

VISION AND STRATEGY



Our Vision

***Being the people God is calling us to be through fulfilling the two great Commandments:
to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength,
and our neighbour (anyone we encounter who is in need) as ourselves.***

How are we going with living out this vision for 2021-2025? The vision is broken down into the four strategies (see the boxes opposite) and most of us are now well underway with the second strategy: Learning more about Jesus Christ in order to become more like Christ. If you haven't started yet, or still have some way to go, don't panic! We'll keep this focus going until at least Pentecost. There's more food for thought and inspiration for this strategy inside.

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)

Lent Devotional Booklet and Art Installation at Living Water



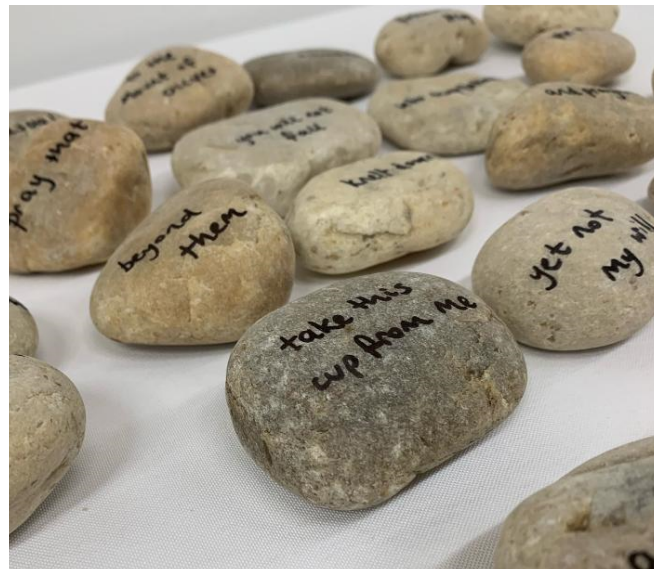
Gethsemane
JESUS PRAYS



Living Water Anglican Church, Oyster Harbour, Albany, are enjoying a unique Lenten experience this year with their own in-house art installation and accompanying devotional booklet.

The art installation invites you to walk with Jesus as He journeys from Gethsemane to Golgotha and to consider at each station, 'What captures me here? What emotions are stirred? Why? What is being brought to light in my own heart?' There are also spiritual disciplines throughout the booklet to practice. These are not a list of things to 'do' but simply ways you can be attentive to God's presence and 'keep company' with Jesus.

A page from the devotion booklet has been reproduced on the next page for your own use.



Learn Christ Resources on Display

Next time you are passing or visiting the Diocesan offices in Bunbury take a little time to peruse the resources on display for the Learn Christ strategy. Most are resources that have been recommended in the Resources Booklet and/or in the Vision and Strategy Newsletters (available on the Diocesan Website)

Spiritual Discipline

WORSHIP

In Matthew 28, as Jesus greets the women, they clasp His feet and worship Him. Worship happens whenever we intentionally cherish God and reveals who or what we value most. The love of these women towards their risen Saviour is fully, beautifully on display.

What about God moves you to worship?

To practice worship:

Focus on and respond to God with your whole being
Offer your body as a “spiritual act of worship” (Romans 12:1)
Respond to God’s truth with loving obedience
Regularly engage with a worshipping community
Seek God’s kingdom first & secondary things second

God-given fruit:

Keeping company with Jesus no matter what happens
Fulfilling your God-given longing to adore and praise your Creator
Meeting God and bringing His heart pleasure.
Filling your mind with the wonder of God
Delighting in the Lord
Growing in faith, hope and love by basking in the presence of God

References: ‘Spiritual Disciplines Handbook’ by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun,
pg 187, 212, 101, 135, 232, 285 & 49y text

Multi-faceted Learning in Gateway Parish, Williams

Rev Paul Bartley Reports

We have a number of initiatives going on at Gateway Parish towards the 'Learn Christ' strategy. We are following a Sunday sermon series on Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount and during Lent a WhatsApp study group is also exploring this theme, using a study guide called, "Reading the Sermon on the Mount with John Stott."



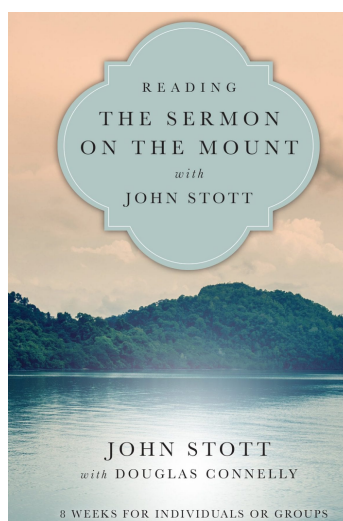
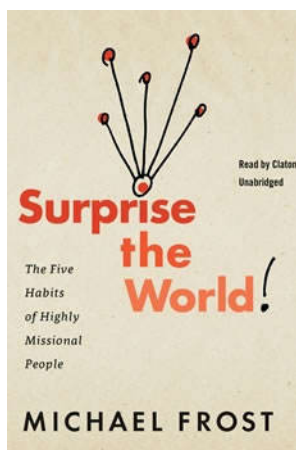
Rev Paul Bartley, Bishop Ian and Revd Justine Richmond

A new mid-week Bible study group for our 4 or 5 highschoolers has recently started. Their focus is Paul's letter to the Philippians and the theme, "Have the Mindset of Christ".

We'll also have a topical sermon on healing and the healing miracles of Christ later in the year.

I am hoping to persuade our local repertory society to do a dramatised gospel reading on Good Friday of Palm Sunday.

Our hope is that we will know Christ in his teaching, his power, his miracles, his grace, his Lordship, his kindness . . . for every age and type of person to know him better.



A Word from Bishop Ian

Michael Frost's little but powerful book, 'Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People', uses an acronym **BELLS: Bless, Eat, Listen, Learn and Send**. The fourth of these habits - **Learn** - was the inspiration for our current 2nd Strategy of "Learning More about Jesus Christ in order to be like Christ".

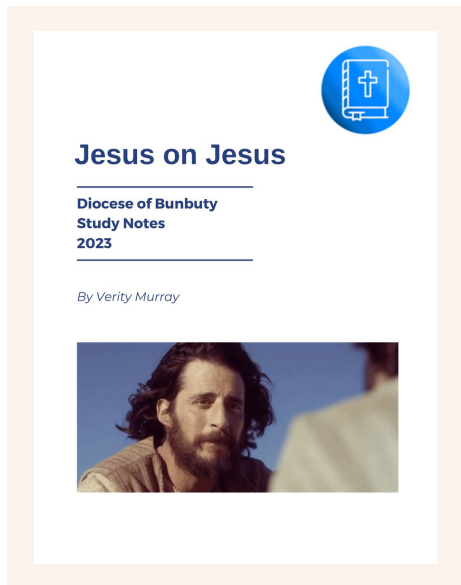
Michael advocates devoting one period each week to learn more about Christ, for two reasons. First, "**the devotional value of growing closer to Jesus Christ**, fostering intimacy with God, hearing the promptings of the Spirit, and sensing his presence through the beauty of the Word in your life."

Second, "**we need to know him if we are going to share him as the reason for the hope we have** as Christians." You will recall 1 Peter 3.15: "Be always ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope."

Indeed, Michael Frost talks about **living "questionable lives"** – not questionable as in dodgy, but questionable as in causing others to ask us such questions. In a sequel book, 'Keep Christianity Weird', Michael Frost notes just how questionable Jesus' ministry and life was, and invites us to follow in these unorthodox and amazing footsteps.

I encourage you, as you read this Newsletter, to see if there are any resources here, or on our website, you have not yet explored that might help you in this significant endeavour. Michael Frost also suggests one direct route is to read the gospel of Mark.

New Diocesan Resource



Jesus on Jesus Study Notes

This six week study focuses on the seven 'I am' statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John. It helps us to explore the question: 'Who is Jesus?', by seeking to understand Jesus' claims about himself. Each of the 'I am' statements, such as, "I am the Light of the World", are not only rich in meaning but also point back to Old Testament prophecies. The picture language Jesus used is vivid and memorable. His statements are also challenging and unequivocal. What do these statements mean for us today as followers of Jesus?

The study notes, written by Verity Murray from St Nicholas Church, Australind, can be used by individuals or small groups. The notes were written to accompany a sermon series on the 'I am' statements of Jesus last November. You can listen to the sermons via the St Nic's website:

www.stnicholasaustralind.org.au.

A copy of the study notes can be found on the Diocesan website:

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

Zoom ALPHA Update

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Rev Jamie Murray of Australind Parish has had to **change the dates for the diocesan wide Zoom Alpha Course**. Originally planned to begin in April, **the course will now run for 9 weeks starting on Tuesday 18th July**.

This Alpha is 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?
- How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?



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.

Education for Ministry



Interested in going deeper? You may like to consider the **Education for Ministry program operating from Christ's Church Mandurah**. EfM Australia is a four-year study and group reflection process for the formation of Christian ministry through the development of knowledge, attitude, skill, and identity as Christians.

Participants enrol in EfM one year at a time, undertaking 35 weeks of study, followed by a final week of celebration, usually with several breaks throughout the year. During the year, group members undertake study relevant to their year level and participate in whole group sharing and learning. There are no essays or exams. Participants keep a journal to record their learning, develop their theological reflections and to make notes of group discussion points.

Each EfM group operates under the authority of the Parish Priest, and has at least one recognized mentor who has undertaken training with EfM Australia. The Mandurah group is the only group currently operating in the Diocese of Bunbury. Around Australia there are both parish based groups that meet face to face, and online groups that meet via Zoom. Contact Wendy Mabey at Christ's Church Mandurah for further information:

www.anglicanchurchmandurah.org.au/contact

How Christlike Are You?

The quiz on the next page is based on a talk on YouTube by American pastor Rick Warren, called, "How to think like Jesus".

This resource is recommended in the diocesan resource booklet which accompanies the 'Learn Christ' strategy.

The quiz is not a test and its not about passing or failing. Our life in Christ is a gift from God! However, you may like to do the quiz to see where you are growing or have grown and also where you may have more room to grow. You might then like to listen to Pastor Rick Warren's talk to find out more, or look at the Bible passages referred to on the quiz.

What's happening in your parish or organisation?

Many thanks to the parishes and organisation that have sent their feedback forms to Bishop Ian, letting us know how you are engaging with the 'Learn Christ' strategy. Please continue to share with us how you are going on this journey.

Christ's Church Mandurah have five students enrolled in the Education for Ministry programme (see opposite column)

Christ's Church Mandurah and Denmark-Walpole Parish both have groups using ABM's "Imaginary Doorway" series for Lent.

Denmark-Walpole also have a group who have expressed interest in watching The Chosen and using the accompanying study guide after Easter.

Wagin-Dumbleyung are trialing monthly fellowship lunches to share experiences of Christian living and life application of the Gospel.

How Christlike are You?

Rate yourself on a scale of 1-5

1=Not really 2= Getting started 3=On the way 4=Almost there 5=Made it!

1. I am confident in my identity as God's child (John 8:14)

1	2	3	4	5
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2. I know the purpose for my life (John 10:10, John 12:27)

1	2	3	4	5
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3. I'm always aware that God is with me. (John 16:32)

1	2	3	4	5
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4. I let God help me choose my words (John 12:49)

1	2	3	4	5
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5. I don't worry about pleasing everyone (John 5:30)

1	2	3	4	5
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6. I depend on God's power not my own (John 5:19)

1	2	3	4	5
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7. I forgive my enemies and those who hurt me (Luke 23:34)

1	2	3	4	5
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8. I'm willing to sacrifice for others (Mark 10:45)

1	2	3	4	5
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9. I want to do God's will, not mine (John 14:31)

1	2	3	4	5
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10. I think with an eternal perspective (Hebrews 12:2)

1	2	3	4	5
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Based on Pastor Rick Warren's Talk, "How to Think like Jesus"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9b44Ghr_zQk&list=PLOik-imxf8RbsqilaTE3tr9jjCbTocFhX

Swedish Method of Bible Study

Here's an easy and effective way to study any Bible passage. You might like to give it a try either by yourself or in a small group. Have a pen and piece of paper or notebook handy.

1. Read a Bible passage - perhaps from one of the gospels.

2. Write down:

Light bulbs: Something that 'shines' from the text—whatever impacts you most or draws your attention. Things that really strike you as significant or new.

Question marks: Anything that is difficult to understand in the text, or a question you'd like to ask the author if you could.

Arrows: Anything that has a personal implication or application for your life or your convictions.

3. **If studying alone**, pray about your lightbulbs, questions and arrow points.

In a group setting, set aside some time to talk together about what you have read.

- Start by praying that God would help you to learn and grow together and encourage each other.
- Share the bits of text you each put a light bulb next to and explain to one another why.
- Next share your question marks. If you feel like you can answer each other's questions, do that. But if they are curly questions, maybe one or both of you can commit to doing some research and coming back to them at your next session.
- Finally, share your arrow applications, and pray together about those and the other things you have learned.

Optional:

You could print out copies of the Bible passages and draw the symbols of the lightbulbs, question marks and arrows next to the relevant places in the text. This is especially helpful for anyone who doesn't like to write too much.

