

dNews

a newsletter for the Diocese of Ballarat

14 September 2022

From the Bishop

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

Death of the late Queen Elizabeth II

The death of Her Majesty has had a significant impact in our country. Some of that has been about respect for her unstinting service for 70 years, and some is probably a rekindling of our own experiences of grief.

I attended a Provincial Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's cathedral Melbourne last Sunday. About a thousand people filled that cathedral to overflowing and the Archbishop preached a fine sermon.

At Choral Evensong in the Cathedral this Sunday night at 5pm we are inviting people locally to join in a service of Thanksgiving on the eve of Her Majesty's funeral. Please make this service known in each congregation.

I hope you will keep flags at half mast until the Funeral and then again on Thursday when our Federal government has declared a national day of mourning and a public holiday.

We pray for the King, His Majesty Charles III, and for the Queen Consort, Camilla.

Safe Ministry matters

Until further notice, safe ministry matters are being coordinated by the Registrar with some administrative assistance from John Russell. Do not hesitate to contact them if necessary.

Sale of surplus religious items

The Parish of Warracknabeal intends to auction off a quantity of religious items on the weekend of Synod. Next week, the dNews will include a link to their catalogue, and you may want to express interest in these items. This activity should not precipitate a fire sale across the Diocese, and it has prompted me to clarify our policies about dealing with surplus items.

Heywood 170th and 30th

I remind you of the celebrations on the weekend of 1st and 2nd October of this very significant milestone in the life of Anglican Ministry in the Heywood district.

The dNews is now coming out weekly until further notice. Contributions must be made to:

dnews@ballaratanglican.org.au

by 5pm Tuesday each week.

The Diocese reserves the right to edit content to meet space requirements.

Contact the Rev'd Deacon Judy McPherson for further details.

The Archbishop of Canterbury

Archbishop Welby is visiting Australia in early October. He will be preaching at Evensong at St Pauls Cathedral on 9th October. His tight schedule does not include a visit to Ballarat Diocese, unfortunately!

Commissioning at Portland

I remind you of the Commissioning service for The Rev'd Wendy Morecroft at 7pm at St Stephens, Portland, on Friday 23rd at 7pm. Fr Scott will contact you by email about a meal for travelers to Portland at 5pm before the service. Clergy should robe and wear a white stole.

With all good wishes and blessings,

+Garry

From the Registrar

Leave

I will be starting two weeks leave from Friday 23rd of September – returning to work on Monday 10th of October. During that time, I will not be contactable by phone and will be forbidden from accessing email so please direct any calls / messages care of the Diocesan Registry. If your matter is urgent, please contact your Archdeacon.

Synod

The first Diocesan Synod since 2019 will be held over the 21st and 22nd of October. The members of Synod will be as elected in 2019 or one of the supplementary Synod Representatives also elected in 2019. It is not possible to replace a Synod Representative ad hoc as both Synod Lay Representatives and Supplementary Synod Lay Representatives must be formally elected under a mandate from the Bishop.

Gracious and Loving God, bless the people of the Diocese of Ballarat and the communities of western Victoria. Guard all our people. Guide our leaders. Teach us to exercise our freedoms with responsibility for all our neighbours. Bless us with hope and peace, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Synod Legislation

I have been diligently working with the Diocesan Advocate, Sally Macarthur Clyde to prepare legislation for consideration at the forthcoming Synod. This is required to be sent out next week, so this week is one for finalisation of changes, debating punctuation and correct formatting of numbers, letters, and roman numerals. Diocesan bills to be presented will be:

1. A repeal of four redundant Acts of the Synod, in part to facilitate the wind up of a fund administered by the Diocese of Melbourne for the Dioceses of Ballarat and Melbourne.
2. Amendments to the Synod Act to simplify the election of Synod Lay Representatives and Supplementary Synod Lay Representatives. In most election years this will be able to be completed at an Annual meeting.
3. Amend the division of the Parochial Government Act covering annual meetings and election. This will cater for elections to Synod and permit multi centre parishes to hold one combined annual meeting at which all elections will take place. I suspect most annual meetings have been combined so this hopefully will not be controversial although electing all parish positions including Churchwardens and Parochial Nominators will be new for some.
4. Amend an old and seldom used Act, The Ecclesiastical Offences Act, to recognise that a Diocesan Tribunal should not be chaired by the Chancellor. This anticipates adoption of one of the canons arising from this year's General Synod but regardless of whether the canon is dealt with this year or not the potential for a conflict of interest is best avoided.

In addition to the Diocesan legislation there is a total of five canons referred to the Diocese from the General Synod for assent or adoption which suggest that this Synod will have its work cut out for it!

A reprint from 2012

The Parish Treasurer

Whilst it is the Parish Council that has the overall responsibility under the Parochial Government Act ("the Act") for church monies and to present an audited report to the annual meeting of the Parish it is the Treasurer who has the day-to-day administration. Often this role is of quiet service that is undervalued until for some reason the Parish finds itself without a Treasurer.

A quote I came across in several places' states however: "The parish treasurer is vital to the health of every parish and the debt which the church owes to the devoted service of its many thousands of parish treasurers is known to God alone".

From the Ministry Development Committee

Who inspires you?

The Ministry Development Committee is inviting people from across the diocese to contribute towards a collection we're calling "Abundant Lives" – a book about Christian people that have inspired us on our own faith journeys.

Their saintly lives may have inspired us, their holy writings may have nourished us, their simple companionship may have helped us along the Way. Whatever the case, we hope that in sharing these short stories of the lives of big and little saints alike, that we can all be inspired by these *Abundant Lives*.

Visit: <https://ballaratanglican.org.au/abundantlives/> for more information and some examples written by members of the Ministry Development Committee.

Deadline 30 September.

Forthcoming series: Studies in Amos

Amos was a sheep-farmer and orchardist from the remote countryside. Living so closely with the natural world, he became deeply aware of the presence of God's in every aspect of life. When, later on, he moved to live in Jerusalem, he found a widespread misunderstanding of God's gracious dealings with humanity. This troubled him and, like most countryfolk, he didn't mince his words. He spoke it as he saw it, but not in a coarse, unsophisticated way: he was by nature a poet. We today can still learn a lot from his powerful writings.

Rev'd Dr Mark Garner is planning to conduct a series of studies into Amos's engaging book. There will be five one-hour sessions, to be held in Synod Hall on Mondays at 6-7 pm, starting on 17th October. The sessions will be repeated over Zoom on Tuesdays from 6-7 pm, starting on 18th October. A minimum membership for each group will be 6.

If you would like to participate in person or online, please contact Fr Mark by email (markwjgarner@gmail.com) no later than 1st October.

What's Happening at your Cathedral?

Remembering Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

In light of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the Cathedral Church of Christ the King will host a commemorative Choral Evensong this Sunday, 18th September at 5pm. This will afford us opportunity to celebrate the late Queen's long life and reign, and likewise acknowledge her successor King Charles III as he commences his reign. You are all warmly invited and encouraged to attend.

Conversations @ the Cathedral - Alexandra Banks

Sunday 25 September, 5pm (REVISED DATE)

Given this week's special evensong, September's Conversations @ the Cathedral will now take place on Sunday, 25th September at 5pm.

Alexandra (Alex) Banks is a contemporary glass artist based in Ballarat, Victoria, she has been an exhibiting artist since 2003 and specialising in glass since 2017. Alex is in the final stages of completing her PhD in the multidisciplinary field of theology, trauma theory, and the arts.

Alex examines the intersections between theology, trauma, and the arts through the silence of memory. This notion of memory has inspired artworks and academic papers exploring the church's engagement with the memories of those who live with PTSD and dementia.

This month Alex will present at Conversations @ the Cathedral, discussing her artmaking techniques and why she became interested in church stained glass.

Cathedral Recipe Book

Maria Sozanski is requesting contributions for a Cathedral recipe book to be published later this year. Recipes may be left in an envelope on the entrance table. Please include your name, phone number and a little about your involvement at the Cathedral. Also something about the recipe eg family favourite, handed down, prepared for a particular event or person etc. For further information phone 5345 7522.

Townsend News (GFS)

Next Business meeting: Monday September 19th

GFS 140th Anniversary and World Day of Prayer

This year marks the 140th anniversary of the Girls Friendly Society in the Diocese of Ballarat. On Thursday, 29 September, as part of the GFS World Day of Prayer, there will be a special celebration to commemorate the life and presence of GFS in our Diocese. Everyone is welcome to join the celebration at St John's Soldiers Hill, for the Eucharist at 11am followed by lunch.

RSVP to Nathalie Stevens 0403 127 547
 Heather Turner 0418 580 215 or
 stjohnssoldiershill@gmail.com.