

Two new archdeacons Andrew and Tim



Lenten studies – Gazing at God’s Goodness



Diocesan conference - Prayer - 18 May - Dubbo



Women’s conference – 19 Oct - Bathurst



General News

Two new archdeacons – Bishop Calder has announced the appointment of the Rev'd Andrew Thornhill as Archdeacon of the North-West and the Rev'd Tim St Quintin as Archdeacon of the East. They will be commissioned as part of their induction services in Dubbo (03 Feb, 11am) and Mudgee (13 Apr, 11am) respectively.

MDO role redeveloped – as the Rev'd Andrew Thornhill takes up ministry in Dubbo, he is not able to continue as Ministry Development Officer, so we've divided the role into 5 portfolios:

1. **Director of Ordinands** – Andrew Thornhill
2. **Chaplain to LLMs** – Jono Williams
3. **Event manager** – Kath Thornhill
4. **Strategic plan facilitator** – James Daymond
5. **Clergy development and support** – Phil Howes.

Please pray for each person as they add these responsibilities to their existing ministries in 2024. (Along with the registrar, the Rev'd Bec Choi and the new archdeacon, this group will now form a refreshed BLT (Bishop's leadership team).

CLAIM THESE DATES NOW:

- 13 Feb 1st Lenten study email
- 14 Feb Ash Wednesday
- 26 Mar Renewal of ministry vows
- 29 Mar Good Friday
- 31 Mar Easter Day
- 2-5 Apr Retired clergy retreat
- 18 May Diocesan conference
- 9-11 Aug Diocesan camp
- 20 Sept Stipendiary clergy gathering – prior to synod
- 20-21 Sept Synod
- 19 Oct Women's conf, Bathurst
- 4-7 Nov Clergy retreat

CMS Summer school 6-12 January 2024, Katoomba - always a great time of Bible teaching. You can attend online! See [HERE](#) for details.

Bishop writes

Dear friends,

My guess is that most of us are well and truly getting into Christmas planning and shopping.

Some of you may have purchased an Advent calendar which are increasingly popular. However, the secular version seems to be all about helping kids countdown to Christmas. That is not actually what Advent is about!

Advent is about preparing for Christ's **second** coming! In Advent we look forward to Christ's **second** coming and then celebrate his **first** coming at Christmas because it marks the **beginning** of God's plans to save the world through his Son Jesus.

My Advent sermon series this year is called "On that Day" and arises from a [song by CityAlight](#).

We will be reminded that when Jesus returns, we will rise; we will see him; we will know him, and we will keep on singing!

The season of Advent is meant to lift our eyes from all the disaster which surrounds us – to see the glorious nature of the future which awaits. To see that there will one day, be an end to the mess. To understand that that Jesus has conquered all evil and even death! We're reminded that Christians are people of hope and expectation. We are people who know that on that day - when Jesus returns – we will rise as Jesus rose!

May Advent be a time of recapturing our Christian Hope and rejoicing in all that is yet to come!

Mark

The Rt Rev'd Mark Calder
Bishop of Bathurst

Bishop's video sermons (Continuing throughout the Bishop's leave.)

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS – [ON THAT DAY](#)

DEC 03	ADVENT 1	We will rise	1 Thess 4:13-18, 1 Cor 15:51-54
10	ADVENT 2	We will see you	Revelation 22:1-5
17	ADVENT 3	We will know you	1 Corinthians 13:8-13
24	ADVENT 4	We will keep on singing	Revelation 5:9-13
25	CHRISTMAS	His Kingdom knows no end	Luke 1:32-33

THE CHURCH AS GOD INTENDED

DEC 31	...keeps the unity of the Spirit	Ephesians 4:1-6
JAN 07	...becomes mature	Ephesians 4:7-16
JAN 14	...lives a life of love	Ephesians 4:17-5:2

JONAH – THE PARADOX OF GRACE

JAN 21	The problem with grace	Jonah 1
JAN 28	The beauty of grace	Jonah 2
FEB 04	The persistence of grace	Jonah 3
FEB 11	The consistency of grace	Jonah 4

LENTEN STUDIES/SERMONS - GAZING AT GOD'S GOODNESS

FEB 18	Compassionate
FEB 25	Gracious
MAR 03	Slow to Anger
MAR 10	Abounding in Love & Faithfulness
MAR 17	Forgiving
MAR 24	Just

EASTER - THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

MAR 29	GOOD FRIDAY
MAR 31	EASTER DAY

EASTER ENCOUNTERS WITH THE RISEN JESUS

APR 07	With Thomas	John 20:19-31
APR 14	With the disciples	Luke 24:36b-48
APR 21	With YOU	John 10:11-18

Please Pray

Pray for all Christmas services and opportunities across the diocese – that the astonishing news of God entering our world as a human being and bringing life and hope will come home to people in a new and refreshing way this year and that many people will be drawn closer to Jesus!

Please pray for the Rev'd Wally and Dr Jordon Cox following the death last week of Wally's mum. Pray that all the family will know God's comforting presence and peace.

Pray for our recruitment efforts – that the Lord will bring many new clergy to fill our vacant parishes.

Parishes without clergy – Kelso, Narromine, Gilgandra, Coolah-Dunedoo, Condobolin, Coonabarabran, Trundle, Coonamble, Warren, Bourke-Brewarrina, Cumnock and Warren. Please pray that the Lord would raise up 12 godly, able and passionate men or women to serve in ALL of these parishes, to his great glory!

Pray for the Rev'ds John Clarkson and John Butterworth who have been unwell; along with those who care for them.

Pray for the Bishop's upcoming ministry:

Dec 03 Cathedral 830 and 10 + 630pm – Advent carols

Dec 10 Cathedral 830 and 10 230pm Peel (Carols and closing)

Dec 17 Cathedral 5pm Carols O'Connell

Long service leave – Mark would so appreciate prayer that from Christmas to Easter, he and Susan would find rest and refreshment and return recharged and reenergised for ministry. Thank you!

Contact Info

Bishop

The Rt Rev'd Mark Calder
On long service leave 21 Dec-9 Apr

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For more information contact the diocesan office during office hours, (not Wednesday), 9am-5pm.

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Cathedral Services

Saturday vigil

5pm (6pm during daylight saving)

Sunday

8.30am Traditional
10am Contemporary
Also 8.30am Mon, Wed, Thu; 10am Fri

Supporting our clergy

We would love your support for Phil Howes, Bec Choi, Tim Smith, Jonny Lush and Jono Williams. Please indicate in the reference, who you wish to support.

Account: Synod Management Fund
BSB: 082-441
Account Number: 392 655 240