

# dNews

a newsletter for the Diocese of Ballarat

27 November 2024

## From the Vicar General

### You Don't Look A Day Over 190

The 190th celebration of Anglican (or previously Church of England) worship on the site of the present St Stephen's Portland in the Parish of Lower Glenelg on the lands of the Gunditjmara peoples was a wonderful festive occasion. The sanctuary team look resplendent in their various robes, the flowers were majestic, the church 'spotless' and the atmosphere prayerful. The music, led by the Portland Brass Band filled the church and lifted our voices to praise God and to be grateful for the 'voice of Jesus' that calls us into God's service. The gift of a lovely new piano or keyboard, from the family of the late David Peddie was blessed and will be put to good use into the future. The day was truly a memorable and wonderful celebration.

*There is an report from the parish later in the dNews.*

### Family Discoveries

This week I was able to meet a family member I did not know! The discovery was made through another unrelated family member on another line of my increasing 'family tree'. These discoveries come through a church connection made through a passing phrase or name I mentioned after Mass on a Sunday at St Aidan's Apollo Bay. The mystery of family, faith and connections are something we should all celebrate.

The dNews is now coming out weekly until further notice. Contributions must be made to:

[dnews@ballaratanglican.org.au](mailto:dnews@ballaratanglican.org.au)

by 5pm Tuesday each week.

The Diocese reserves the right to edit content to meet space requirements.

## Dates for your Diary

### Property & Finance Committee

10 December 2024

### Ballarat MU Deanery - 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

28 November @ 10am

St Peter's Anglican Church, Sturt St

### MDC Quiet Day

30 November 2024

Camperdown Abbey

Conductor Rev'd Catie Inches-Ogden

### Ordinations

7 December 2024

St Peter's Ballarat @ 11am

## Advent Quiet Day

This Saturday at St Mark's Abbey, the Reverend Catie Inches-Ogden will led a quiet day. These days, organized by the Ministry Development Committee provide us with the opportunity to turn aside from our busy lives and to sit, pray, listen and reflect in the presence of God. I hope you may find the time to join with others at St Mark's Abbey for the Quiet Day as you begin your Advent Journey.

## Advent Book

I also hope many of you will be using the Advents Prayers and Reflection produced by the Ministry Development Committee this year. The reflection and prayers guide us on the journey through Advent and prepare us for the coming of God's kingdom.

## Hope 25 - <https://www.hope25.com.au/>

God of Hope, You call us to proclaim your love in this uncertain world. By your Spirit, awaken in us a clarity of vision, a certainty of hope, and a dedication to serve, that will draw others to share and celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Ordination

I hope many people from across the diocese can gather for the ordination of Kieth Romanis, Jannie Ryan and Andrew Sexton to the diaconate on Saturday 7th November at St Peter's Ballarat. Please keep the candidates, their families, Fr Matthew Jones the retreat conductor, Fr Michael O'Brien the Archdeacon of Ballarat and Rector of St Peter's, Fr Chris Keast the Bishop's Chaplain and Bishop Garry in your prayers as final preparations are made for this significant celebration in the life of the Diocese.

Fr Scott

## From the MDC

### Advent Quiet Day

**THIS Saturday 30th November 9.30am-3pm**

Please BYO lunch, a hat, sunscreen and insect repellent!

Tea and coffee provided.

Come and prepare yourself for your Advent journey in the quiet surrounds of St Mark's Abbey, Camperdown. Our day will be led by the Revd. Catie Inches Ogden. There will also be time for quiet reflections, and walks in the garden.

### Advent Reflection Material

To help in your journey towards Christmas the MDC has prepared some Advent reflections, consisting of a weekly reflection on the theme for the week, followed by a prayer for each day of the week. There are also some craft activities and some suggestions for music. The Advent booklets can be downloaded from the Diocesan website or hard copies are available from the Bishop's Registry.

<https://ballaratanglican.org.au/advent2024/>

### Hope25 - Hope - in an uncertain world

An initiative of the Mission and Ministry Commission of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia

Hope 25 seeks to empower Australian Anglican parishes and communities in an intentional season of sharing hope in Jesus from Easter to Pentecost in 2025. They provide training resources and materials to help your parish take part in this initiative.

Contact: [www.hope25.com.au](http://www.hope25.com.au)  
info@hope25.com.au

## Thank You Jesus

Thank you Jesus is a small booklet of prayers for children. It can be used with church groups, given at baptisms or used as a gift for children and grandchildren. Hard copies are available from the Diocesan office or it can be downloaded from the diocesan website.

<https://ballaratanglican.org.au/thankyoujesus/>

## On purchasing a Bible to nurture the faith of a young person.

A little while ago a member of the Diocese reached out to the Ministry Development Committee for recommendations for a Bible suitable for a 10 year old as a gift to support their growing faith, a Bible that could be accessed as a young person but also age with them as they got older. The answer given is reproduced below:

It can be challenging to find the right edition for younger people. But what a gift to give!

There are a number of Children's Bibles for younger children, but for an edition that can grow with a teenager you would want to look for an NRSVA (or the latest version, the NRSVUE) or an NIV translation that are true to the text but accessible.

If cost is an issue then I would look at an *NRSVA Children's Bible*: [https://koorong.com/product/nrsvue-children-s-bible-black-letter-edition-ages\\_9781496472014](https://koorong.com/product/nrsvue-children-s-bible-black-letter-edition-ages_9781496472014) It is the same translation that we use in the Anglican Church of Australia and has some engaging illustrations and costs \$25 from Koorong.

If the budget can be stretched then the Catholic Church has produced a really excellent edition in an NIV translation (which is the translation that when I was eleven, I found accessible) with a lot of background information and links in their *Adventure Bible*. There is a Kids version and an Adults "Great Adventure" version. But I think this one [https://koorong.com/product/niv-adventure-bible-gray-black-letter-edition\\_9780310759164?gad\\_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwqre1BhAqEiwA7g9QhnLUjl9VhDu6EloEVHkdinX8t-7Yx1dyE5zHeg\\_tRBNmaNtIabYO8RoCR50QAvD\\_BwE](https://koorong.com/product/niv-adventure-bible-gray-black-letter-edition_9780310759164?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwqre1BhAqEiwA7g9QhnLUjl9VhDu6EloEVHkdinX8t-7Yx1dyE5zHeg_tRBNmaNtIabYO8RoCR50QAvD_BwE) (which is \$75 from Koorong) has a cover that won't embarrass as they get older but also

has really engaging elements on the inside. In its favour, it doesn't say "Children's Bible" which is nice for a 10 year old who will see themselves as soon outgrowing that.

A beautiful option for use by families is *The Book of Belonging: Bible Stories for Kind and Contemplative Kids* by Mariko Clark illustrated by Rachel Eleanor, It is beautifully presented and can be read to very young children and read by all ages. <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/720477/the-book-of-belonging-by-mariko-clark-illustrated-by-rachel-eleanor/>

An amazing and dynamic graphic novel that outlines the Gospel of Mark through the miracles of Jesus by talented artist and storyteller John Hendrix is another option for readers of all ages 10 and up. The custom fonts and dramatic images match the exciting re-telling of Jesus' ministry for all of us!

[https://www.amazon.com.au/Miracle-Man-Story-John-Hendrix/dp/1419718991/ref=tmm\\_hrd\\_swatch\\_0?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=](https://www.amazon.com.au/Miracle-Man-Story-John-Hendrix/dp/1419718991/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=)

*What editions of the Bible have nurtured your faith journey?*

## Anglicare News

### Ballarat and Central Highlands

#### Community Breakfast

We want to thank all those who have donated clothing and toiletries to our Community Breakfast Program throughout this year. What a fantastic job you have done keeping us stocked with essential items.

With warm and humid weather upon us, can we ask anyone intending to make a donation in the coming weeks, to switch from jumpers and warm clothing to T shirts, sunscreen, hats, and roll on deodorant. These are better suited to our breakky guests needs in summer. As ever, single use toiletries and socks are really useful and welcomed all year round.

#### Emergency Relief Centre

We are experiencing a huge demand for Emergency Food Relief. What was once considered a very busy day is now our new normal. A.V staff and volunteers have been doing an amazing job to keep food on the shelves and assist people when they visit us for

help, often keeping our doors open past closing. It is very obviously a difficult time for many people who are struggling to make ends meet.

The university students undertaking their industry placement with us are also doing a stellar job helping to keep our with Christmas registrations process ticking over and also helping staff and volunteers in the mornings at Community Breakfast.

### Christmas Giving Program

Registrations for our Christmas Giving Program are coming in thick and fast, and our Christmas elves are busy packing toy hampers and making preparations for collection. There's still time to donate toys or money to our Ballarat Christmas Program. Any gift small or large will help and be very gratefully received.

Thank you to the wonderful students, teachers and community of Ballarat Anglican Grammar School who have again put up a Christmas Giving tree for us. The Giving Tree invites those in their community to take a gift tag from a branch, with a child's age and gender and buy a gift to place under the tree. It's a beautiful way for a family to make a considered and meaningful difference to a local child – perhaps one who shares the same age and interests as their own children. All gifts will be donated to Anglicare Victoria Ballarat's Christmas Program.

## MU Thought for the Week

### Season of Advent

'Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord' (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

'Advent' is such a special word. We tend to reserve it for the coming of someone or something really significant – 'the advent of spring', 'the advent of the Prince', 'The advent of our first grandchild'. Once the advent is here, life changes. No accident then that we use it of this time of year. Our lives, in fact human history, is now bounded by two great advents. When we look back, we see the coming of Jesus. When we look ahead, we see the return of Jesus, his coming again. Just as the first coming fills us with joy, so the second coming fills us with hope. This world with all its pain and



suffering and evil is not all there is. One day, the Lord will return and our future is to be with him forever. What glory awaits!

**Question for thought:** Am I ready for the return of Jesus?

## Townsend News

### Townsend dates for 2025

February 12th - Our World President will be visiting Ballarat. We raised \$770 at our coffee morning towards the World Travel Fund. Many thanks to all attended and made this effort possible.

March 1 - St. John's Parish Fair

March 31st, June 30th, September 30th (World Day of Prayer)

30th November - Christmas lunch.

New members always welcome.

## Celebrating 190 Years of Worship at St Stephen's

On The Feast of Christ the King, St Stephen's celebrated a remarkable milestone: 190 years of worship on our site. The day was filled with thanksgiving, music, and fellowship as we honoured our rich heritage and looked ahead with hope.



The Ven Canon Rev'd Scott Lowrey, our Vicar General and Archdeacon of the South West, presided and preached for the occasion. In a moment of novelty and humour, Fr Scott delivered his sermon from our historic Henty Pulpit (see photo above) —something he found both amusing and unique, as he confessed he had never preached from the pulpit in his own church!

Music was a central feature of the celebration. The Portland City Band filled the church with vibrant sounds, while our specially formed choir led the congregation in spirited hymn singing. Michael Ashby, as our soloist, gave a moving performance, accompanied on the newly blessed piano by Bronwyn Russell. This piano, a generous gift from David Peddie's bequest, added a new dimension of beauty to our worship.

The service also included the commissioning of our newest Parish Councillor, David Mills, and the Eucharist, which brought us together in faith. To mark the occasion, four banksias were planted on the church grounds, symbolizing growth, resilience, and hope for future generations.



The celebrations continued with a delightful luncheon in the hall, where the spirit of fellowship was evident in the lively conversations and shared joy. Our eldest parishioner, Beryl Kinghorn, concluded the festivities by cutting the anniversary cake—a sweet and memorable finale to a truly special day. (see photo above)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this momentous celebration. Together, we gave thanks for 190 years of faith, service, and community, and we look forward with gratitude and hope to all that lies ahead.

*Rev. Wendy Morecroft*