan Aboriginal Community Support Officer the Reverend Canon Shannon Smith said the walk was a journey of self-discovery. Canon Smith said on entering the Convincing Ground she was able to connect with the ancestors in a way she had never been able to do before. The Convincing Ground was the site of the massacre of Gunditjmara people and was the first recorded massacre in Victoria. As a Wiradjuri and Worimi woman, Canon Smith said it was a personal connection for her, where she felt the ancestors were waiting for them to arrive. She said for her the silence was deafening, and she could almost hear them crying out. “Some of the truth we learned along the way was absolutely devastating,” Canon Smith said. “They’re the stories that need to be out there.”

On the steps of state parliament, Mr Lovett said the walk placed truth-telling stories at the centre of the conversation where they should always have been. They were stories that belonged not only to the past, but to now, he said. “Truth-telling is treaty in motion,” Mr Lovett said. “Silence is not our inheritance.”

Gippsland and Bendigo Bishops Richard Treloar and Matt Brain, who both contributed to the Yoorrook commission, saw the walk as an important recognition of truth telling. Dr Treloar said he was moved by Mr Lovett reminding the walkers that their journey was not just about resilience but resistance. “It’s such a significant moment for not only the history of Victoria, but potentially for Australia,” he said. Bishop Brain noted Australians were only at the beginning of the truth they needed to recognise. “For myself as a bishop, I can’t stand aside and pretend they journey alone,” he said. “I want to be a part of their journey.”

The Yoorrook Justice Commission drew to a close on 30 June and their report was tabled in Parliament on 1 July.

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Bendigo Anglican Diocese

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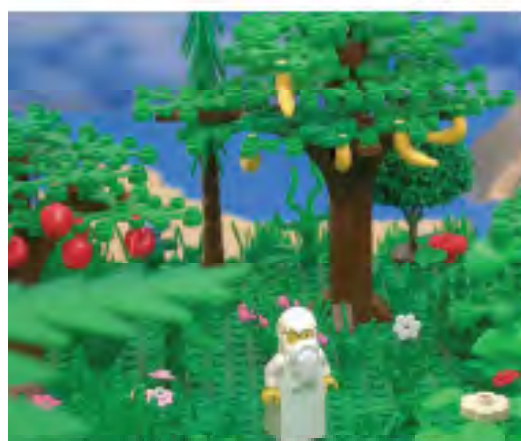
Open to children of all ages
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Entries Close: 26th September 2025

Submit entries (or ask questions):

Archdeacon George

archdeacon@bendigoanglican.org.au





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Photo of Bishop Matt on page 2 credit of Bendigo Advertiser.

A Picture of Hope

Rev'd Julie Worral

On Pentecost Sunday we thought about how our gifts all work together for the same purpose. To demonstrate this, we all participated in a new temporary artwork for the church. Each person was given an A5 sheet and invited to colour it in or draw a picture in any way they liked. Some also made use of the glitter and ribbon!

After the service, I put the work together to form the picture of HOPE held in our hands. In the final artwork the different images are still visible but together we are 'more than the sum of our parts'. This artwork is now proudly displayed where it can be seen from both inside and outside the Church as a reminder of our HOPE25 journey.

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