

MESSENGER

A MAGAZINE FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIANS | MARCH 2026

Anglican
Church
Diocese of Perth

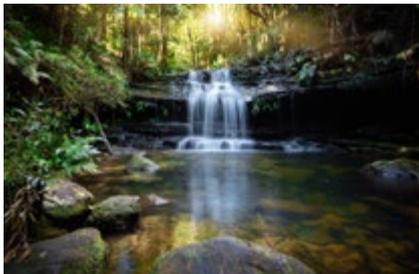


'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me.
Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.'

Luke 22:42

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FROM THE ASSISTANT BISHOP

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5 MARKS OF MISSION

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To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

2

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

3

To respond to human need by loving service

4

To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

5

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth



Cover image:

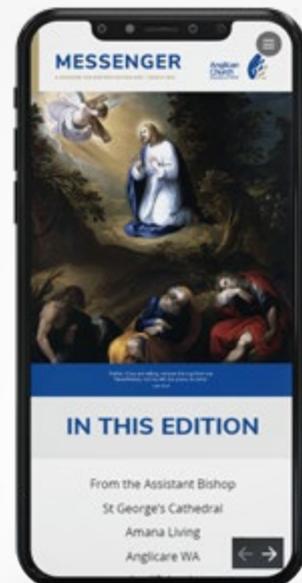
The Agony in the Garden by Giuseppe Cesari 1590

MISSION 2020+ PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit!

Give us new confidence in your grace,
new words for the mission we share,
new strength to go where you send us,
new spring in our step, as we set out
to spread our faith in changing times,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



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THE RT REVD DAVID BASSETT *Assistant Bishop*

The Joy of our Salvation

For a number of us we have journeyed through Lent focusing on joy, using the Lenten studies written by the Australian Bishops. It seemed odd to be reflecting on joy during Lent which has traditionally been a more sombre time of penitence, denial and discipline. The more I've spent time in reflecting on joy as an expression of God's goodness and presence in the world, and how we can have a deep, deep joy that is stronger than our circumstances, the greater my realisation has been on the true gift of God that joy is to us.

The Psalmist prays this prayer in Psalm 51:12, 'restore to me the joy of your salvation'. As we enter into Holy Week and focus again on the self-giving of Jesus who, for our sake faces a horrific death, the innocent in place of the guilty, we see again the cost of the salvation that God so freely offers to all who call upon him.

We mark the solemn hours of Jesus death and burial, encapsulated in the darkness that spread over the land. But this darkness, this suffering, is turned into joy when, on Easter Day, we stand outside the empty tomb and hear the angel speak to the women 'Do not be afraid ... He is not here; for he has been raised'.

Matthew in his account then tells us the women left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy (Matthew 28.8).

In that paradox of fear and joy, we begin to understand what the gift of joy is. Here is a gift from God that is deeper and stronger and more real than the unknowns of life, or the troubles, or the torments, or uncertainties, or the disappointments. This joy, the joy that comes from our salvation is a joy unlike any other. It is not dependent of our circumstances. Its not like the fleeting sense of happiness that we find evaporates so easily if everything is not all right. This joy is deeper and becomes part of



our very being as it comes from our restored relationship with the God who created us, the God who redeemed us, the God who is with us, the God who is forever faithful. This joy is the joy that comes from our salvation. The joy that we find by knowing the depth and breath and width and height of God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

This is a joy that springs eternal. Isaiah speaks of us drawing water from the wells of salvation (Isaiah 12:3). It is as we remember and reflect upon our salvation, as we journey afresh through Holy Week, as we stand at the foot of the cross on Good Friday, as we wait in hopeful expectation on Holy Saturday and as we join the two Marys hearing the wonderful declaration "Do not be afraid...He is not here; for he has been raised" our joy is renewed and strengthened and encouraged.

Drink deep of this salvation. Let it refresh you anew. Let it strengthen you in faith and hope. Let it be your joy and peace always and in all things. For it is a very great and precious gift of our loving God brought to us in our Saviour, Jesus, who has died but is indeed risen!

A 17th century meditation on joy

O Christ,
All thy ways of mercy tend to end in my delight.
Thou didst weep, suffer that I might rejoice.
For my joy thou hast sent the Comforter,
multiplied thy promises,
shown me my future happiness,
given me a living fountain.
Thou art preparing joy for me and me for joy;
I pray for joy, wait for joy, long for joy;
give me more that I can hold, desire, or think of.
Measure out to me my times and degrees of
joy,
at my work, business, duties.
If I weep at night, give me joy in the morning.
Let me rest in the thought of thy love,
pardon for sin, my title to heaven,
my future unspotted state.
Let my heart leap towards the eternal sabbath,
where the work of redemption is finished and
perfected for ever,
where thou wilt rejoice over me with joy.
There is no joy like the joy of heaven.

SYNOD 2026

Friday 16 October and Saturday 17 October

Friday 16 October

6.30pm Eucharist
St George's Cathedral
followed by the
**First Sitting of the Second Session
of the Fifty-Second Synod**
including the President's Address

Saturday 17 October

9.00am - **Second Sitting of the
Second Session of the Fifty-Second Synod**
Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges
46-54 Marine Terrace, Fremantle
Please note: Lay Conference at 8.00am

DEADLINES for SYNOD BUSINESS

LEGISLATIVE MOTIONS

to be received by the Legislation Committee
at Diocesan Office by 5.00pm **on Friday 10 July 2026**

EARLY MOTIONS

to be received by the Registrar at Diocesan Office
by 5.00pm **on Friday 28 August 2026**

EARLY QUESTIONS

to be received by the Registrar at Diocesan Office
by 5.00pm **on Tuesday 8 September 2026**

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

to be received by the Registrar at Diocesan Office
by 5.00pm **on Thursday 8 October 2026**

DISTRIBUTION OF SYNOD PAPERS

18 September 2026

For further information, please contact

Susan Harvey, Synod Co-ordinator - 9425 7200 or synod@perth.anglican.org



THE REVD DR BILL LEADBETTER

Assistant Priest and Cathedral Scholar, St George's Cathedral

Journey to Joy: Holy Week at St George's Cathedral

'Weeping may linger for the night but joy comes with the morning'
Psalm 30.5b NRSVUE

2026 has been designated by the Cathedral as its 'Year of Joy. While Holy Week is a solemn time in the Church's year, it is also a time of joyful moments. Indeed, we move from the joyous celebration of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the ultimate joy of human completion represented by the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Day.

In between, we celebrate the institution of the Eucharist and remember the pain of betrayal and agony in the garden on Maundy Thursday; and the abject despair of Good Friday. Holy Week takes us on a journey of celebration, grandeur, hope, failure, disappointment, grief, and finally the complete joy of new life in the risen Christ.

To help us and guide us on this journey, the Cathedral is pleased to welcome Bishop Hans Christensen as our Guest Preacher. Bishop Hans will preach on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and at the Vigil Service on Easter Day. He will also offer a series of addresses and reflections on different days during the week.

Bishop Hans has a profound commitment to teaching and schools, and brings deep pastoral experience, as well as a strong sense of the value of ecumenical and interfaith conversations. His presence among us will be exciting and challenging and we look forward to the insights that he will share with us.

The service times are set out elsewhere in this *Messenger*. These will be times of liturgical focus, supported, where appropriate, by exquisite choral music. Together, we will experience the highs and the lows of Holy Week, and together we will come to a deeper knowledge and experience of the mystery that is our common faith.

St George's
Cathedral
Perth

**OUR SERVICES FOR
HOLY WEEK & EASTER DAY**

PALM SUNDAY	29 March
10.00am	Choral Eucharist with the Liturgy of the Palms
5.00pm	Tenebrae Service
HOLY MONDAY	30 March
6.30pm	Holy Week Address with Compline
HOLY TUESDAY	31 March
12.00pm	Chrism Eucharist
1.30pm	Holy Week Conversation - 'The Darkness of God' with Bishop Hans Christensen & The Rev'd Dr Sue Boorer
HOLY WEDNESDAY	1 April
4.00pm	Evening Prayer with Stations of the Cross
MAUNDY THURSDAY	2 April
6.30pm	Sung Eucharist with the Washing of Feet & The Watch
GOOD FRIDAY	3 April
8.00am	Ante-Communion & Litany
10.00am	The Great Liturgy
12.00pm	The Final Hours with Bishop Hans Christensen
EASTER DAY	5 April
6.00am	The First Eucharist of Easter with Baptism & Confirmation
8.00am	Easter Holy Communion
10.00am	Choral Eucharist of the Resurrection
5.00pm	Festal Choral Evensong

*These are additional to our regular services of Morning & Evening Prayer and Holy Communion, unless otherwise noted. There are no services with Communion on Holy Saturday.

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info@perthcathedral.org





STEPHANIE BUCKLAND *Chief Executive Officer, Amana Living*

Walking Together Through Holy Week

Holy Week is a season defined not only by solemnity, but by accompaniment, Christ's steadfast presence with humanity, and our call to be present with one another in turn.

For Anglicans, Holy Week is not something simply observed but entered in to. It is one of the most profound periods of the Christian year: a journey of walking alongside Christ through suffering, grief, waiting, and ultimately renewal. We journey from the joyful shouts of Palm Sunday to the solemnity of Good Friday, through the stillness of Holy Saturday and on to witness the dawn of Easter hope.

Holy Week is a pilgrimage of compassion, courage, and shared humanity. This sacred tradition mirrors much of what we experience in aged care. Every day, our residents, clients, staff, volunteers, chaplains, and families embody the ministry of accompaniment. We walk with older people through transition, uncertainty, and moments of vulnerability. We stand with them through grief and change; and we celebrate with them the unexpected joys and renewals that punctuate their lives.

At Amana Living, the act of accompaniment is not a program we follow step-by-step, but rather a posture, the way we carry ourselves with our clients and residents. It is present in the way our Residential Care and Home Care teams support someone who might be navigating declining health; in the way our chaplains sit beside a resident sorting through memories; and in the way our volunteers offer a listening ear or quiet presence to those who may otherwise walk alone. Our No One Dies Alone Companion (NODAC) Program expresses this most tenderly by offering, in life's final hours, the opportunity for human warmth, dignity, and care.

Holy Week also reminds us that waiting is not passive. Between sorrow and resurrection is possibility, an in-between where hope quietly gathers. Many older people and their families occupy a similar mental space as they make decisions about future care, navigate

new diagnoses, or prepare for significant life changes. Our responsibility, and our privilege, is to accompany our clients and residents patiently and attentively, offering clarity, reassurance, and companionship as they discern the path ahead. Our Resident Liaison Officers see this daily. One recently supported a family over several weeks as they navigated the difficult decision to move their mother into permanent care. Through patient explanations, gentle reassurance, and regular check-ins, she helped transform a time of uncertainty into one marked by trust and calm.

This year, as reforms continue to reshape Australia's aged care landscape, accompaniment serves as a guiding principle for Amana Living. Whether this is shepherding clients through the Support at Home transition, helping families understand the strengthened Quality Standards, or making everyday improvements to enhance comfort and connection, our focus remains on walking with older West Australians. Never ahead of them, never behind, but alongside.

Moments of renewal can emerge quietly. A chaplain recently shared how a resident who had withdrawn from activities slowly began reconnecting after a few weeks of gentle visits, a reminder that hope often arrives in small, steady steps.

This Holy Week, may we recommit ourselves to this shared journey and take up the call to accompany with empathy, courage, and the conviction that every older individual deserves to be seen, heard, and honoured. As we move toward Easter, let us remember that renewal often begins with this quiet accompaniment, in simple acts of presence that restore dignity, nurture hope, and illuminate the path forward for others.



Anglican Community Fund

Helping Anglicans be Financially Stronger
Giving back to the Anglican Community since 1966

Is your parish property ready for winter?

Winter will be here before we know it and it's a timely opportunity to consider repairs, maintenance and upgrades and finish the work before the wet weather sets in.

If you have a borrowing requirement for this, we offer the following types of loans with **no** establishment and **no** ongoing fees:

- **Church/Hall** – To fund the purchase, repairs and maintenance needs, additions, upgrades or renovations
- **Rectory** – To fund the purchase, renovations or repairs & maintenance of a rectory
- **Eco** – To fund the purchase of approved environmentally friendly items

To enquire about a new or your existing loans, please contact the ACF team.

Disclosure

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THE REVD CHRIS THOMASON *Chaplain*

Geoffrey Sambell and the Rise of Anglican Social Welfare

Archbishop Geoffrey Sambell arrived in Perth in 1969 as the first Australian-born Anglican Archbishop of the Diocese, bringing with him a reputation for administrative brilliance and a fierce dedication to social justice.

Having spent decades in Melbourne working with the Brotherhood of St Laurence and the Mission of St James and St John, Sambell was determined to transform the Church in the West into a 'welfare-orientated institution' that remained true to its spiritual foundations.



advocating for corporate ownership of existing reserves and the protection of sacred sites. Sambell's support for Aboriginal people was not merely theoretical; he was willing to defy convention and the law to stand by them. On 18 August 1977, the Archbishop

In June 1972, Sambell produced a paper titled 'The Church and its place in health and welfare services', setting out a vision for a professionalised, integrated welfare arm. This vision culminated in the 1976 establishment of the Anglican Health and Welfare Services (AHWS). Sambell's model was revolutionary for the time; he sought a holistic approach that combined faith and revitalisation with community service.

stood in the Midland Court to answer charges related to allowing a group of 'fringe-dwellers' to take refuge on church grounds. The group had been forced from their camp by flooding, and the church had provided them with tents, food, and the use of facilities at St Matthew's in Guildford. After pleading guilty, during a plea in mitigation, Sambell said, 'We broke the law to preserve the peace', arguing that his decision was made to prevent the violence that would have occurred if police had been called in. On the same day Perth experienced an earthquake providing the cartoonist at the Sunday Times an opportunity that couldn't be missed. The cartoon depicts the Archbishop paying the fine while the earth shakes, with the tag, 'If you insist on fining archbishops what do you expect'.

The organisation he founded would eventually become Anglicare WA. The transition to the 'Anglicare' name originated from a simple practical necessity in 1987, when the receptionist at the West Perth office grew tired of reciting the full title, Anglican Health and Welfare Services, each time she answered the phone. Staff members gathered and coined the simpler name that is now used nationwide.

Sambell's experience led to the AHWS opening a night shelter for Aboriginal people managed by Aboriginal staff. Sambell was an authoritative strategist who pushed the Church to engage with the most difficult and rejected members of society. Despite his reputation as a powerful administrator, his driving force was a deep pastoral concern. His legacy remains embedded in Anglicare WA and the continued Anglican commitment to social service.

Toward the end of his life, Sambell saw the construction of a new headquarters on the site of St Mary's, West Perth, which was spontaneously renamed the 'Sambell Centre' in his honour, after his death in 1980. Anglicare WA's current East Perth office has retained the 'Sambell Centre' name.

Anglicare WA turns 50 this year and Archbishop Sambell's legacy lives on in our vision and purpose.

One of the most significant evolutions in Sambell's thinking was his approach to Aboriginal people. Initially, like many of his era, he had equated Aboriginal welfare with missions, but his time in Western Australia led to an understanding that Aboriginal people needed something different. Sambell became a vocal proponent for Aboriginal land rights,

Sources:
Becoming Anglicare Australia - A History in Overview by Peter Burke
Biography of Geoffrey Tremayne Sambell 1914 - 1980 by Anne Porter
Sambell: A Man of the Word by Michael B Challen



THE REVD PETER LAURENCE OAM CEO, AngliSchools

A Blessing on the Sand

On a vast sandy paddock in the heart of Yanchep Junction, AngliSchools recently marked the beginning of something significant: the blessing of the site (or should I say ‘sandpit’) where we are building St Matthew’s Anglican School, the 17th AngliSchool, set to open in 2027.

Yanchep takes its name from Yanget, a Noongar word for the bullrushes that grow in the wetlands of Yanchep National Park. This land has long been a meeting place for the Whadjuk and Yued peoples of the Noongar Nation, who have cared for this Boodja (‘Country’) for thousands of years. It was fitting that the morning began with a smoking ceremony led by Mr Ash (Garlett) Penfold, acknowledging the deep history and custodianship of the land on which the School will one day stand.



(Left) Smoking ceremony led by Mr Ash (Garlett) Penfold; (Right) L-R: Mr Adrian Pree, The Reverend Peter Laurence OAM, The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO DD, Mrs Lynne Thomson, and The Reverend Dr Eleanor O’Donnell.

The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO DD blessed the site and led the official breaking of ground, marking the formal commencement of the School’s journey.

In her homily, Archbishop Kay captured the occasion with these words:

‘Years from now, people will point back to this moment and say: this is where it began. Not just with concrete and steel, but with prayer; not just with ambition, but with trust; not just with plans, but with the love of God at the centre.’

Under the leadership of Executive Principal Mr Adrian Pree, St Matthew’s Anglican School will be a place where every student is known,

valued and supported to thrive. Shaped by AngliSchools values of Faith, Inclusion, Respect and Excellence (FIRE), students will be encouraged to think deeply, act with integrity and care for others. Belonging, respect and a strong sense of purpose will sit at the heart of school life, preparing graduates to meet the challenges of the future and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

St Matthew’s will have a close partnership with St James’ Anglican School at Alkimos, which is also led by Mr Pree. As the newest AngliSchool, St Matthew’s will draw on established expertise, staffing and resources at St James’ to ensure a strong and confident foundation.

From 2027, St Matthew’s will offer Kindergarten to Year 6, expanding progressively to Year 12 by 2033. When fully established, enrolments are projected to exceed 1,200 students.

As we ‘go to press’, construction of Stage One of St Matthew’s has just begun. On that wide sandy expanse in Yanchep, the outlines of future buildings may not yet be visible, but the foundations have been laid. As Archbishop Kay reminded those gathered, what begins in prayer and trust will shape generations to come.

The School Motto ‘Learn from me’ is derived from the words of Jesus in Matthew’s Gospel: ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and **learn from me**; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’ (Matthew 11:28-30)

For AngliSchools, St Matthew’s represents not just growth, but the continued unfolding of our shared mission for Anglican education to shape young lives in the way of Christ.



JEREMY HODGSKIN *Volunteer Chaplain*

The Spirit of Lent at St Bart's

Shrove Tuesday at St Bart's was fantastic this year! Café Lime was buzzing as residents, staff, and volunteers gathered for a morning filled with golden pancakes, good company, and plenty of smiles.

Known to many as Pancake Day, Shrove Tuesday is traditionally the final opportunity to use up rich ingredients like eggs, milk, and butter before Lent begins. We couldn't think of a better way than delicious pancakes covered with maple syrup or lemon and sugar.

At St Bart's, Shrove Tuesday is about so much more than ingredients. It's a moment for our community to share a meal, a laugh, and come together at Café Lime.

Traditionally, Lent is a time when many reflect by giving something up or taking something positive on. But at St Bart's, we see this a little differently.

For many of our clients who have experienced homelessness, 'giving up' isn't a choice, it's part of the hardship they've experienced. Going without food or necessities isn't a seasonal practice, it's a lived reality that has lasting effects.

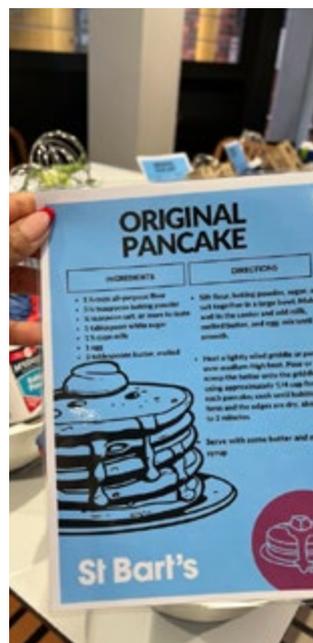
That's why we focus less on 'giving up' and more on 'taking on more'.

Taking on new experiences, new challenges, and new opportunities is incredibly valuable for our clients as they continue their journey of healing. Through the support of our donors and volunteers, we offer moments that help people thrive, from table tennis and beach outings to hiking and fishing. These experiences build confidence, joy, and a sense of possibility.

So, this Lent as you decide what you'll give up or take on, we invite you to spare a thought for the homeless. And if your left with something extra to give, St Bart's would be honoured to put it toward moments that make a meaningful difference.

Wishing you a Lent that's full of purpose, possibility, and perhaps just a few leftover pancakes.

Learn more at stbarts.org.au



You are Invited to a Very Special Event at Wollaston

Joy in the Face of Suffering

A Panel Discussion, in the days before Holy Week.

Featuring special guests including Bishop Hans Christiansen, The Revd Gemma Baseley and The Revd Grahame Bowland with Dr Meg Warner, Principal of Wollaston Theological College.

Please join us afterwards for refreshments.

This is a free event. Please register your attendance in the link above for catering purposes.

Date: Tuesday 24 March 2026

Time: 7.00 pm

Location: Wollaston Theological College

[REGISTER HERE](#)

wollaston.edu.au | info@wollaston.edu.au

St George's
Cathedral
Perth



WOLLASTON
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Anglican
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Make No Mistake...

God Calls Women!

**Movement for the Ordination of Women
Conference**

**2026 Conference Date Claimer:
12 to 14 November**

**Australian Centre for Christianity and
Culture, Canberra**

ADVANCE NOTICE

**Movement for the Ordination of
Women Conference**

**MAKE NO MISTAKE ...
GOD CALLS WOMEN!**

The final program and registration details will be uploaded on the MOW website mowatch.com.au in coming months.

12-14 November 2026

**Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
15 Blackall Street, Barton ACT**

Do lay and ordained women leaders have a future in the church?

How do we respond to increasingly strident calls for women to submit to male authority in church and society?

What can we do, individually and as members of faith communities, to witness our belief in the spiritual equality and dignity of all people?

Our 2026 conference is ecumenical and welcomes women and men from all Christian denominations who support lay and ordained women's leadership in the church and seek to witness God's love to all people equally.

For further information, contact president@mowatch.com.au

DR MEG WARNER *Principal*

Opportunities for Study and Conversation at Wollaston in 2026

The New Year has got off to a bang at Wollaston in 2026 with our “Summer Days at Wollaston” program. A group of about 40 people gathered together – in person and online – to spend three out of four weekends across a month learning more about the Book of Genesis, and the way in which it continues to speak into our world.

One of the highlights of the weekends was the opportunity for those attending – a real mix of lay people and clergy – to hear from a large number of guest presenters – also a mix of lay people and clergy. There were seventeen presenters in all, and the weekends turned into a genuine and extended conversation for members of the diocese about topics as diverse as immigration, land rights, modern slavery, childlessness and the nature of God.

Summer Days at Wollaston is done now for 2026, but the opportunities for study and conversation are not.

Summer Days was just the first instalment of Wollaston’s new Archbishop’s Certificate Program. In May Bishop Hans Christiansen and I will be leading a module looking at Pilgrimage and the Spirituality of Walking. In October a second module, led by Robert Myles, will offer an introduction to the Gospel of Mark, in time for the Year of Mark in 2027. Classes for both modules are online or in

person and held outside office hours. They are also free. To enrol, just call us at Wollaston on 9425 7270 or use the link on our new website – www.wollaston.edu.au

But there is an exciting event coming up in just a few weeks. This year’s Holy Week Preacher at the Cathedral is Bishop Hans Christiansen. In his sermons and addresses Bishop Hans will be picking up on the Cathedral’s theme for this year – “Journey to Joy”. In the week before Holy Week, on Tuesday 24 March at 7.00 pm, Bishop Hans will be joined by local clergy Gemma Baseley, Grahame Bowland and myself, for a chaired panel discussion about the relationship between joy and suffering – an ideal way to ready ourselves for Holy Week. Those who were at last year’s event with Paula Gooder will remember what a fascinating and involving evening it was. Once again, this event is free. The formal conversation will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity to carry on the conversation together. Come and join us!





JANE BWYNE

The Book of Job

I happened to be reading the book of Job when the new year broke with yet more catastrophic news from the US. It made me expand my horizons.

We humans are mere ants in the universe, living our little lives of survival. Even busy ants fight each other. But they also cooperate, organise and build themselves castles in the sand, while some good is done and much evil ages around us.

But some of us raise our hopes and prayers to the One we know is good. For we, unlike the ants, have faith.

The Book of Job has it all. Job, a good human being who is prosperous and powerful, becomes the puppet in a power-broking deal. God allows Satan to do what he likes to Job on one condition - that he "does not lay a finger" on Job. Satan demolishes Job's possessions. Job's sons and daughters die, and his wife turns against him. but Job keeps faith with God. Satan demands more... So God says to Satan: "Very well then, (Job) is in your hands: but you must spare his life" (Job 2:6).

Job is afflicted with excruciating sores all over his body. He rants and raves and falls into deep depression. His friends theorise, insisting that Job must have sinned greatly to deserve such torture. He defends his integrity but refuses to blame God. He only wants to know why all these things have happened to him? But he can't find God: "If only I knew where to find him..." (Job 23:3).

We can all relate to Job. And there is a wealth of meaning hidden within the accusations and answers of this book. Read Chapter 11, an ultimate judgmental pit in which the preachers of doom can destroy the seeds of faith in your hearts. Such preachers have alienated so many people from the faith down the centuries. And yet, amid the 42 chapters of Job lie those famous words, "I know that my Redeemer Liveth..."

(Job 19:25). And "The fear of the Lord - that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding" (Job 28:28). For the Lord disciplines the ones He loves (Job 5:17). And uses those he loves to demonstrate his power.

Within the simplicity of this prophetic story lie deep universal truths. It helps to consult a commentary while you read. The Bible Speaks Today: The Message of Job commentary is a good and easy to read commentary to start with.

After many chapters, his friends stop arguing with Job "because he is righteous in his own eyes" (Job 32:1). Their words were without knowledge. But so were Job's words.

Then the Lord spoke to Job... Job must humble himself before God who owns and controls the universe. God has a plan. Job does not need to know the reason why. But God does sustain Job through all his loss, pain, and suffering. Because of his trust in God, God doubles his worldly blessings. Suffering gives way to a kind of renewed glory for Job.

During the course of my 70-year journey as a Christian, I have often identified with the Book of Job. Now our world is facing yet another example of Satan's work, for this struggle against evil is not just one man's story. It is part of the story of our universe.

The poetic prose is a joy to read and the dramatic message is clear, when we look at Job through Jesus. Nobody can understand everything, but we will experience victory and restoration in the new creation. Suffering will give way to glory, in Jesus. I encourage you to pick up the Book of Job and open yourselves to a deeper knowledge of the truth.



JOCELYN ROSS OAM

Nor'West Postcard

The Faricys from Kununurra recently arrived in their new home in Rockhampton, as Daniel was commissioned as the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in that Diocese. Our Dean, Lachlan Edwards was able to attend representing our Diocese, and on our behalf renew acquaintance with Bishop Peter and Virginia Grice and Steve and Penny Fletcher who moved there in 2021. Lachlan took with him videos from members of our congregation with our messages to the Grices and the Faricys which were much appreciated.



Mission to Seafarers Chaplains from our three Centres, Port Hedland, Dampier and Geraldton plus our Bishop Darrell Parker attended the recent Seafarers Welfare Conference in Adelaide with the theme 'Wellbeing at Sea'.

Bishop Darrell Parker recently announced that Frank Nicol of Karratha Parish has accepted the role of Archdeacon to the Pilbara. The Bishop said 'Frank brings some hard earned experience to this role. I want to publicly thank him for his willingness to take this on. Pray for him as he grows into this extra responsibility.'

Holy Cross Cathedral farewelled our Diocesan Registrar, Dr Khim Harris and his wife Eugenie (Diocesan Communications Officer) at both services yesterday. Each service the Dean called them to the front and after their speaking of their new work in Jerusalem, congregational members come forward, laying hands on them and prayed for them. After each service they cut a cake to share with us all. It was so sad their leaving Geraldton and so exciting for their new work, a role with CMJ (Church's Ministry among Jewish People) in Israel.



Geraldton man Scott Willis has found an anchor in life and protection from evil, thanks to faith in Jesus Christ. Scott had never been to church but his mother-in-law urged him to join her at a Sunday service. He discovered that the Bible made sense because it said Jesus came in flesh, died for our sins, was resurrected and will one day rule the new Creation. Scott reads the Bible regularly, has joined a Bible Study and is to be confirmed at Easter.

Favourite hymns resounded at St George's Anglican Church Bluff Point recently as the church celebrated 90 years of gospel ministry on 15 December. Rector, The Ven Paul Spackman said the anniversary coincided with a Hymn Sing-a-long. Visitor Ron Morton doesn't believe in God but says: 'I love to sing hymns. The words are quite meaningful and the music is very healing. It's hard work being an atheist. People who believe in Jesus have a purpose in life - to glorify God. And what a great attitude that is to have'.



'In You, LORD my God, I put my trust. I trust in You, do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.' Psalm 25: 1,2

THE VEN GEOFFREY CHADWICK *Archdeacon*

Bunbury Bulletin

School Begins!

Across our state the new school year has begun. Our Anglican schools usually mark this with some form of liturgy. At Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School it was my delight to bless the new students in the Primary School. The Head of School, Matthew O'Brien, gave a marvellous address encouraging the students to be like dependable light-houses and shine for those lost in darkness. Each student leader received a candle with the words 'Will you represent the light of Christ in this School?' The answer, of course, was Yes!



Frederick Irwin Anglican school celebrated its annual Blessing of the Backpacks at the Halls Head campus. Assistant Chaplain, Alicia Tearle, officiated as the students were reminded that the back-pack is a sign that Jesus will travel with them every day.



Georgiana Molly Anglican School began the year with a Staff Eucharist. Meanwhile chaplain Carolyn Ball has started Morning Prayer with the Senior students and regular chapel services in the Primary School.

Ordinations

St Boniface Cathedral was filled to capacity with great excitement as one Deacon and six new priests were ordained on a warm day on 7 February. Jenny Duncan was also Installed as the new Diocesan Secretary.



Tracey Gray was ordained a Deacon and will add this to her role as Head of Frederick Irwin Anglican School.

Vicki Webb has served the people of Kojonup and surrounds for many years. Now she is now able to offer priestly ministry. Gail Smit continues her part-time role at Collie, and Allyson Charles, Brent Findlay, and Richard Goetz will continue to serve the people of Oyster Harbour (Albany) in various capacities.

Blessings from Bunbury
Archdeacon Geoff

Ministry Opportunities in the Bunbury Diocese

The Bunbury Diocese is seeking:

- A part time priest Narrogin
- A full-time priest for Denmark/Walpole
- Clergy willing to visit the remote parts of the Diocese which extend from Hyden to Hopetoun
- Clergy looking for a short or extended "tree-change" in a beautiful part of the world

Please contact Archdeacon Geoff Chadwick to discuss:
archdeacon@bunbury.org.au or (08) 9721 2100



THE REVD DR BILL LEADBETTER *Convenor, Social Responsibilities' Commission*

2026 Prayers for Peace

Our world seems to need peace more than ever. Wars persist, both civil and between nations in too many places in the world. Too many people still find no security or safety in their homes or in their communities. In contemporary Australia, we encounter a breakdown in civility.

Subtly, we encounter this in language and attitude; more obviously, in the incidence of political violence. Most of us were shocked by the attempt to bomb the Invasion Day rally here in Forrest Place.

The Social Responsibilities Commission has taken for its theme this year the biblical question 'Who is my neighbour?' In Luke 10, Jesus is tested by a teacher of the law, who asks him what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus' response is to cite the first two commandments: to love God with everything that you have and are; and to love your neighbour as you love yourself. But the teacher of the law isn't done. He wants to go one up on Jesus. He wants to win the argument. 'And who is my neighbour?' he asks.

Characteristically, Jesus responds with a parable, the one that we call the parable of the Good Samaritan. The essence of the story is that a man is beaten up and robbed and left by the side of the road. Those who might be thought righteous – a priest and a Levite – took one look and crossed the road to avoid encountering

the injured man. Instead, he was cared for by a Samaritan, one who was considered by the mainstream Jewish community of Jesus' day to be a wicked outcast, a member of a misguided and heretical sect.

Jesus showed in this story that being a neighbour is not about being a member of the same community, or even living next door. The neighbour is the one who shows mercy, who acts with compassion, who provides generously. Neighbourliness is not a state of being, but of doing. It is not, in fact, a noun at all, but a verb.

This year, the Social Responsibilities' Commission is holding its annual Prayers for Peace gathering on Palm Sunday (29 March) at 1.00pm at St George's Cathedral. On this first day of Holy Week, led by Bishop Hans Christensen, and with ecumenical contributions, we will be reflecting on and praying through this parable together. I encourage everyone to come who can, so that together, we might express in prayer and community that deep truth that Jesus taught that we are all one another's neighbours.





THE REVD ROSS JONES

Unknowing God – Meister Eckhart’s Path to Divine Union

The Tree of Life focuses on the Spiritual Theology of Meister Eckhart in the May 22-24 residential weekend programme, presented by The Revd Ross Jones.

How a Medieval Mystic Challenged the Limits of Reason and Embraced the Mystery of God

Meister Eckhart (1260-1328) was one of the most influential mystics of the Middle Ages, whose radical approach to knowing God continues to inspire spiritual seekers today. After years of teaching and writing, Eckhart reached a profound impasse: he realised that human reason, while valuable, could never fully grasp the infinite mystery of the divine. This crisis led him to explore a deeper, more intuitive way of approaching God - one that required letting go of all preconceptions and intellectual ideas about the divine.



A post-mortem image of Meister Eckhart taken from the large fresco 'Via Veritas' in the Spanish Chapel, Santa Maria, Novella, Florence, by Andrea di Bonaiuto (1319-1377)

Eckhart's breakthrough came as he worked on his theological masterpiece, the *Opus Tripartium*, and reflected on the teachings of thinkers such as Augustine and the Neoplatonics. He concluded that rational thought is inherently limited - it points towards God but never truly reaches the divine essence. Instead, Eckhart embraced what is known as the 'negative way' or *via negativa*: the idea that we come closer to God not by accumulating knowledge, but by unknowing - stripping away everything we think we know, even our cherished spiritual concepts.

He first articulated this approach in a sermon delivered in Paris on the feast of Augustine in the early 1300s. Eckhart argued that every word we use to describe God actually tells us more about what God is not than about what God is. He echoed the spirit of Socrates, who famously claimed that the only thing he knew about God was that he did not know God. This radical humility - sometimes called 'learned

ignorance' - became the cornerstone of Eckhart's spiritual theology.

For Eckhart, God is absolute unity and simplicity, utterly beyond all distinctions and boundaries that define our everyday world. While humans live in a world of separation and difference, God is the undivided source from which everything flows. God cannot be captured by any human label - wise, just, or true - because God is the living principle behind all wisdom, justice, and truth. The only truthful statement about God, Eckhart believed, is simply:

'God is'. This echoes the biblical phrase, 'I am who I am', suggesting that God's nature is pure being - beyond all names and concepts.

Eckhart also drew on the mystical tradition of Pseudo-Dionysius, who taught that the highest knowledge of God comes from silence and letting go of all ideas. For Eckhart, true spiritual wisdom means turning inward, following the 'image of God' imprinted in every soul. The intellect and all of creation are drawn irresistibly toward their divine source, yet this longing is satisfied only by God alone.

Rather than seeking God through grand ascents of the soul or elaborate rituals, Eckhart believed the journey to God was a gentle excavation inward - a quiet surrender to the presence already within. He spent years in Strasbourg, ministering to religious women who practised strict penance and external devotion. Eckhart's message to them was revolutionary: external

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

acts of piety were less important than the intention behind them. True humility came not from self-denial or mortification, but from letting go of even the desire for God, making space for an authentic, unmediated encounter with the divine.

Female mystics of the time, like Hadewijch, resonated deeply with Eckhart's teachings. They described experiences of being 'taken' by God, turning the traditional religious search upside down. In Eckhart's view, the goal was not to possess God but to let God 'possess' us - to be transformed from within. This required a radical openness, a surrender of all spiritual striving and even the images of God we hold dear.

Eckhart's sermons, delivered in everyday German rather than scholarly Latin, used paradox and poetic language to push his listeners beyond conventional religious thinking. He would make statements designed to shock, such as 'God loves nothing but God's self', prompting people to question their assumptions and open themselves to deeper truth. He encouraged his audience not just to hear about God, but to directly experience divine reality for themselves.

He described his approach as a 'third way'. The first way, associated with earlier theologians like Bonaventure, sought God in all creatures

- seeing the Creator reflected in creation. The second way emphasised detachment through rigorous asceticism. But for Eckhart, the true path was internal: choosing the right intention and letting go of everything else, even traditional religious practices, once their purpose had been fulfilled. Humility was the ultimate preparation, but the final challenge was to let go of even the spiritual pride and comfort that humility can bring.

For advanced seekers, Eckhart insisted that the last barrier to divine union was the self - the ego, with its desires, memories, hopes, and fears. True union with God meant emptying oneself of all images, thoughts, and expectations, creating space for God to reveal what is hidden. In the end, the highest spiritual act was simply to be silent, accepting the darkness of unknowing and allowing God to work within.

Eckhart recognised that this surrender could be terrifying, as it meant letting go of all familiar reference points. Yet he also saw it as the only way for the soul to become truly receptive to God's presence. His vision was not one of withdrawal from the world, but of a radical openness to the mystery at the heart of all things - a journey not of knowing, but of unknowing, that leads to the deepest union with the divine.

Next month's article is on using Meister Eckhart in today's spirituality.



Tree of Life
Centre for Christian Belief,
Spirituality and Australian Culture
Wollaston College



For further information on the Tree of Life programme, please contact the Programme Director:
The Revd Judy Van Rossum on **0409 116 622** or judithaclay1@bigpond.com

Appointments

The Revd Mark Davis	Senior Chaplain, St Mark's ACS	01.01.26
The Ven Angela Webb	Archdeacon Emeritus	01.02.26
The Revd Dr Sue Boorer	Acting Director of Formation, WTC	Semester 1, 2026
The Revd Judy Van Rossum	Director, Tree of Life	15.02.26

Locum Tenens

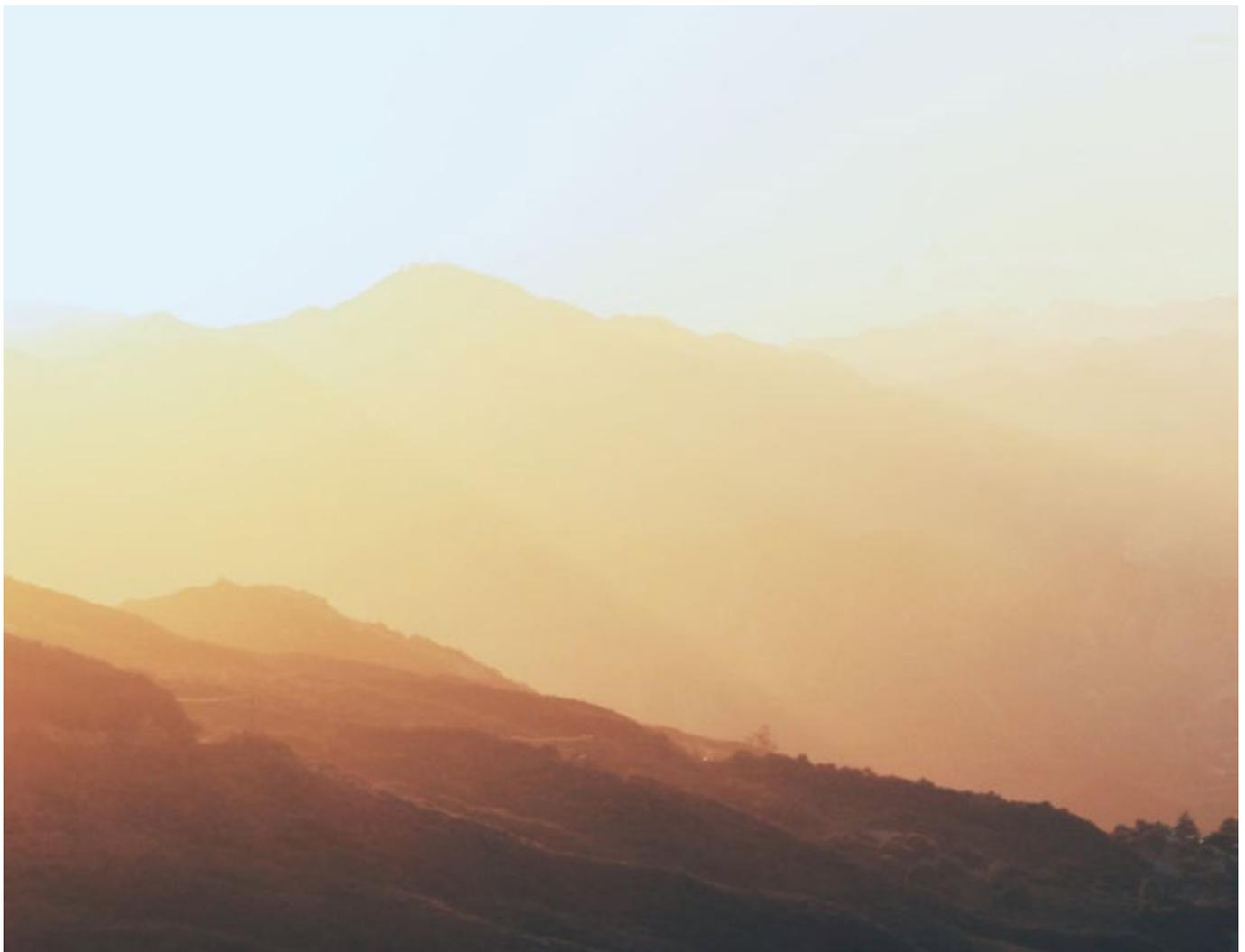
The Revd Steve Warren	Bicton-Attadale	25.03.26-28.06.26
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Permission to Officiate

The Revd Jeff Astfalck		08.01.26
The Ven Angela Webb		01.01.26

Resignations

The Revd Peter De Yaak	Assistant Priest, Quinns-Butler	01.03.26
The Revd Susan Thorpe-Gudgeon	Priest-in-Charge, Roleystone	19.07.26
The Revd Ross Jones	Director, Tree of Life	15.02.26



Swithun's Nest – Spirituality in the Hills

Introducing the new Spirituality centre in the Anglican Parish of Kalamunda-Lesmurdie



In the hall at St Swithun's Lesmurdie, especially in the morning, you can stand at the picture window (overlooking a small but perfect patch of bushland) and watch the birds flitting to and fro in the trees. Their chirps transport you to a place far from the busy-ness of daily life. If you are especially blessed, you might catch a glimpse of the Square Tailed Kite flying high above. Then there is the rustle of a yet-to-be identified creature living the nearby bush – just on the other side of the patio (an echidna, or perhaps a quenda?).

The hall sits proud at the back of the church block, and when inside one feels separate and safe, cosy and quiet. This is a perfect place to sit with God.

This is Swithun's Nest, a new centre for spirituality, and it is growing into a place of connection and contemplation, a place where spirituality can be learned, shared and practised.

Swithun's Nest hatched out of a dream to share this place of nature and divine connection with the greater community. The people of the Parish of Kalamunda-Lesmurdie have decided to follow the example of St Swithun, who built bridges to provide access to community and church, and who miraculously restored and gifted eggs to those in need of sustenance.

Swithun's Nest has begun its offerings with Contemplative Prayer and Meditation on Thursday mornings at 9.00am.

In March the first presentation will be offered – The Revd Grahame Bowland presenting **Church and Culture: Retying the Bond** on Saturday 14 March from 2.00pm-4.00pm.

Other events will be offered during the year, including a presentation by The Revd Bec Bydder (Director of Spirituality at St George's Cathedral) on Julian of Norwich.

Swithun's Nest will become a learning hub for the Wollaston Certificate in May, and soon the hall will be ready to welcome organisations and groups for quiet days and retreats.

If you would like to attend one of our events, or if you'd like to get involved, or explore being one of the first to book the Nest, please email The Revd Grahame Bowland at frgrahame@bowland.au, or visit the website: <https://kalamundaanglicans.org.au/nest/>

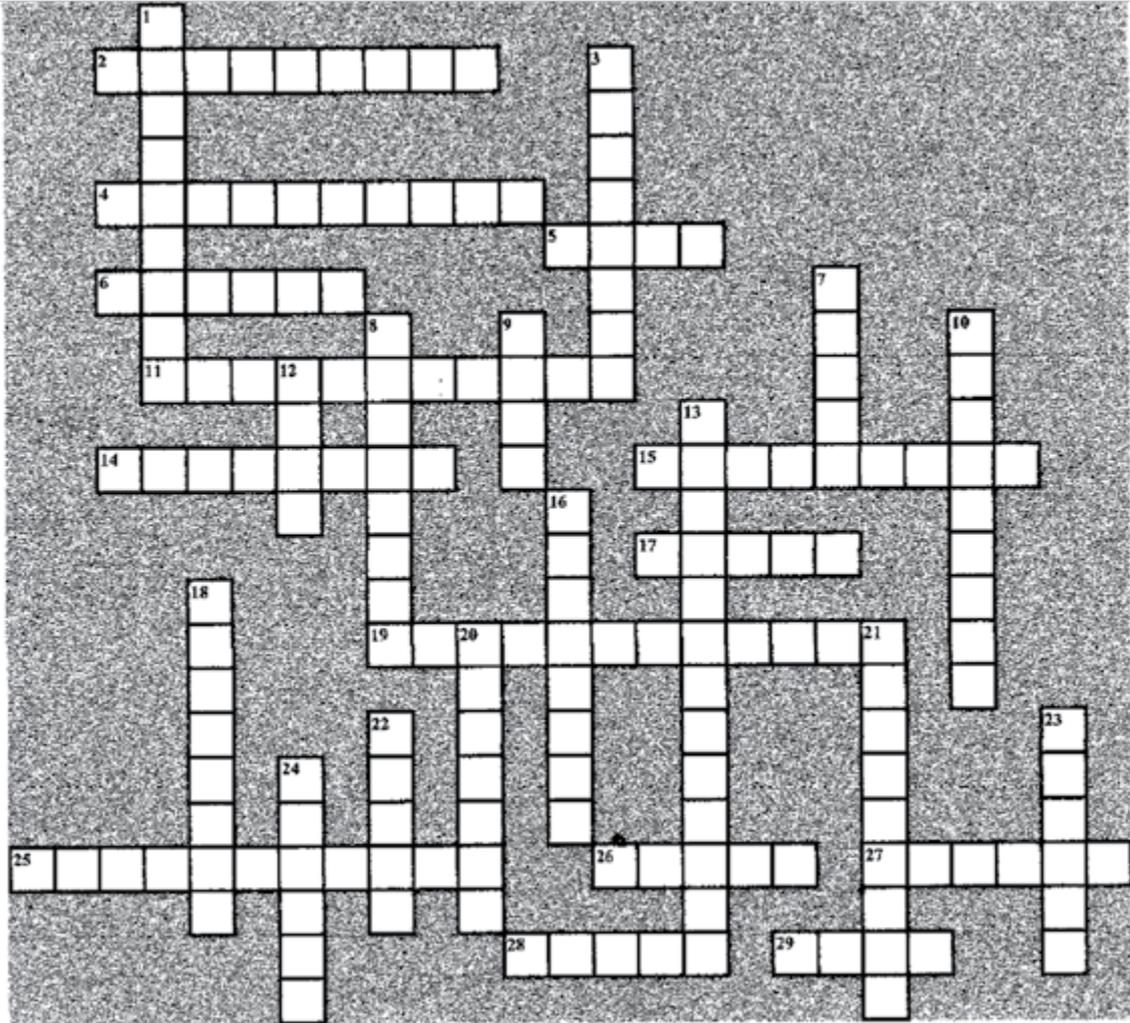
Messenger Quiz - *with thanks to The Revd Frank Sheehan OAM*

- The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple took place this many days after his birth.**
 - 20
 - 30
 - 40
 - 50
- The monastic Rule of which saint prescribed that monks had to pull the plough themselves without draught animals**
 - St Benedict
 - St David
 - St Francis of Assisi
 - St Dominic
- Together with Bishop Wilfred of Ripon, he introduced Christianity to Mercia, an early medieval English kingdom.**
 - Chad
 - Cynibil
 - Caelin
 - Cedd
- The Teutonic word Lent originally meant this season**
 - Summer
 - Autumn
 - Winter
 - Spring
- Saints Perpetua and Felicity were martyred in this city on 7 March 203**
 - Carthage
 - Rome
 - Alexandria
 - Hippo
- In the 16th century, St John of God who was born in Portugal became a healthcare worker in Spain. Before that, he had been a**
 - lawyer
 - soldier
 - sailor
 - candlestick maker
- The earliest writings about Saint Patrick ridding Ireland of snakes claim that he chased them into the sea after they attacked him during his fast**
 - in a monastery
 - on a mountain
 - in a desert
 - during Lent
- St Cuthbert belonged to this kingdom**
 - East Anglia
 - Wessex
 - Kent
 - Northumbria
- Thomas Cranmer was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury with the support of her family**
 - Catherine of Aragon
 - Jane Seymour
 - Anne Boleyn
 - Anne of Cleves
- Which Gospel writer devoted twelve verses to the Annunciation?**
 - Matthew
 - Mark
 - Luke
 - John
- He was for 10 years Chair of Poetry at Oxford. In 1827, his book *The Christian Year* was published. It contained poems for Sundays and feast days**
 - Matthew Arnold
 - John Henry Newman
 - Bouverie Pusey
 - John Keble

Answers can be found on page 24

Jesus begins His Ministry - with thanks to Larry Lockyear

Complete the crossword puzzle by reading John 2-3.



ACROSS

- 2 Disciple from Cana (John 21)
- 4 He has the bride
- 5 Water became this
- 6 Overturned
- 11 Doves, sheep, oxen and money changing
- 14 Men loved this
- 15 Unbeliever is this
- 17 John baptized here also
- 19 Risen from the dead
- 25 When the Son of Man lifted up
- 26 Birth from a womb
- 27 This word has the force of "if and only if"
- 28 Rushes from which Jesus made a scourge
- 29 Jesus eaten up with this

DOWN

- 1 Became Jesus's hometown (Mt. 4:13)
- 3 Occasion of first miracle
- 7 Number of days to raise up Christ
- 8 Feast requiring Jesus to go to Jerusalem
- 9 What the elders wanted from Jesus
- 10 There were six of these
- 12 Place of first miracle
- 13 Jesus drove these from the Temple
- 16 What John must do
- 18 Number of years Temple was under construction
- 20 Made of brass
- 21 Came to Jesus by night
- 22 "Except a man be born ... "
- 23 Jesus called His body this
- 24 Birth from above

Solution can be found on page 24



ANTHONY HOWES OAM

Anthony presents more news of arts and entertainment every Saturday from 10.00am till 12.00noon on Capital Radio 101.7 FM and Capital Digital

It is certainly encouraging for this correspondent to watch on as many of our arts associations provide performances and exhibitions which are both positive and international in their outlook. Music in all its forms, Sculpture and Ballet certainly are pointing us in that direction. For example ...

Sculpture By The Sea will celebrate its 21st anniversary when it returns to Cottesloe Beach from 6-23 March. One of Australia's largest free public events, the exhibition attracts over 230,000 local, interstate and international visitors to Cottesloe each year. The exhibition is returning thanks to grant funding from the Australian government, delivered by Austrade, of \$750,000 a year for the 2026 and 2027 exhibitions. This year it features 70 artworks by artists from across Australia and around the world, including 11 artists from Japan and four from Denmark with over 30 West Australian artists on show.



Johannes Pannekoek, 'Lifeblood', Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe 2024.
Photo Jessica Wyld

WA Ballet has appointed internationally renowned artist Greg Horsman as Rehearsal Director. Greg has a career spanning Australia, Europe, Asia and North America, working at the highest levels of the artform as Principal Dancer, Ballet Master, Assistant and Acting Artistic Director. He began his professional career with the Australian Ballet, and on to such companies as the Mariinsky Ballet (St Petersburg), The Tokyo Ballet and World Festival Ballet. Artistic Director of the WA Ballet, Leanne Stojmenov, says: I'm absolutely delighted that Greg has joined the team at such a pivotal time for our organisation.



Greg Horsman. Photo by Frances Andrijich 2026

Look now towards Saturday 23 May, and Winthrop Hall, UWA, for an outstanding work, immeasurably powerful, soul-searching, yet positive - despite its creation being from a time scarred by war. Michael Tippett's **A Child of Our Time**, is a powerful hymn for peace and humanity, brought to life through collaboration between **West Australian Opera** and the **UWA Conservatorium of Music**. The principal artists are Soprano, Prudence Sanders; Mezzo-Soprano, Nicole Youl; Tenor, Brett Peart; and Baritone, Benjamin Del Borrell. The performance will be conducted by WAO Artistic Director, Christopher van Tuinen. This moving choral and orchestral work unites emerging student musicians and singers with professional artists, offering mentorship from the state opera company while showcasing the extraordinary talent of the next generation. Drawing inspiration from Handel's "Messiah" and Bach's "Passion", Tippett's masterpiece speaks to our time, calling for compassion over conflict and understanding over division. At its heart are songs of hope, resilience, and reflection, performed on a grand scale with a large chorus and full orchestra. The work rises in a collective call for peace which celebrates the transformative power of music.



'A Child of our Time' - WA Opera and UWA presentation

A final thought: The universities' academic year has begun with the Edith Cowan University city campus near Yagan Square being occupied by its first cluster of students. It is where you will now find the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). Much has been reported concerning the excellent facilities; and that is to be applauded. Also to be applauded is the hard work of the staff in bringing together the capacity of the building to allow our students the best tuition possible.

My concern is that the wonderful achievements of the creators of WAAPA - in indeed founding the world-wide outstanding reputation of WA Performing Arts abilities in the first place, are receiving muted acknowledgement. Gone are the names of Richard Gill (from the principal auditorium) and surely the foremost music educator nation-wide; as has Geoffrey Gibbs, an instigator of WAAPA itself, from the principal theatre space. I applaud ECU as a university and its achievements, but am saddened that it has diluted the significance of WAAPA as an institution in itself; and the people who created it.

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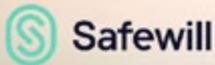
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Usually around 24th or 25th of every month prior to publication. Articles must be under 400 words and may be edited without notice, images to accompany articles are encouraged

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Permission needs to be sought from parents/guardians/carers for photographs with children. Digital photos should be a high quality.



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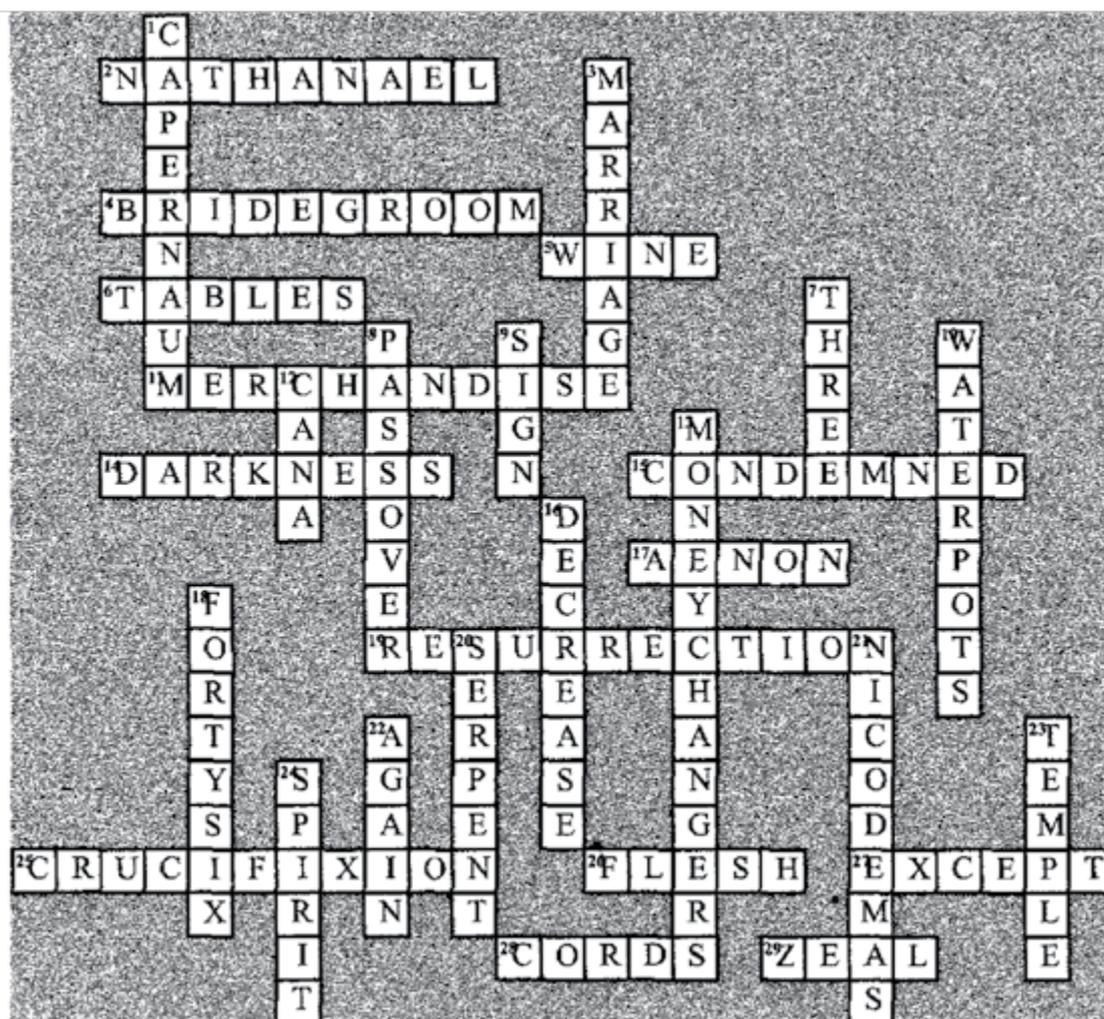
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Quiz Answers

1. (b) St David
2. (a) Chad
3. (d) Spring
4. (a) Carthage
5. (b) soldier
6. (b) on a mountain
7. (d) Northumbria
8. (c) Anne Boleyn
9. (c) Luke
10. (d) John Keble

Crossword Solution



Your Cathedral Welcomes Everyone

We are seeking to share our living faith in an inclusive and openhearted way as we empower people to transform the communities in which we live and serve with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Holy Communion
from the Book of Common Prayer

10.00am Choral Eucharist

5.00pm Choral Evensong

MONDAY TO SATURDAY SERVICES

Monday to Saturday 8.00am Morning Prayer

8.15am Holy Eucharist

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 12.15pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 10.15am Holy Eucharist

Monday to Saturday 4.00pm Evening Prayer

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MARCH

LENTEN STUDIES

Missing the Mark: Stories from the Old Testament and the New Testament in Dialogue

The Reverend Dr Sue Boorer will lead an engaging study series during the season of Lent. All welcome to attend, no need to RSVP.

10.00-11.00am

Saturdays, 7, 14 and 21 March
Lower Burt Memorial Hall

CENTRE FOR SPIRITUALITY

Wednesday 11 March

Church and Culture: Retying the Bond

The Reverend Grahame Bowland

Parish of Kalamunda-Lesmurdie

From 9.30am, optional gathering for coffee and conversation in Holy Grounds, then moving to;
10.15am – Holy Communion, North Transept

Following the Communion Service, we move to the Lower Burt Memorial Hall;

11.00am Presentation

12.15pm Midday Prayer

Once a month includes lunch of soup & bread, offered at the session on 11 March.

Wednesday 25 March

Reflections on the Annunciation

The Reverend Rhys Roberts-Brown

Curate at the Cathedral

*For further details of events and services,
as well as our full offering for Lent and Holy Week,
please see our website, social media or contact the Cathedral office*

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