THE BATHURST ANGLICAN

The Newsletter of All Saints Cathedral Parish Bathurst

16th August 2026 - Pentecost 12

Who Is God Bringing Through Our Doors?

One of the things that I've come to appreciate about cathedral ministry is that we never quite know who will come through our doors. Alongside familiar faces are visitors, tourists, people searching for something they perhaps can't quite name, people carrying grief or disappointment, and sometimes people wondering whether the Church has a place for them at all.

That makes Isaiah's words particularly important for us: *"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."* In today's Gospel, the Canaanite woman is precisely the sort of person whom respectable religious people might have overlooked. She is an outsider, and the disciples want Jesus to send her away. But she persists: "Lord, help me." Jesus eventually says something remarkable: "Woman, great is your faith!"

It makes me wonder how often God places people before us who do not fit our expectations. We can say, "Everyone is welcome," and genuinely mean it. But welcome involves more than having open doors. It means noticing people. It means making room. It means being willing to cross the comfortable circle of familiar friendships and speak to someone standing alone. It means resisting the temptation to decide who belongs and who doesn't.

Isaiah reminds us that it's God who says, "I will gather others."
That is an important word for any cathedral. We are custodians of a beautiful building and inheritors of a rich tradition, but neither exists simply for ourselves. God has entrusted them to us so that others might encounter Jesus Christ.

Perhaps the question for each of us this week is wonderfully simple:
Who is God bringing through our doors—and what kind of Church will they discover when they arrive? May they discover among us not merely an open door, but open hearts.

Dean James

Psalm 133

1 Behold how good and pleasant it is
to dwell together in unity.

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head,
running down upon the beard,

3 Even on Aaron's beard,
running down upon the collar of his clothing.

4 It is like the dew of Hermon
running down upon the hills of Zion.

5 For there the Lord has promised his blessing:
even life for evermore.

HYMNS

ENTRANCE: **141** *Praise to the Holiest*

GRADUAL: **452** *God of Mercy*

OFFERTORY: **136** *There is a Wideness*

ANTHEM: *Panis Angelicus*

FINAL:**459** *In Christ there is no East or West*

TODAYS READINGS IN CONTEXT

Isaiah 56:1,6-8 This passage is written to a returned Jewish community in Jerusalem struggling with disappointment, identity, and social exclusion after the Babylonian exile.

Romans 11:13-32 The Apostle Paul explains how God uses the temporary rejection of the gospel by ethnic Israel to bring salvation to the non-Jewish world

Matthew 15: 21-28 Jesus travels to the Gentile region of Tyre and Sidon and heals a Canaanite woman's demon-possessed daughter.

FOR PRAYER

THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION
The Anglican Church of Wales

THE DIOCESE
St Barnabas Orange
• Give thanks for God's generous provision and many blessings in 2025, and for a number of new people who have joined us in the past year. • Pray for Ben & Bron and their family as they adjust to life in a new town and prepare for a new season of ministry here. • Pray for the church in a period of transition as Bob & Fiona conclude their ministry and Ben becomes the Rector from the beginning of May. • Ask God to graciously bring people to church who do not yet know him, and that they might come to faith in his Son through our ministry here.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Ordinations
Xanthe and Rob Yemm will be ordained as deacons and Jim Kapetangiannis and Robbie Nichols will be ordained as priests in the Cathedral on Saturday 22nd August at 11am. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Safe Ministry Training
This will be held in the hall today between 1 and 2:30pm

Christianity Explored
This excellent program will commence in September. It may be a good opportunity to invite someone you know to come along.
Details will be available soon.

PARISH GROUPS

KINGDOM KIDS: For K-6, at the Sunday 10am service, during term time
FELLOWSHIP: 1st Monday of month, 10.30am — Bring your handwork/lunch. P: 6331 4711 for venue
BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday 7:30pm | 1st Wednesday of the month, 12 noon — Wednesday 7:30pm — Call Phil 0411 281 915 | Thursday 7:30pm — Call Phil 0411 281 915
MU: Mothers Union — 4th Tuesday each month, 5.30pm — Abbott Room, Cathedral
PRAYER GROUP: 1st Monday each month, 5.30pm — Abbott Room
CHOIR: Each Thursday, 7.00pm — Abbott Room
BELLRINGERS: Wednesday 6pm — Belltower. Enquiries: Richard 0409 633 789
DANCE: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 2-5pm — Walshaw Hall. $10pp P: 0421 871 348 | E: infowillamer@gmail.com

10am Contemporary Service *With Rob Yemm*

Assistant Minister - Bathurst Anglican Cathedral

In the 10am Service, we are looking at the letter to the Colossians.

One thing that has stuck out to me is how central Jesus is to the Christian faith.

In Colossians 1:15-20 Paul paints an amazing picture of Jesus who is the maker and sustainer of all things, that Jesus created and sustains both creation and his Church as its head.

I don't know if this is true for you but I find it is so tempting to look at other things for my spiritual sustenance, like books, walks in nature, or even serving in church, but Paul warns us that nothing other than Jesus can truly sustain us in the Christian life.

All the other things that we turn to, as nice as they are, cannot replace Jesus as our ruler and sustainer. They just don't have the qualifications!

SERVICES

Cathedral
Monday 8.30am
Tuesday
Wednesday 8.30am
Thursday 8.30am BCP
Friday 10.00am
Saturday 5.00pm (6pm DST)
Sunday Choral Eucharist 8.30am
Sunday Contemporary 10.00am

St Barnabas
Sunday 10.00am
3rd Thursday 10.30am

St Peters Rockley
1st Sunday 10.30am

St Pauls Yetholme
1st Sunday 11am

St Stephens Fitzgeralds Valley
4th Sunday 2.00pm

Holy Spirit Turondale
4th Sunday 2.00pm

Healing Service
1st Sunday 3:30pm

CLERGY

Dean The Very Rev James Hodson
Assoc Minister Rev Phil Howes
Assistant Ministers Rob & Xanthe Yemm
Honorary Clergy
Rev Clare Percival
Bishop Richard Hurford
Rev Anastasia Webster-Hawes
Rev Paul Woodhart

WARDENS

Sue West | Jane Francis | Robyn Holland

OFFICE

11 Church Street, Bathurst
P: 6331 4711
PO Box 258, Bathurst 2795
Tuesday 9am-1pm | Wednesday 9am-1pm

BANKING DETAILS

All Saints' Cathedral
BSB: 082441 | Acct: 392431546

WEBSITE
www.bathurstanglicancathedral.org.au

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
my whole being shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn
and her salvation like a burning torch.
2 The nations shall see your vindication
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
3 You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the Lord
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

For the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval, 4 for it is God's agent for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the agent of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. 6 For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's agents, busy with this very thing. 7 Pay to all what is due them: taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. 8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12 the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13 let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

For the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." 23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." 24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." 26 He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." 27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." 28 Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

For the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ