

VISION AND STRATEGY



TIME TO CELEBRATE!

In this edition we are celebrating our progress in deepening and growing our prayer across the diocese of Bunbury. Read on to find out what's been happening in different parts of the diocese and how our prayer lives are growing.

We are continuing with the prayer strategy and are looking forward to beginning work on the second strategy - Learning Christ - later in the year. Information about the 'Learn Christ' strategy will be published in August. In the meantime, **please save the date for the Diocesan Lay Retreat and Explore Prayer Day at the Cathedral (see p5).**

Please keep your prayer stories coming. to encourage and inspire us to keep growing our own prayerfulness. You can send your prayer stories to us via Bishop Ian's email address: bishop@bunbury.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)

Miraculous Answer to Prayer

Struan and Jill Faed are members of St Nicholas Church, Australind. In April, their adult daughter Abbey Spinelli was flown to Fiona Stanley Hospital in a critically unwell state after suffering life-threatening cardiogenic shock brought on by coronavirus complications. Abbey remained in a critical condition on ECMO life support for six days, during which time the medical staff prepared her family for a number of high-risk complications. Through a massive prayer chain of family, friends and church congregations, across Australia and around the world lifted her up in prayer. From being the most critically unwell patient in ICU, Abbey's condition began to improve, with a miraculous recovery of her diseased heart. Abbey says,

"I want to share my absolute thankfulness and praise of God's protection and miracle of healing. The medical staff prepared my family that complications with my other organs and limbs were a risk if I was on the life support machine for longer than three days, but I came off it after six days with none of those complications having happened. The doctors also said that for every day I was in the coma would require a week of recovery in hospital afterwards – instead I spent one week recovering in ICU and cardiology after being in the coma for six days. ICU specialists, doctors and nurses told me how incredible the

recovery of my condition and heart was, given how critically unwell I'd been from the cardiogenic shock. What a powerful witness for the medical staff who said to me "Someone was looking out for you!" Our hearts are filled with praise. We will forever be thankful for the army of God's people who raised their voices in prayer to the Almighty One who saved my life."



Abbey Spinelli with husband Matt and sons Coby and Jesaia

New Prayer Initiative at the Cathedral

"The office of Morning Prayer is said at St. Boniface Cathedral every weekday morning a 8:30am but on Thursdays we now do things a little differently. We sit in a circle at the back of the Cathedral Chapel and begin with 5 minutes of brain storming various things we would like to pray about. Ideas are jotted down in a list. Then we spend up to half an hour offering extemporaneous prayers - prayers that are said without prepared words. As we go along, we tick off the list to make sure all our prayers are covered. Sometimes the words come easily and sometimes we just remain in silence listening to the Spirit. This time of prayer has been incredibly edifying. One participant joins us via zoom and this invitation is open to anyone who wants to join in". The Very Reverend Darryl Cotton



A Word from Bishop Ian

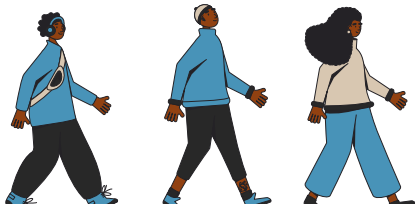
It is exciting and encouraging to read in this June edition of the number of prayer ideas parishes and places have started. I hope you will enjoy reading this Newsletter. Pentecost is a reminder of the coming of the Holy Spirit to direct our ministry and mission, to equip us as Christians, to give us power (the word in Greek is the word we get dynamic or dynamite from), to change us from one degree of glory to another, and to intercede for us with "sighs too deep for words". Prayer and being people of prayer in our parishes, churches and organisations enables all this important work of the Holy Spirit.

However important and worthwhile our Diocesan Vision and Strategies may be, they are always at risk of being swamped by everyday pressures and the force of what we normally do. To change this requires conscious effort and commitment. Maybe that is why Paul wrote in Thessalonians we "should pray without ceasing".

Prayer Walking in Harvey and Donnybrook

Rev Cathie Broome has introduced prayer walking after Sunday morning services in her parishes in Harvey and Donnybrook.

Church members are encouraged to pray quietly for their local community and for people they see on the streets as they walk through the parish. Those who are unable to walk can use mobility vehicles or their cars. Having received peace from God and fellowship with one another, it seems particularly fitting to be immediately sent out into the community to pray. Those who are unable to join in the prayer walk are encouraged to pray as they drive home.



Harvey Parish have already seen some fruit from their prayers: the Shire of Harvey approached the church for help to run a youth club for all the local youth. Planning for this is in the early stages and funding is pending. It is exciting to see bridges being made into the community - and all starting with prayer. The next prayer walks in Harvey will take place on Pentecost Sunday and Trinity Sunday and in Donnybrook on Trinity Sunday.

Prayer Ministry in Australind



Prayer Ministry is now being offered after morning services at St Nics in Australind. Prayer Ministry differs from intercession as it offers an opportunity to connect with the transforming power and presence of God. Each time of prayer begins by inviting the Holy Spirit to come. People come for prayer ministry for a wide range of reasons - for example, some are seeking peace, others healing, others a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit. Rev Jamie and Verity Murray ran a Prayer Ministry Training Course for those who wish to take part. St Nics now has a team of about 10 trained people who are able to offer this ministry after the services. Since the team was launched in March people have come forward each week to receive prayer and the team are growing in confidence as they minister.

Suzanne Saunders, one of the team members says, "It is such a privilege to minister to people who come for prayer, sharing their vulnerability and seeking the Lord. It is humbling and inspiring to see the Holy Spirit come and work in them. I am thankful to be involved in this way of serving."

Praying for Ukraine in Secret Harbour

Rev Paul Watson of Secret Harbour Anglican Church says, "As a church, we are keen to see the Diocesan Vision become a reality in our lives.

We embraced the first strategy – deepening and growing our prayerfulness – with enthusiasm. The other three strategies need the foundation of individual and corporate prayer, that seeks and draws upon the will and power of God, in order to be effective.

In April some of the Anglican church family in Secret Harbour joined with members from a local Baptist church to pray for the people of Ukraine (see photo below).



As well as completing the Deeper Prayer study notes, we have also been stimulated to build into our calendar this year several prayer and fasting days, particularly leading up to significant mission events, such as our first Alpha course".

Deeper Prayer Feedback

At least 8 parishes in the diocese have used the Deeper Prayer study notes so far as part of their strategy to deepen and grow prayer. Australind, Secret Harbour, Oyster Harbour, Gelorup and Southern Forests parishes also explored the themes of prayer in Thessalonians in a sermon series. Rev Karen Cave at Albany parish referred to the study as part of her daily morning prayer livestream and posed the questions rather than giving answers. The studies in each parish were done in a variety of ways - in face to face small groups, online groups and by individuals. In Albany the Mothers Union, Ladies Guild and Ladies Fellowship were all encouraged to take part too. Feedback so far has been very positive. Here are a selection of comments received about the course:

"It is evident to me that our congregation have advanced their spiritual strength and faith through this course and pushed the horizons of their faith . . . and love is developing between the members, as described in Thessalonians"
(Brian Seale, Narrogin)

The wonderful thing about doing this study was that it opened so many prayer 'options' and gave suggestions. We all agreed that we tend to get stuck in a rut in our prayer life, and this study was creative and invigorating." (Andrea Nicholson, Oyster Harbour)

"The study has resulted in long lasting benefits. For some it has meant a new discipline in prayer, but for all of us an enrichment of our existing prayer life".
(Andrea Nicholson, Oyster Harbour)

"It was like mining fresh treasures each week. Several of our members commented on how they had put into practice what they learned and were seeing God at work in ways that were very tangible, and often unexpected" (Rev Paul Watson, Secret Harbour).

Verity Murray from Australind parish has written a prayer based on St Paul's prayers for the Thessalonians. A copy of it is on page 6.

Growing in Gratitude

A common theme in the Deeper Prayer feedback has been a growth in praying with thanks. Andrea Nicholson from Oyster Harbour parish explains:

"Week 2 study was Pray with Thanks. We had never thought of thanking God for a person's gifts, character and other attributes as we intercede. It was exciting to be taken through the biblical basis for this, and have a new facet added to our prayer life".

Rev Paul Bartley from Gateway Parish comments:

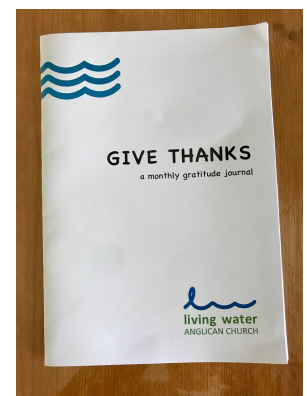
"I was definitely spurred on in thanksgiving and prayer for the Christians I chose to focus on, my mentors over the years."

A new initiative at Living Waters Church (Oyster Harbour Parish) is the creation of a monthly gratitude journal by the pastoral care team for congregation members to record their prayers of thanks each day. The journal is designed to help members to be intentional about being thankful and to discover an ever deepening joy in God.



DEEPER PRAYER

Anglican Diocese of Bunbury 2022



It is not too late to do the Deeper Prayer studies. They can be used at any time of the year. A digital copy of the notes can be found on the diocesan website via the link below.

Printed copies of the notes can also be requested via the Diocesan office.

www.bunburyanglican.org/vision-and-strategy.html

Continue Deepening and Growing your Prayer

SAVE THE DATE
Anglican Diocese of Bunbury LAY RETREAT 5th -7th August 2022



In line with the Bunbury Diocesan Vision, this year's Lay retreat is all about prayer.

'Living Prayer'

It will be a feast of prayer for your senses as you connect with God in the silence. You can create, move, taste, touch and smell as well as listen and experience many different ways to pray. Some will be familiar and others will be new. Some are directly from our tradition and others are modern adaptations. Registration forms will be available in June.


Living Prayer

Lay Retreat
Friday 5th to Sunday 7th August 2022

Retreat Enquiries: Rev'd Vicki Webb 0429323025 or va.webb@bigpond.com

Please save the dates for the Diocesan Lay Retreat and Explore Prayer Day at the Cathedral

THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BUNBURY



EXPLORE PRAYER

MEDITATION / CONTEMPLATION / HEALING PRAYER / EXTEMPORARY PRAYER / LEADING SUNDAY INTERCESSIONS / MUSIC AND PRAYER / PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER / PRAYING WITH ICONS / KINAESTHETIC PRAYER

Saturday September 17th 2022 St. Boniface Cathedral Community Hall

Visit www.bunburycathedral.org.au for details

Even though we have just reached Pentecost it is not too late to check out the **Thy Kingdom Come** website, which many people in the diocese have been accessing and enjoying:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>.



THY KINGDOM COME

Light up the world in prayer
26th May – 5th June 2022
thykingdomcome.global



Combined Churches Prayer

Combined Churches Prayer Meeting

South West Baptist Church
Bunbury Baptist Church
133 Norton Promenade, Dalyellup WA 6230
Sunday July 3rd at 6pm

Please join us for a time of shared worship and prayer for God's Kingdom to come in and through all our churches in the area.

For more information contact us at stnicholasminster@gmail.com

A Prayer for the Diocese of Bunbury based on 1 and 2 Thessalonians

The prayer below was written by Verity Murray, of St Nicholas Church, Australind, after completing the Deeper Prayer Study notes. It is based on the prayers written by St Paul in his letters to the Thessalonians. You may like to use this prayer for your own group, parish or organisation, or for individual Christians you may know. Simply replace the words underlined in the first sentence with your own words.

Dear Father, thank you for each person in the Diocese of Bunbury. Thank you that we have received your word and that your word is at work in each one of us. Thank you for the faith and love we share. Thank you for those who serve sacrificially on our behalf and for all who lead by example with endurance and perseverance.

Father, I pray that you will count each one of us worthy of your calling. I ask that by your power you will fulfil our every good purpose and every action that is sparked by faith. May you be glorified in us and may we be glorified in you. May you provide anything that is lacking in us so that we may grow in maturity in faith.

Please direct our hearts more and more into your love so that, as we receive your love, our love for others will overflow. May we encourage each other and build one another up. May we honour those in authority and live at peace with one another.

I pray that you will sanctify us through and through and that we will be ready and waiting for Jesus' return. Please strengthen our hearts and direct them into Christ's peace and perseverance so that we may overcome everything that opposes our faith or tempts us away from you.

May we live lives that bring honour to you and win the respect of those who are not yet Christians. May the gospel message ring out clearly from each one of us and draw others to faith and relationship with you.

Thank you that you are faithful and you will do it.

In the name of Jesus, Amen

