# BATHURST DIOCESE

Sharing Jesus for Life

THIRD SESSION
OF THE
50TH SYNOD

**SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER** 

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
BISHOP MARK CALDER



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# **Presidential address 2023**

Joseph could have been crippled by his past.

He had been bullied by his older brothers. Thrown into a pit. Sold into slavery in Egypt. Cornered by Pharoah's wife. Locked up in prison. A victim at every point!

Yet years later, when finally reunited with his brothers, his desire was not to distance himself from them or even seek revenge or payback. His desire was for reconciliation.

How was this possible when they had caused him so much grief and trauma?

Only because he had a big view of God.

When his brothers offered themselves to Joseph as slaves, he responded: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." 1

You meant it for evil; God meant it for good.

Do you have this big view of God?

Can God bring good from harm? Even good from evil?

The Bible says he does.

We recall this most Sundays. We confess our belief that Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. But we also boldly state that on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven; and that therefore we believe in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.<sup>2</sup>

What people meant for evil – the crucifixion of Jesus – God meant for good – the one true sacrifice for sin and an eternal deliverance for his people!

God specialises in bringing good from evil.

From the ashes of the bushfires, arises fresh green shoots of life.

Do you have this big view of God?

This is the insight which the Apostle Paul shares in Romans 8 – that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.<sup>3</sup>

And what is 'the good' which Paul says God is at work through all things to bring about? It is our transformation so that we become more like Jesus. "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son."

God specialises in bringing good from evil – good from harm – and works through all circumstances to do that great work of making us more like Jesus.

And so it is, brothers and sisters, that from our past as a diocese – the mismanagement, the financial distress, the many unfortunate decisions, the hurt some of you experienced, the horrors and shame of abuse, the reputational damage, the loss of confidence, the distraction from the work of the gospel – the Lord is bringing something good.

Do you have this big view of God?

That he was at work through the past – and is at work in the present – to bring good from harm?

At work through faith-filled, Jesus-focused, sacrificial gospel workers in our past – but also at work through the mess, the conflict, the confusion.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Genesis 50:20

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Apostles Creed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Romans 8:28

<sup>4</sup> Romans 8:29

At work institutionally – to make us stronger – with better governance – better financial controls – with a clearer, stronger, strategic intent.

And at work in individuals – to make us more like Jesus – more loving, more joyful, peace-loving, more patient, kinder, gentler, having greater self-control, and with Jesus' deep and moving compassion for sheep without a shepherd.

What has been harmful and hurtful - painful; God is using for good. From evil, good can come.

The question is – will we choose to be crippled by our past, or take a step back and see God now bringing new life from the ashes?

The past has **refined** us; it need not **define** us.

#### **New life**

Let me share with you, where I've seen fresh green shoots.

#### Seen in our parishes without clergy

I am in awe and wonder at the way our parishes *without* rectors show their perseverance and patience. Many licenced lay ministers, visiting clergy, churchwardens and parish council members, carry an extraordinary load. Thank you! God is at work through you, to bring new life.

- 1. **Bourke-Brewarrina** thank you for continuing to meet every week, faithfully worshipping God and gathering for fellowship and encouragement after the service. 100% of those attending, stay for after church fellowship! Thank you for welcoming newly arrived Indonesian meat workers who have discovered warm fellowship and scones with jam and cream!
- 2. **Condobolin** thank you for your example of keeping going, and for your beautiful heart for one another and for Jesus. Thank you for your work to improve drainage and disability access and your support of people through the floods.
- 3. **Coolah-Dunedoo** thank you for having the courage to try new things with a new service for families once a month at Coolah! You do amazingly well with a priest just one day a week and a visiting lay minister one weekend each month!
- 4. **Coonamble** thank you for your obvious joy in the Lord; for your work to obtain grants to renovate the hall and for your warm welcome to those who visited from Cursillo.
- 5. **Cudgegong Valley** thank you for keeping the contemporary service going at Mudgee; for families at five at Rylstone, and for the unity and joy of the church at Gulgong. Thank you to our wonderful joint locums.
- 6. **Cumnock** thank you to those who will take on leading the services and other ministry after November when Archdeacon Frank will step back from his fortnightly visits. Your joy in the Lord is palpable.
- 7. Gilgandra though your church building has major structural issues, your church (as in, the body of Christ), is sound and strong. Thank you for your example of love and unity as you meet regularly with the Uniting Church. Thank you for the honour I have of preaching in your church regularly through the weekly videos.
- 8. **Kelso** thank you for hanging in there and coping with so much administration especially as it relates to the cemetery. Thank you for all your hard work in your high teas and catering and market days and for those who have served as locum.
- **9. Narromine** you've lost some key leaders through sad circumstances, yet you have continued to meet and worship and build one another up with loving support from outside. Thank you for new Bible studies and renewed purpose.
- 10. **Nyngan** we all feel the sadness that currently you are only able to meet for church once a month. Yet thank you for keeping on, witnessing to God's love and generous heart through the ministry of the Op Shop.
- 11. **Trundle** amazing hard work by one particular LLM has meant this church with multiple centres has kept going through another tough year. We praise God for the help of a locum these past few months.

- 12. **Warren** we praise God for you and your heart to support one another with the Lord's strength and presence. Thanks for those who work so hard to keep things going.
- 13. **Dubbo** we rejoice in all that the Lord has done for his glory through the Watterson family especially with the growth of the playgroup, the youth group and the ministry to the Solomon boys. We join with you in praying that the Lord will raise up the right person to carry on this vital work.

So, in all these parishes, we praise God for the new life we see in you, despite the challenges and hardships of not having a permanent shepherd! We praise God for the example of your perseverance and sheer hard work. We praise God for your trust in the Lord and the way you wait on him in prayer.

Thirteen wonderful parishes, patiently praying that the Lord will raise up workers for his harvest field! We love you. We want to support you. We pray with and for you. If there is more the rest of us can and should be doing, please tell us. Don't struggle alone. And we long for the day when each parish has a minister to shepherd you, love you and nurture you and help you to get on with the privileged work of **SHARING JESUS FOR LIFE.** 

#### New life - seen in our parishes with clergy:

- 14. **Cathedral parish** new life through the beautiful food pantry partnership with Anglicare; through the kids' club and play time; through the ministry which happened throughout Winterfest. New life in new Christians through Christianity Explored. We rejoice with you!
- 15. **Blayney** new life in the holidays kids club where Norwest Anglican church came to work with you with the support of Scripture Union. New life in the ongoing kids' club and now a youth group in Blayney and in the first Sunday school in Millthorpe in 30 years.
- 16. **Canowindra** new life through the renewed/refreshed food distribution ministry; the ongoing partnership with the Uniting Church; and sadly but wonderfully through the significant funeral ministry.
- 17. **Cobar** a congregation which has tripled in size because of the first resident minister there for 20 years. New life through the study of God's word and expositional preaching week by week and new possibilities with home and property visits being planned.
- 18. **Coonabarabran** new life through the shared youth group with the Presbyterian church; through people wrestling with new issues in Bible study; and through a renewed sense of vision and purpose.
- 19. **Cowra** new life seen in a renewed love of God's word amongst the congregation as you start to see Jesus in every page.
- 20. **Cudal-Molong** thankful for young people in church and growing attendance especially at Molong. New life in four young people confirming their baptismal promises in October!
- 21. **Forbes** new life in that there are now a couple of young families at church. There's encouragement in the growing interest in an intergenerational playgroup commencing in term 4, and new life in the deepening trust evident in older parishioners through Bible study.
- 22. Grenfell new life as people dive deeper into God's word, and a good beginning with new clergy.
- 23. **Oberon** new life in the growth in congregations attending at all churches in the parish and that the parish is set to emerge next week from 'special care' with new leaders to be elected!
- 24. **Orange** new life in that the traditional service doubled in numbers; and then some from that service helped start a contemporary service with kids' ministry this year; new life through people becoming Christians as a result of the Christianity Explored courses, and new life through many new people joining the congregation.
- 25. **Orange East** thankful for a part time children's worker and the difference Jo is making. New life in people wrestling with God's word and in deepening relationships with God and one another.
- 26. **Parkes-Peak Hill** two new Bible studies this year have seen people growing together in living life for Christ; and both the regular Playgroup and the Winter Warmer Concert, have been fantastic opportunities to connect with the people of Parkes.

- 27. **Wellington** new life with double the attendance from pre-COVID days; with children now present each week and for growth in an evening service shared with other denominations with often around 40 people present.
- 28. **West Wyalong** new life through a new resident minister, clear Bible teaching, a couple attending the diocesan camp and loving it, and licenced lay ministers always ready to grow and learn.

New life! New shoots. Platforms for future growth. New opportunities. New connections being made in towns and villages. People discovering the truth and beauty of God's word – sometimes for the first time. God is at work.

Thank you, clergy, LLMs, Churchwardens and parish council members – and everyone in all our churches. Your hard work, courage, perseverance, openness to new ways, commitment to Jesus and his church is beautiful to see. God bless, strengthen and sustain you.

We praise God for our present stipendiary clergy (or who presently receive an honorarium) who have been serving in the diocese over a long period of time – through all the trials and tribulations: for Dean James Hodson, Archdeacons Brett Watterson and Jono Williams, for the Rev'ds Michelle Watterson; Carl Palmer, Brian Schmalkuche, Phil Howes, James Daymond, Kaye Colwell, John Gaff, Ray Tickle, Gloria Shipp and Jeff Tym. Thank you. You have pressed on through the fiercest of battles and because of your trust in God, have persevered. And of course I must also thank our many clergy who of the past, have similarly persevered and continue to be an amazing blessing in many ways.

And we praise God for those new clergy who have begun in ministry here in these past three years: for the Rev'ds Andrew Thornhill, Wally Cox, Steven Klouth, Kevin Simington, Roger Phelps, Sally Phelps, Bec Choi, Ben Mackay, David Blackmore, Andy Martin, Tim Smith, Jonny Lush and James Boardman. (That's 13! Please Lord, *another* 13 for our parishes without clergy!)

We are thankful to God for two ordination candidates at present: Josh Taylor and Stuart Border. Please pray for the ordination panel and these candidates as they continue in discernment.

#### New life seen in and through significant financial support

Out of the ashes, has arisen very significant financial support.

#### **Sydney Diocese**

Last synod I was able to report that following my presentation and our video of thanks, Sydney synod agreed to renew their initial support of \$250,000 a year for six years, for a further six years. This is extraordinary. Given the long history of suspicion between our dioceses, we don't deserve such generosity. But that is the nature of grace – it is undeserved. Thanks be to God for the humility of Bishop Palmer, and the vision and generosity of Archbishop Davies along with the help of Bishop Stead for opening up this possibility. Bishop Stead and Archbishop Raffel have both been extremely helpful in encouraging and facilitating the extension of the gift.

This gift supports the bishop and the registrar and were it not for Sydney's generosity, our parish assessments would need to be 20% of income, not 10%. Perhaps we'll find one day, a way to appropriately express our thanks to Sydney Diocese. I am quite sure that old suspicions and criticisms are melting into the background.

#### The Bush Church Aid Society

In addition to the support of the Sydney Diocese, we are also beneficiaries of the generous support of and partnership with the Bush Church Aid Society (BCA). You may recall that they support the Rev'd James Daymond in Cobar, the Rev'd James Boardman at the Cathedral parish, and partly support the Rev'd Ben Connelly at Cowra and the Rev'd Steven Klouth at West Wyalong. These ministers and their wives are considered BCA field staff members and enjoy support and pastoral care both from BCA staff and supporters of BCA, who hold them in their prayers.

The current support from BCA equates to \$295,000 a year, which again is extraordinary.

#### Other support from partner churches and individuals

How blessed are we that partner churches and generous individuals also contribute to the support of Phil Howes, Bec Choi, Jonny Lush and Tim Smith. For this year, this amounts to approximately \$161,000!

We praise God for his generous provision, knowing that a number of our parishes without clergy, will also need such support from outside their parishes, to sustain a minister full time.

From the ashes, new life has come!

If you're reading this from outside the diocese, and were part of the Sydney decision, or are a BCA supporter, or you support Phil, Bec, Tim or Jonny – hear our very great thanks. We will never take your generosity for granted. And please know the Lord is using your gifts wonderfully well!

#### **Episcopal ministry fund**

Started in Bishop Palmer's time when the diocese was unable to support its bishop, parishes and people are still contributing to this fund. It currently holds \$160,000 and I have been speaking with the trustees and Dr Baines about whether this may form the basis of a new endowment for the diocese.

It is anticipated that by 2030, we will need to contribute support from our own resources, for our bishop and registrar. We are prayerfully seeking gifted people to form part of a capital fundraising group, so that we might work towards achieving a sustainable financial future.

From the ashes, may new life continue to come!

#### New life seen through new leadership

Out of the ashes, has arisen new leadership.

#### **Diocesan boards**

Although there are sufficient original members to ensure continuity with the past and corporate memory, our APT and BiC has enjoyed renewed membership which has brought greater accountability, experience and strategic intent.

Our boards are in good hands and I'm grateful to all those who have stepped up to serve in recent years. Some vacancies have been filled throughout the year and details can be found in the BiC reports. At synod next year, all such roles will again fall vacant, and we need to prayerfully discern good people for leadership into the future.

# New life seen in day conference, retreat and camp, and in online training opportunities and resources

These yearly events are now resuming the significance they once held prior to COVID.

"The church I'd love to join" was the theme of our day conference this year. It was held at Macquarie Anglican Grammar School with keynote speaker from St Michael's Wollongong, Canon Mark Smith. Over 170 registered.

Our clergy retreat enjoyed presentations from the Rev'd Pete Stedman of Norwest Anglican and Mrs Fiona Simpkin, and all who attended found nourishment and refreshment both in the hours of reflection and times of worship and fellowship.

Our Diocesan camp in August was attended by over 120 people with guest speaker the Rev'd Ian Powell from Canberra Goulburn Diocese taking us through the book of Jonah. The teaching, singing, interviews and fellowship were all a tonic for weary souls!

At both conference and camp, the number of children and young people present made an impression. We are so thankful to God that we are seeing more and more children and young people in our churches and at Diocesan events.

COVID pointed us to a wonderful resource in zoom or similar technology. Having been forced to quickly adapt and adopt such opportunities, these are now a regular and indeed vital part of our diocesan life. BiC and APT meetings occur via zoom, which has opened up new opportunities for those who work during the day, or live a long way from Bathurst, to contribute to leadership as part of these boards. In addition, our new clergy participate in fortnightly zoom gatherings for training and fellowship; our stipendiary clergy gather six times a year for input and fellowship, and training has been offered throughout the year for LLMs and parish nominators. Zoom has also been useful for appointments board meetings.

New life. New opportunities.

#### New life seen through new partnerships

Out of the ashes, has arisen new partnerships between our parishes and parishes elsewhere.

- 1. Blayney with Norwest this church partnered with Scripture Union to lead a wonderful holiday kids' club in Blayney after Easter this year
- 2. Coonabarabran and Lithgow
- 3. Bec Choi with Roseville and South Turramurra
- 4. Oberon and Lane Cove/Mowbray
- 5. Mosman this church paid James Daymond's rent for years!
- 6. Parkes and Seaforth

Still being developed – planned – discussed:

- 1. Cowra and North Sydney
- 2. Cathedral parish (specifically 10am) and Bridgechurch (where James Boardman was a student minister)
- 3. West Wyalong and Westmead

These partnerships each take on their own shape according to local agreements. They all include prayer, some include financial support, while others involve mutual ministry opportunities.

In addition to these parish partnerships, the Bishop Rod Chiswell of Armidale Diocese, has been generous in establishing a partnership between his diocese and ours, by expressing a willingness to send to us, clergy who have completed their curacy in Armidale. The Rev'd Ben Connelly joined us in Cowra this year as a result of this vision. We look forward to welcoming more such clergy.

New life. New possibilities.

#### New life seen in the strategic plan

SHARING JESUS FOR LIFE, has for some parishes, brought a new sense of direction and purpose. It has helped some parishes work out what is most important from all the good they could be doing. Some parishes have reviewed their welcoming procedures, some have started new Bible study groups; some have started to offer Christianity Explored (or similar) regularly; some have started praying more specifically that people would hear the good news and become Christians. Some have updated their signage outside church and included a version of the artwork.

New life! New plans! New purpose!

Some parishes have not yet considered their response or having considered it, concluded there was nothing they were in a position to implement at present. Some have perhaps felt overwhelmed by some of the ideas put out there at the launch. The plan was always designed as a suite of ideas from which each church may be able to draw just one or two which might be achievable and be appropriate given their present ability. I warmly encourage parishes who have not yet had a look, to see again <a href="may address at the launch and three related sermons">my address at the launch and three related sermons</a> on the catch phrase and look again over <a href="may address">the plan itself</a>, to see if you are inspired to introduce one small aspect.

The Great Commission of Matthew 28 was not given as the Great Option or a Good Idea, but a command to go and make disciples. Every one of us, and each of our parishes and churches, need to seriously consider, how we might obey Jesus' charge!

I am confident that when we all become keener and clearer about that Great Commission, we will continue to see new life emerge as we share the amazing news of Jesus!

## New opportunities for life

13.

That's all we need.

For now.

13 gospel focused men or women who love Jesus, love the Gospel, love his Word, and love people.

13 people for 13 parishes without clergy.

Let's recall those parishes once more: Bourke-Brewarrina, Condobolin, Coolah-Dunedoo, Coonamble, Cudgegong Valley, Cumnock, Gilgandra, Kelso, Narromine, Nyngan, Trundle, Warren and Dubbo.

13 parishes who don't want/need someone to come and 'run' their church, but rather, clergy who will come and be alongside them, opening and explaining God's word, pointing them to Jesus our great hope and equipping them for ministry. People who can do the work of an evangelist and make contact with the wonderful but lost people in our towns and villages and on vast properties, who need to hear that Jesus died in their place for sin and rose again in victory over sin and death and evil.

Where will we find such people?

Currently, I have less people in our ordination pathway than in the past three years. My recent visits to Bible colleges, have resulted in less interest being shown than at first.

Of course, eventually, we must raise up our own people to send for training and return; people who know central and western NSW and who do not need to take the significant step of leaving the city for the first time and adopting to rural and regional life. But we are a fair way off that happening at present, with so few young adults in our congregations who are in a position to consider training for ministry.

Where will we find such people?

We need to put the call out once more in other dioceses and cities. We need to redouble our efforts to make known the unique possibilities and opportunities of rural ministry. We need to make clear that ministers here need not be bogged down with compliance and administration and programs and rosters, but are comparatively free to focus on people, on visitation, on building contacts; on Bible study, on evangelism; free to immerse themselves in their communities and make a difference for Jesus' renown in their towns. We need to make clear that there are good schools here and great opportunities for friendship and support.

Recently I had a lay person from a parish in Sydney come and share with me that as an active member of their church, they were seeking various opportunities to use their gifts to serve the Lord. On enquiry, it seemed all the ministry was undertaken by paid staff. We reflected with some sadness, that the Ephesians 4 mandate for pastors and teachers to equip the saints for ministry, had been lost. I understand that person, with his wife, is planning to move to one of our towns and actively involve themselves in a local church.

But this led me to wonder. Are some city churches over staffed?

Might it be possible for leaders in other dioceses to undertake a review of staffing levels, and where some churches are found to have more than was needed, for encouragement to be given to some to consider coming out here, where arguably, the needs are far greater? Might a church which has four clergy, manage with three, given that 13 of our churches have none? Might there be a more equitable distribution of clergy across NSW? Perhaps it might open up opportunity for more ministry in those churches to be exercised by volunteers.

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It doesn't seem a lot compared to the vast numbers of clergy and lay workers currently at work in some other dioceses.

Please pray that the Lord would raise up gospel workers for his harvest field.

### In the meantime

What creative solutions can we come up with to bless these 13 parishes?

What if:

- 1. ...our 15 parishes with clergy partnered with one of the 13 without? Perhaps once a term, a minister from one of our churches could take off for a weekend visit to a parish without a priest and minister there. Or the minister plus a small group of lay people such as recently occurred with a Cursillo visit to Coonamble.
- 2. ...every parish contributed to a travelling locum (or locums) who could relieve the LLMs for a month or two and then move on to another town and do the same?
- 3. ...with the help of some tech people and some funding, we set up a couple of resource churches who were able to produce a high-quality livestream of their Sunday service, which was then used by churches without

clergy as their Sunday service? This happens now between the Presbyterian church in Dubbo and the Presbyterian church in Condobolin. The church in Condo gathers each Sunday and fully participates in the service from Dubbo. But the relationship is deeper than just watching a service. The pastor from Dubbo has visited Condo, and study notes are provided for Bible study. A real godly connection and fellowship has been established.

4. ...godly and able retired lay people from outside the diocese, were invited to bless these 13 parishes for a time? Glenn and Wendy Murray have exercised this exact ministry, in an entirely voluntary capacity in West Wyalong last year and Rylstone-Kandos this year. It would be more challenging where there is no rectory, but not impossible!

## New culture - new life

Brothers and sisters in Christ: despite suspicions and fears I hear from time to time, I have no other agenda in my role here, other than to build up the church, rebuild and care for the clergy team, recruit for the future and share Jesus for life.

Although dependent financially on Sydney, our diocese remains structurally independent from Sydney Diocese. Within the constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia we determine our own path and direct our own course. As bishop, I am not obligated to take any line of teaching or doctrine or practice from Sydney or anywhere else. In everything, I endeavour to remain true to God's word and the vows I made at my ordinations and consecration.

I beseech you brothers and sisters, to leave behind some of the culture I observe of suspicion, grumbling, conflict, and talking behind people's backs.

Here is the challenge from Colossians 3:8ff: "...you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."

Instead from Colossians 3:12ff, "...as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

If across the diocese, as God's precious and much-loved people, we can 'put off' and 'put on' these attributes, it will change our life together and change our future.

I said earlier that our past has refined us, but it need not define us.

We can choose to be crippled by our past, or have that big view Joseph had, of standing back and seeing how the Lord is using the past to do a new thing.

I believe that if we focus on Jesus and on the life-giving news of the Gospel; if we become people immersed in the Word of God; if we become people of prayer; if we let go of the past and look now to the future; if we focus on people over property; unity in Christ over petty divisions; possibilities over limitations; then we will be open to the Lord's transforming work, and become people who powerfully "declare the praises of him who called [us] out of darkness into his wonderful light." <sup>5</sup>

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give [us] the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice [we] may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 1 Peter 2:9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Romans 15:5-6

#### **Thanks**

I am very grateful to Dr Warwick Baines for his thorough and dedicated work as registrar and business manager; to Louise Hickey for her wonderful ministry of administration and in these past months, Alissia Galbraith for her gentle and encouraging ministry, assisting Warwick.

I want to thank my chancellor, Mr Adrian Ahern for excellent insight and wisdom around a range of issues in the past year.

Thank you to all who serve on BiC, APT, Stipends and Welfare Commission and various appointments boards for your dedication to the tasks set before you. The time you give and wisdom you bring is very much appreciated.

I want to thank the Dean, the Very Rev'd James Hodson for his support and wisdom, and for agreeing to act as my Commissary during my long service leave from January to March 2024.

I've been very grateful throughout the year for the support of the Rev'd Andrew Thornhill as he's taken on the role of MDO. His work for the day conference in Dubbo, for the clergy retreat, in recruiting, and in training has been a great blessing. The Rev'd Kevin Simington has also been a tremendous help as he's consulted with various ministers and parishes and shown great pastoral care and wisdom.

Finally, a huge thank you as he leaves us for Newcastle Diocese, to Archdeacon Brett Watterson for his ministry in the diocese since commencing in Parkes in 2009. Brett has served with great effect in Parkes and Dubbo, but also as Diocesan Archdeacon, Regional Archdeacon, Chair of the Bishop's election board, Diocesan Administrator, Principal of the Company of the Good Shepherd, member of the ordination panel among other ministries. Thank you, Brett, who along with Michelle has exercised her own valuable ministry – for your significant partnership in the Gospel in this Diocese.

## Appointments and ordinations since last synod

#### **Appointments**

- 1. The Rev'd Andy Martin to Holy Trinity Orange
- 2. The Rev'd Tim Smith to Grenfell
- 3. The Rev'd Steven Klouth to West Wyalong
- 4. The Rev'd Jonny Lush to Oberon
- 5. The Rev'd Ben Connelly to Cowra
- 6. The Rev'd James Boardman to assistant minister, Cathedral parish
- 7. The Rev'd James Daymond to Cobar
- 8. The Venerable Jono Williams to Canowindra
- 9. The Rev'd Andrew Thornhill to Ministry Development Officer

#### **Made deacons**

- 1. Mr Jonny Lush
- 2. Mr Tim Smith
- 3. Mr James Boardman

#### **Ordained priest**

- 4. The Rev'd Steven Klouth
- 5. The Rev'd James Daymond
- 6. The Rev'd Jonny Lush
- 7. The Rev'd Tim Smith
- 8. The Rev'd James Boardman

#### Resignations

- 1. Archdeacon Joy Harris to become rector of Crookwell Canberra-Goulburn Diocese
- 2. Canon Tim Fogo to become rector of Deniliquin Diocese of the Riverina
- 3. The Rev'd Natalie Quince to become rector of Taree Diocese of Newcastle
- 4. Archdeacon Brett Watterson to become rector of Nelson Bay Diocese of Newcastle

#### **Authority to Officiate**

The following have been granted an Authority to Officiate since last synod

- 1. The Rev'd Brian Schmalkuche
- 2. The Rev'd Ross Hathway
- 3. The Rev'd Anastasia Webster-Hawes
- 4. The Rt Rev'd David Robinson

