

Thank God for mothers



Annalise Edwards (L) invited her family – including her mum and two sisters – to the Cathedral's Mothers Day Service.

Geraldton Cathedral held a special Mothers Day Service so members could invite family who don't attend church regularly.

Acting Dean David Seccombe said Mothers Day was the perfect opportunity for mums to invite their children to church before enjoying lunch together afterwards. "In the same way, we encouraged children to make a special day of it and invite their mothers to come along to church."

As a result, six people invited family members who visited the service and heard a gospel message of God's love shown through Jesus and his church.

"Mother's Day can be painful for some. Perhaps you have lost a child, are estranged from your mother or even are unable to have children. But no matter the circumstance, we can all thank God for mothers," David said.

"Mothering is a good thing. When we step back from all the busy-ness of life, perhaps there is no more important calling. Each of us has a mother; we all owe our life to a mother.

"In the Bible we read that God made them male and female and *blessed* them.

"But in this fallen world there is no question that women have a hard road. Quite apart from the agony of giving birth, the hard work of rearing a child falls mostly to the mother."

To help make the day special, a photo booth was set up for mums to have a photo with their children or for children to get a picture to send to their mum.

Seafarers welcome Chaplain Steve



Steve Combe recently achieved a long-held dream when he was cleared to board his first ship as Chaplain to Seafarers.

The seafarers on board also welcomed the contact, something that stopped more than two years ago when shore leave ended in the pandemic.

Steve said it was a privilege to be invited on board, to have the opportunity to talk and pray with seafarers and give them copies of the Bible.

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Dear North West Partners



Former Bishop Gary Nelson and Christine handed over to Administrator Ven Paul Spackman with Melinda on 15 May.

When I think about ministry in the North West, I am reminded of the parable of the lost sheep and the lost coin, where Jesus' application is that there's much rejoicing in heaven when just one person repents (Luke 15).

Our churches are not big, they are not fancy, and by worldly standards some would be shut down for being uneconomical. But with fear and trembling we bring the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and we rejoice when one person repents and comes to a saving faith in our Lord Jesus.

Currently the North West Diocese is between bishops since former Bishop Gary Nelson turned 70 and retired on 15 May. It is with great humility that I am in the position of Administrator of the Diocese.

This has given me insight into the inner workings of the North West and the Anglican Church of Australia. There are many meetings, emails and decisions to be made. It has given me great opportunities to speak with and meet with different members of the North West ministry team.

They are a dedicated team of committed, gospel-minded servants and as I speak with them I am encouraged by their love for

the lost and their desire to speak the gospel of Jesus Christ into people's lives.

We do value your prayers as we seek out a new Bishop for the North West. The Election Synod has been called for the 26-28th August 2022.

This is an important activity in the life of our church. Some 50 workers and lay members representing every ministry across the diocese will meet in Geraldton to pray and choose the Eighth Bishop of North West Australia.

Would you pray for those having conversations with possible candidates and those who are considering the position. Pray for the Election Synod members that we would be filled with wisdom and discernment as we deliberate and decide on our next Bishop.

I thank God for your partnership in the ministry of the North West.

Grace and Peace
Paul.

Chaplain on water

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"There is so much opportunity for these guys to hear about Jesus but they are restricted in their mechanisms to hear the good news and so seafaring chaplaincy is such an important ministry.

Steve said that he has wanted to do 'chaplaincy on water' ever since he joined the Royal Australian Navy 15 years ago.

He completed theological study after leaving the military and until last year was serving at Broome Anglican Church before moving to Karratha/Dampier in 2022.



Please pray for limits on shore leave to be lifted so they can escape the confines of the ship and enjoy some rest and recreation.



Chaplain Steve Combe visits ships in the port of Dampier

"The pigeon English I learned to speak with Aboriginal people in the Kimberley has been really helpful," he said.

"English is the official maritime language worldwide, so seafarers have to have some English to function at sea.

"I find the simplified English I used in Broome is useful when talking with Chinese or Indian or other non-English speaking nationalities.

"Because of my Navy background, I can understand a little of their life and challenges in being away from home for months and months.

Making reconciliation real

At Broome Anglican Church, the ministry of reconciliation is bringing people together.

During Reconciliation Week, the church held a combined service and barbecue with members of the 8.30am, 10.00am and Peoples Church congregations and visitors.

Minister-in-Charge Michael Baines said the church plans to make this a regular event on months that have fifth Sundays and the inaugural service fell during Reconciliation Week, a significant event in the Broome community.

“In recent times we’ve been looking for points of connection between the community calendar and the message of the church, and Reconciliation Week is a perfect example.

“The Bible even talks about ‘the ministry of reconciliation’ because Christian ministry is about how people can be reconciled to God and each other in Jesus. He brings people of all cultures and backgrounds together.”



A big group from Broome Anglican Church and Broome Peoples Church gathered for a combined service during Reconciliation Week

Broome Anglican Church’s main point of cross-cultural ministry is its Peoples Church congregation, run especially for Aboriginal people (though other people are also welcome).

Peoples Church services have a style of teaching and music – both kinds, country and western – that are familiar to people across the Kimberley. The ministry is led by Church Missionary Society worker and Broome Anglican Church staff member Chris Webb.

Michael added: ‘Reconciliation of any kind has never been easy. It’s amazing when you realise how much of the New Testament is about Christians from different backgrounds—especially Jews and Gentiles—learning to share life as one people.

“We’re still learning to do that today, and we certainly haven’t ‘arrived’ in our church. But I thank God for the small ways our church reflects the multicultural multitude we’ll see in his Kingdom.’

New Dean of Geraldton



Rev Lachlan Edwards is the new Dean of the Geraldton Cathedral. He and his wife Bec will arrive in Geraldton on 26 August.

Cathedral members are rejoicing at the news that the Revd Lachlan Edwards has been appointed the new Dean of Geraldton.

Lachlan and his wife Bec have spent the past decade ministering in Sydney at Christ Church Lavender Bay and Fig Tree Anglican Church.

They are thankful to be returning to the place where they served after graduating from Trinity Theological College in Perth.

Lachlan says: “You can leave the North West, but the North West never really leaves you.

“Since leaving the Diocese of NW Australia in 2012 after 7+ years of ministry in Dongara/Mingenew, Broome and Exmouth, God has kept this special place in our hearts and prayers and has now shoulder tapped us again.

“We’re looking forward to connecting with friends old and new, especially in the Cathedral and the Greater Geraldton region.

But most of all, like all the faithful NW fellow workers, we are looking forward to serving the Lord in this vast remote diocese.

“Although the distances are far, the fellowship in the diocese is close. Although the desert places are barren the gospel brings new life. Although the harvest fields, fishing grounds and mine sites may be places of plenty, the kingdom of heaven is the single greatest treasure.



You are invited to a Service for the Installation of the Dean Sun 28 August 10am Geraldton Anglican Cathedral

In rocky times Amanda praises God



Ada (9) is always a willing ministry helper for mum Amanda.

Newman gospel worker Amanda Kyngdon is thanking God despite their most difficult year yet of ministry in the remote mining town.

Many long-term residents have left, including about one third of the local school. Crime has spiked and life in Newman is seen as undesirable.

Amanda says it would be easy to focus on the challenges but she chooses to see the blessings and has found unexpected joy in teaching her own children the Bible.

“Ministry in small churches in the North West is not always easy but one of the great blessings is that it means we, as parents, are the ones who must disciple our children.

“As parents we are our children’s first Bible teacher and we need to make the most of these opportunities.

“People ask us if our children are missing out because of things like fewer educational opportunities in the Pilbara.

“As a family we have made sacrifices to serve in Newman but it hasn’t been a hinderance to our kids’ faith. It’s actually matured them in their love for Jesus.

“They won’t have access to kids and youth programs like in big churches but they have got to know people in our church from all stages and walks of life.

Our nine-year-old daughter Ada still prays regularly for a couple who left our church 12 months ago who suffered a still birth while they were with us.

“Last night she was doing a short devotion on the importance of going to church. In small churches it’s easy to focus on what we don’t have – live music, a kids program every week and lots of kids and youth.

“But when Ada reflects on church, she talks about the kindness of the people and the encouragement she receives in her faith.

“This is what the Bible says is central to church. All we need is to have someone in our life who is interested to open up the Bible and read it with us.”

Amanda and her husband Roger, the Minister-in-Charge at Newman, give thanks for the massive harvest field in their region.



Pray the Kyngdon children can keep teaching their school friends about Jesus.

Answers to prayer

Praise God for raising up locum tenens

Port Hedland Seafarers Centre:
Garry & Joyce Hamersley as Senior Chaplain until May 2023

St George’s Carnarvon:
Jonathan & Pascale Deeks until July 17 followed by Ian Porter for 12 weeks

Geraldton Cathedral: Acting Dean David & Lorraine Seccombe until 24 July. Dale and Joy Appleby 1-28 August. Dean Installation Service Sunday 28 August.

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