

Diocese of Perth

2026 Diocesan Clergy Retreat Program

Anglican
Church
Diocese of Perth



Retreat 1: New Norcia

Dates: Monday 15 June-Friday 19 June 2026

Venue: New Norcia Guesthouse

Retreat Style: Directed Retreat - mainly silent retreat

Maximum participants: 14

Cost: \$580 (includes subsidy, accommodation and all meals).

Participants to make their own way to New Norcia.

Retreat Leader: The Reverend Grahame Bowland

In 1453, Nicholas of Cusa responded to a request for spiritual guidance from the monks of the Benedictine Abbey at Tegernsee by sending them two things: a manuscript, and an Icon of Christ. With these simple items, Nicholas guided the monks into a collective, embodied, mystical encounter with the Divine gaze, exploring the limits of what we can say about God and breaking through into that which we cannot.

Five hundred and seventy years later, through prayer and practice, we will gently engage with the writing those monks received, brought into our time, and a similar Icon of Christ. This retreat will be largely silent, beginning on Monday afternoon, and concluding with lunch on Friday. There will be ample time for prayer and devotion, and perhaps while walking the beautiful country around New Norcia.

Retreat 2: Quiet Day - Four Bundles of Anglican's great texts

Date: Tuesday 26 May 2026

Venue: Wollaston Theological College

Retreat Style: Quiet Day (9.30am-3.00pm)

Cost: \$30 (includes Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea). NO SUBSIDY FOR DAY RETREATS.

Retreat Leader: The Right Reverend Dr Peter Brain

We will have the opportunity to explore the wonderful 'sin-grace-sin-grace melody lines' of our liturgies. Each of the 'four bundles' will include an introductory exploration, opportunity for silent or group reflections on their respective challenges and encouragements to us as believers and leaders.

*Retreats offer a time of refreshment, challenge and shared experiences with colleagues.
Clergy attending retreats are encouraged to show due courtesy and care towards fellow retreatants.*

Retreat 3: Quiet Day - Enfolded in Love - Dwelling in the Wisdom from Julian of Norwich

Date: Tuesday 28 July 2026

Venue: Wollaston Theological College

Retreat Style: Quiet Day (9.00am-3.00pm)

Cost: \$30 (includes Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea). NO SUBSIDY FOR DAY RETREATS.

Retreat Leader: The Reverend Bec Bydder

This clergy quiet day offers space to rest, reflect, and renew.

Drawing on Julian's visions and her profound trust in the steadfast love of God, we will explore themes of divine compassion, prayer, suffering, and the assurance that "all shall be well."

This day is an opportunity to step apart and listen deeply, through guided meditations, gentle silence, and shared prayer, to ponder your own ministry and vocation through the wisdom of Julian; "Truth sees God, and wisdom contemplates God, and from these two comes a third, a holy and wonderful delight in God, who is love."

Retreat 4: Quiet Day - The Dynamics of Worship: A Series of Three Meditations

Date: Tuesday 4 August 2026

Venue: Wollaston Theological College

Retreat Style: Quiet Day (9.30am-3.30pm)

Cost: \$30 (includes Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea). NO SUBSIDY FOR DAY RETREATS.

Retreat Leader: The Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd AM

If the Reformation was about anything it was about how it was possible to be made righteous or accounted righteous before God.

That is, did the life, death and resurrection of Christ establish a hope, albeit a supremely confident one, or did it create a new relationship of being between God and humanity?

These were the two contrary strands which underpinned the debates concerning the point of worship. Was it to remember Christ in faith and thereby be accounted righteous, or was it to be brought into living contact with the substance of the divine life, and in the language of the patristic writers, divinised?

- 1. Worship as Participating in the Offering of Christ*
 - 2. Worship as Remembering the Offering of Christ*
 - 3. Worship as the Mystery of Transcendence*
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Retreat 5: Quiet Day - We are what we do: We do what we are: Returning to the heart of our calling

Date: Tuesday 29 September 2026

Venue: Guildford Grammar School

Retreat Style: Quiet Day (9.00am-4.00pm)

Cost: \$35 (includes Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea). NO SUBSIDY FOR DAY RETREATS.

Retreat Leader: The Reverend Thomas Pote

Before ordination we spend many hours considering what it will be like to be a deacon or priest. We look carefully at the shape of our calling and the things that we'll be busy doing once we're ordained. On pre-ordination retreats we receive our pep talks, but having been sent out to serve, how often do we pause to reflect on how the shape of our calling has changed or if we are doing what we have become through ordination?

The addresses during this retreat day will challenge us to revisit and reflect on what and who we are called to be as deacons and priests taking inspiration from the Ordinal as well as Scripture and poetry.

The magnificent setting of Guildford Grammar School and its famous Chapel will provide the backdrop for our time in stillness as we replace our callings in God's heart.

Your Retreat Leaders:

The Reverend Grahame Bowland

The Reverend Grahame Bowland is a priest in parish ministry in the Diocese of Perth. He has particular interests in spirituality and contemplative prayer, and in exploring how the Church can embrace its traditions with creativity and bring them to life in this place, and in this generation.

A particular passion is reconnecting community to church, and church to community. Grahame was ordained in this Diocese and studied at Wollaston Theological College, Trinity College Theological School, Melbourne, and Murdoch University.



The Right Reverend Dr Peter Brain

Peter and Christine have spent two chapters of their lives and ministry in Perth Diocese from 1980-1999 and then 2012 to the present. In between they lived and ministered in Armidale Diocese where Peter was the Diocesan. They are currently worshipping and ministering in Maddington Parish. They have 4 adult children, 15 grandchildren who live in three states, and one great grandson. Peter enjoys woodwork, golf and walking and helps Christine tend their small garden.

The Reverend Bec Bydder

The Reverend Bec Bydder is the Director of the Centre for Spirituality at St George's Cathedral. She previously served as a chaplain in the women prisons, and it was at the beginning of this ministry that she first read Julian's book 'Revelations of Divine Love'. It was this combination of listening to women from a cell, that developed a deeper understanding to pastoral care, spiritual accompaniment, and creating spaces of hope.



The Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd AM

John Shepherd is the Emeritus Dean of Perth. He was previously Chaplain of Christ Church Oxford and Chaplain of the University of Western Australia. Most recently he was Interim Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome. He is an Essendon supporter.

The Reverend Thomas Pote

Thomas became Chaplain at Guildford Grammar School in late 2024 when he arrived in Australia from the UK. Before that he was Chaplain at the King's School in Canterbury and Honorary Minor Canon of Canterbury Cathedral. He served his curacy in the parish of Holy Trinity and St. Mary in Guildford, Surrey. His interests include church history, sacred choral music, and liturgy, most especially how liturgy can be used to draw young people into faith.



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Registration Form

Anglican
Church
Diocese of Perth



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone/Mobile _____

Email _____

Special Dietary Requirements _____

Other needs (e.g. ground floor access) _____

Retreat	Dates	Cost	Attending (tick)
Retreat 1: New Norcia	15-19 June	\$580 <i>plus travel</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retreat 2: Four Bundles of Anglican's Great Texts	26 May	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retreat 3: Enfolded in Love	28 July	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retreat 4: The Dynamics of Worship	4 August	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retreat 5: We are what we do	29 September	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total amount remitted _____

Method of payment:

Electronic transfer

A/C Name – Perth Diocesan Trustees
BSB – 706-001 A/C – 30003481

If paying by bank transfer please ensure that your bank includes your name, initials, and 'CR'. For example 'Smith G, CR'. This is needed to distinguish between payments.

Credit Card (Visa/Mastercard only)

Type: Visa Mastercard

Card Number: _____

Expiry: _____ CVV: (last 3 digits on reverse of card): _____

Name (as shown on the card): _____

Please forward this form and any payment to:

Diocesan Clergy Retreats 2026
c/- Melanie Hare
Anglican Diocesan Office Perth
Level 5, 3 Pier Street
PERTH WA 6000