

VISION AND STRATEGY



New Year, New Growth!

A new year is a great time to start a new venture.

What will you do in 2023 towards the current Diocesan Strategy - "Learn Christ?" Inside this edition of the newsletter you will see that some of us have already begun the 'deep dive' into getting to know Jesus better. Perhaps some of these stories will inspire you in your own journey? The Learn Christ resources brochure is also a great place to research resources that you might like to use. The brochure and previous editions of the Vision and Strategy Newsletter can be found on the Diocesan website under the 'Vision and Strategy' tab.

What about Lent?

This year the diocese is not offering a specific resource for Lent. Instead we hope each individual, group and organisation will find something from the resources brochure (or elsewhere) that they would like to try. Inside you can find information about the ABM Lenten Resource, 'The Imaginary Doorway', which fits well with our Learn Christ theme. Whatever you do, please share your experiences with us via bishop@bunburg.org.au

The Four Strategies

Deepening and Growing our prayerfulness as individuals, groups and churches

Learning more about Jesus Christ in order to become more like Christ

Growing in love for, and encouragement of, one another (within our churches and diocese)

Being salt and light in the places and among the people God has placed us (in our communities)

Advent Reflections a Hit!

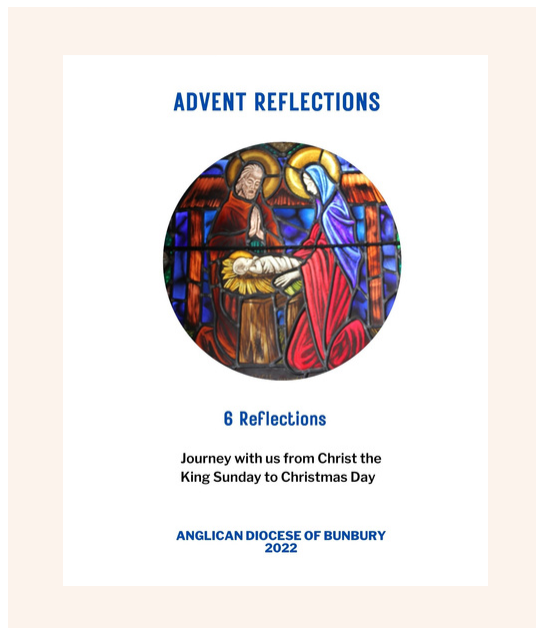
Our unique 'in house' Advent reflections were warmly received and used across the diocese in various ways as part of our "Learn Christ" strategy.

The community in Dumbleyung successfully using the advent material each Sunday as part of a Prayer, Praise and Proclamation service.

Rev Vicki Webb hosted a weekly Zoom group using the Advent reflections. Several of the

Australind parish small groups used the resources too, including a group that meets weekly on Zoom.

Members of Rev Vicki Webb's Zoom group spent 10 minutes in silent reflection and then shared their experiences. They were amazed at their different perspectives.



A few people also commented on how they appreciated the opportunity to have a break from the busyness to just sit and reflect.

As Rev Vicki says, "It put things into perspective and for me provided enough of a reset to stop becoming frantic and this is a good thing at the end of a busy school year".

Each reflection in the set of six was provided by a clergy member from a different geographical area of the Bunbury Diocese.

Some feedback on the resources we have received include:

"Thanks for the Advent reflections ...inspirational!" (Rev Kevin Toovey Dumbleyung)

"I appreciated the art history researching that huge tapestry. The meditation quality was just gorgeous. More please." (Sue Kalab, Bunbury)

I used the tapestry as part of my reflection for evening prayer. At my intensive last week we spoke of spiritual gifts and the subject of mother God came up. I commented on the femininity of Christ in this tapestry. Father/Mother God is certainly amazing (Carolyn Ball, Ordinand)

What surprised and moved me from the first reflection was the love of Jesus. On the cross he was still praying for those who persecuted him. Praying for and blessing his enemies. Asking God to see them in the best possible light. Instead of saving himself he chose to save us. On his deathbed the criminal acknowledged his sins, he acknowledges who Jesus is, and Jesus gives him a place in paradise with him. Gives me hope for my unsaved loved ones.

The second reflection: what moved me was that peace was made with God through Jesus' work on the cross. It just stood out for me as I read the passage this time. There is SO much more in this passage, it is so rich with information about Jesus." (Robyn Scutella, Australind)

If you are interested in accessing a Zoom study group please let us know via the Diocesan email address so we can connect you.

bishop@bunbury.org

Dinner with 'The Chosen' in Australind



Lois Eckersley, from St Nicholas Australind, reports on an initiative she began last year as part of the 'Learn Christ' strategy.

"In this technological world, how we learn is undoubtedly enriched by the many forms of multimedia. Amongst the many offerings, Season One of 'The Chosen' was launched in 2020, right in the middle of the pandemic. Some of us were hooked, binge watching the eight episodes and then eight

more of Season Two in a few long sittings. For the visual learner, this was truly God-sent. Jesus and the calling of his 12 chosen followers came alive.

But what about the techno challenged? **A new Ministry, FFWC @ St Nic's was born. On the first Friday of each month in 2022, we joined for a simple yet tasty meal at 5pm and then at 6pm showed an episode from The Chosen on our big screens.**

There's something special about watching together as part of Jesus' family. All home and enriched by 7:30pm.

We will continue in 2023 until all 18 episodes have been shown. But then... Series 3 has just launched!

A cinema screening of the first two episodes is said to have grossed over 10 million dollars in the US.

The tally for subscribers watching has now topped 450 million views.

And it's FREE! Get the app or watch on YouTube. Cast it to you TV. Too technical? Start your own film night or afternoon. Join us as we continue to Learn Christ.

As the producer profoundly commented in an interview, it's not our job to feed the 5000, we just need to provide the loaves and fishes. Jesus will do the rest.

How to Watch the Chosen

'The Chosen' can be viewed via

- Angel Studios website: www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen (free)
- The Chosen App (free)
- DVDs of Series 1 and 2 can be purchased from Koorong

The CHOSEN



Want to Try ALPHA?

Rev Jamie Murray of Australind Parish is running a Zoom Alpha Course for everyone in the diocese and their friends and family who would like to give it a go - whether for the first time, or for a refresher.

The course comprises watching a 30 minute video followed by an open discussion and Q&A time.

Each week covers a different aspect of the Christian faith, including:

- Why did Jesus Die?
- How can we have faith?
- Why and how do I pray?
- Why and how should I read the Bible?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- What does the Holy Spirit do?
- How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

When is it?

The Zoom Alpha begins on
Wednesday April 26th from 7-8.30pm
and runs for 8 consecutive Wednesdays



How can I join in?

Register your interest by emailing stnicholasminster@gmail.com

All the information you need will be emailed to you including a link to each session. Just click on the link and you are into the group session!

Why not give it a go? Its a great way to reflect on our wonderful faith in the company of others across the diocese.



Local Houses of Prayer Training Day: A Second Opportunity

In the December 2022 Vision and Strategy Newsletter we reported on a Local Houses of Prayer Training Day at St Nicholas, Australind, on November 5th 2022. St Nic's is hosting a second training day on Saturday 25th March 2023 and a review evening for those who attended the first training day, with further teaching on March 24th. Local Houses of Prayer offer a way to align ourselves for greater blessing and impact on our world for Jesus Christ right where we are. All welcome. See contact details opposite for more info.



LOCAL HOUSES OF PRAYER
RELEASING HEAVEN'S PURPOSES ON EARTH

VENUE:

St Nicholas Church
11 Paris Road
AUSTRALIND WA

TIME:

Review evening: 6 - 8:30 pm
Supper provided
Training Day: 10am - 3.30pm
Morning tea provided
Please BYO lunch

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Ph: 08) 9725 8236
Email: verityamurray@yahoo.co.uk
web: www.stnicholasaustralind.org.au
or
info@freshwaterministries.com.au

Mother's Union: Seeking to Love like Christ

Update from Wendy Mabey, Mothers Union President Bunbury Diocese:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35 NRSV

In 2023 we move to a new theme, 'Growing in Love for one another', a theme that speaks into the third diocesan strategy of 'Growing in love for, and encouragement of, one another (within our churches and diocese). While it might seem that we are getting ahead of the diocese when the diocese is just moving into exploring the second strategy around Learning Christ, current planning will have us keeping pace with the diocese through the second half of the year.



Indeed, as we Learn Christ, as we experience the height, depth and breadth of God's love for us, we will learn what it means to grow in love for one another, and we will have the opportunity to experience the height, depth and breadth of the love we can have for each other. To support our theme, our song for 2023 will be 'A New Commandment' which has as its basis the verse from John's gospel above

Mothers Union Branches are encouraged to consider how they might explore what it means to grow in love for one another through their meetings and activities over the coming twelve months.

A Word from Bishop Ian



What is the church's reason for being? There are many answers to this question but in each case I suspect they come back to knowing more about Jesus Christ, and being more like Jesus Christ. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught his disciples to pray that God's heavenly kingdom and will would be replicated on earth. Jesus was the example of God's heavenly kingdom and God's will on earth. Similarly, Jesus instructed his followers to be "Salt" and "Light" in the world. Again, he demonstrated what such "Salt" and "Light" should look like in the way he ministered to people's needs and directed them to God.

Jesus commanded his disciples to love one another and he prayed in John 17 that his future followers would be one, or united, "as the Father and the Son are one." Thus, if we want to know what it means to be Church today, and what the purpose and function of the Church is, I believe that finding out more about Jesus in order to become more like Jesus is rather an important thing to do. Hence the significance of our second Strategy. It applies to us both as individuals and also as groups of Christians in our local churches.

At the same time, please do not forget Strategy 1: "deepening and growing our prayerfulness". Again the example is Jesus who is recorded in the Gospel accounts as praying regularly and profoundly. If Jesus did so, how much more should we seek the Father's will, and the Holy Spirit's leading and enabling?

Learn Christ: Additional Recommended Resources

Anglican Board of Mission Lent Resources



Lectio 365



Recommended by: Bishop Ian

[The Imaginary Doorway](#)

Seven studies that, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week, take us into the lives of seven of the people Jesus brought to wholeness. Seven stories that bring scripture alive and help us to understand that Jesus was dealing with real people, rather than generic characters. Hear anew the stories of Legion, the haemorrhaging woman, Lazarus and Martha, the woman accused of adultery, Zacchaeus, the paralysed man let down through the roof – and that post-resurrection BBQ breakfast on the beach.

Find out more at:

<https://www.abmission.org/resources/the-imaginary-doorway/>

Recommended by: Anne Rowe,
Augusta

[Lectio 365 Devotional App](#)

The Vision is Jesus

At the beginning of 2023 we want to start as we mean to go on, fixing our eyes on Jesus, meditating on what the Bible reveals about who He is and all He's done for us.

"Jesus, in this new season, I invite You to shape my life and set the direction of my year. I listen to Your word; I long to imitate Your works and I welcome Your Spirit as I fix my eyes on You. Amen"

Find out more at:

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365/>

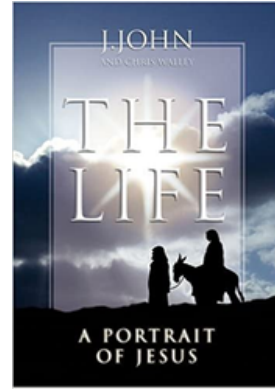


[NT Wright Online](#)

Learn from the world-renowned Prof. Wright by engaging a variety of resources, including more than 30 online courses, certifications of study, free ebooks, and blog articles.

www.ntwrightonline.org

Recommended by: Rev Jamie Murray,
Australind



Recommended by: Rev Kevin Toovey, Dumbleyung

Recommended by: Rev Marion Prowse, Geloroup

Founded by Rev Richard J Foster, Renovaré USA is a Christian nonprofit that models, resources, and advocates fullness of life with God experienced, by grace, through the spiritual practices of Jesus and of the historical Church. Christian in commitment, ecumenical in breadth, and international in scope, Renovaré helps people in becoming more like Jesus.

This very helpful book gives an overview of the life of Jesus, the culture in which he lived, and what he taught. It is very readable, succinct (253 pages) with accessible layout.

Renovaré publishes print and online resources, including books, articles, messages and podcasts. Retreats, spiritual formation groups, and educational initiatives like the two-year Renovaré Institute provide community and experience where that knowledge can move from head to heart.

The first 4 chapters look at issues to do with Jesus, eg. what data we have, whether we can trust the gospels, and the political and religious background to the gospels. Chapters 5-15 deal with the life of Jesus from his birth onwards – chronologically except for four chapters, that consider the topics: Jesus' followers, his miracles, and how and what he taught. There is also additional information on specific topics such as Jesus and Women Jesus' miracles and Jesus' divinity.

Rev Kevin particularly recommends an article by Ricahrd J Foster, "Becoming Like Christ" found at

Bishop Tom Wright describes it as, "A serious book for popular use and a popular book for serious reading."

renovare.org/articles/becoming-like-christ.

Find out More at:

Find out More at: renovare.org

www.amazon.com/Life-Portrait-Jesus-J-John/dp/1860246095

Don't forget there are many more resources to peruse in the ***Vision and Strategy Resources Brochure*** available on the Diocesan website under the Vision and Strategy tab.



What resources are YOU using to help you Learn Christ? Please send us your recommendations via bishop@bunbury.org and we will share them in the next edition of the Vision and Strategy Newsletter