



Anglican News

a magazine for the Anglican Community across the Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn



A New Church for Canberra's Fastest Growing Region

The Parish of St Peter's Weston Molonglo has announced the appointment of The Reverend Ronaldo Sanchez to lead the establishment of a new congregation in the Molonglo Valley, in the ACT.

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Annie's Place
Celebrates 30-yrs



Find a Christmas Service Near You

Celebrate Christmas with a local Anglican Church

Christmas Across the Diocese
Visit our website to find a service near you

Bishop Mark's REFLECTION

Living in an area of LED lightbulbs and powerful searchlights it is easy for us to miss how fragile and vulnerable light sources were in the ancient world. A candle could be snuffed out, a torch could be extinguished by the wind, an oil lamp made of clay could be dropped and smashed.

It's one reason why the Jewish story of Hanukkah – the account of a supply of olive oil sufficient for one day which miraculously lit the re-dedicated temple for eight days – resonates so profoundly with members of that community.

Perhaps because of this fragility the ancients were also aware of the power of light. Light protected you from danger, it guided your way and strengthened your hope.

This combination of apparent fragility and profound strength is evident in the first Chapter of John's Gospel. John meditates on the events of Christmas. In Jesus the true light, which gives light to everyone, comes into the world (verse 9). Yet that same world does not recognise Him for who He is (verse 10). But to all who do recognise and receive Him, there is the power to become God's children (verse 12). *"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it."* (verse 5).

Here is the wonder of Christmas: the vulnerable baby lying in the feed-trough is also God's eternal Word. This Word is powerful enough to hold together the entire universe; strong enough to still a raging storm, mighty enough to defeat sin and death forever.

Where do we find the strength to confront the kind of evil that was unleashed on Bondi Beach the evening of Sunday December 14? Perhaps where we least expect to do so; in the light of the world, whose apparent weakness is strong enough to give life and hope and a future to all who believe in Him. Even now He commissions His followers to bring that same light to their world by mourning with those who mourn and by making peace (see Matthew 5:1-16).

*Almighty God,
you have made us and all
things to serve you:
come quickly to save us,
so that wars and violence
shall end
and your children may
live in peace,
honouring one another
with justice and love;
through Jesus Christ,
your Son our Lord,
Who lives with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now & forever.*

Amen

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Anglican News

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Contribute to Our News!

Submissions & Advertising

The *Anglican News* welcomes submissions of articles, photographs and advertisements that highlight ministry and mission initiatives across the Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn, or explore new ways of engaging a world of difference with the love and truth of Jesus.

All **article** and **advertisement** submissions must be received by the 15th day of the month prior to publication.

For example, 15th January for inclusion in the February edition.

All **events** submissions must be received at least one month before the event.

For example, a June event must be submitted in May or earlier.

Please email submissions and enquiries to:

anglicannews@anglicancg.org.au

Inclusion of articles and advertising material is at the discretion of the editors. Any statements or opinions expressed in articles published in this magazine are attributed to the identified author and are not necessarily endorsed by or representative of the Diocese or its officers.



St Peter's
Anglican Church
WESTON MOLONGLO

A New Church for Canberra's Fastest Growing Region

The Parish of St Peter's Weston Molonglo has announced the appointment of The Reverend Ronaldo Sanchez to lead the establishment of a new congregation in the Molonglo Valley, in the ACT.



Pictured: Rev'd Ronaldo Sanchez & wife

Reverend Sanchez, currently an assistant minister in the parish of Curtin, was appointed to the role in October following an extensive recruitment process.

The desire for a Molonglo Valley-based congregation has been on the hearts of St Peter's members for over a decade, as the area grew from a handful of residents to well over 15,000—with thousands more to come.

These hopes neatly aligned with plans for the new Stromlo Forest Anglican College to provide a home for a worshipping Anglican community.

"The sense of gospel partnership between St Peter's, the College, and others in the diocese has been so encouraging," says the rector of St Peter's, the Reverend Nick Colyer.

"Bishop Mark and the Exploratory Ministries Unit have been supportive from the start, and the churches of the South Canberra deanery are right behind the church plant."

The foundation principal of Stromlo Forest Anglican College, Mr Andy Gordon, echoes the sense of partnership. *"We want this to be more than just a tenancy agreement,"* Mr Gordon says.



Stromlo Forest
ANGELICAN COLLEGE

"Having an Anglican congregation in our school is a vital part of who we want to be: a College that commends Christ to families and invites them to worship."

— Mr Andy Gordon

Mr Gordon was one of the members of the panel that recruited Reverend Sanchez to the role. *“Ronaldo is very gifted, and I am looking forward to seeing what God will bring out of his leadership of this new congregation.”*

After spending his childhood years in Canberra Reverend Sanchez moved to Sydney for study, where a work colleague led him to faith in Christ.

Following theological study and ordination, he initially ministered in western Sydney, but returned to Canberra in 2022 as an assistant minister in the parish of Good Shepherd in Curtin.

“We’re going to really miss our church family at Good Shepherd,” says Reverend Sanchez. *“We’ve loved serving here and seeing people come to Christ and grow in him.”*

As a resident of the Molonglo Valley, however, Reverend Sanchez has a heart to see his neighbours in the region come to know Jesus.

“My kids go to school here, my wife Meghan and I love this local community. There are so many people here who don’t yet know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, and we want to play our part in changing that.”

Bishop Mark Short says the church plant is an example of what it means for the diocese to be bold for Jesus.

“Launching a new church in a new area means having the courage to take a risk. But for the sake of people knowing the love a truth of Jesus, it is certainly worth it,” he says.

“It’s my prayer that Anglicans and other Christians living in and around the Molonglo Valley will join with Ronaldo in this venture—perhaps by joining the launch team, by prayer, or by giving financially.”

Reverend Sanchez will begin a year of preparation in February 2026, before formally launching public services in 2027.

The year of preparation will involve the recruitment and training of a launch team, relationship-building in the community and the College, fundraising, research into the local area, prayer, and more.

To learn more about the church plant, visit www.westonmolonglo.church/molonglo-anglican-church.



CLICK HERE TO DISCOVER MORE →





Pictured: Photo: © The Junee Bulletin

Annie's Place Celebrates 30-years

Junee's much-loved opportunity shop, Annie's Place, marked a significant milestone Saturday, 15 November 2025 celebrating 30 years of community service, connection and quiet generosity.

The Broadway op-shop, operated by St Luke's Anglican Parish, has become a staple in the lives of locals since its doors first opened in 1995.

What began as a small idea to support mission work has grown into a thriving community hub, powered by more than 30 volunteers.

The store hosted a community birthday event featuring a free sausage sizzle, morning tea and a ceremonial cake cutting.

Co-coordinator Peter Nell said the celebration was less about the building, and more about the people and purpose behind it.

"Annie's has become more than just a charity shop — it's been a lifeline, a meeting place, a treasure trove and a symbol of hope," Peter said.

"Whether it was providing affordable clothing, household goods, or simply a warm smile and a listening ear, Annie's has touched countless lives in ways both big and small."

A Big Idea From a Big Heart

Annie's Place was established in 1995 when parish member Iris Gamble approached the church with an idea to open an op-shop that would raise funds for mission work and help locals in need.

The store was named after the former St Anne's Mission Hall in Regent Street, a building that served the Anglican community from 1930 until its closure in 1994.

Though the hall eventually became a private residence, its legacy lives on through Annie's Place.

"Thirty years ago, Iris saw a need, felt a calling, and took action," Peter said.

"Her vision was simple — to create a space where generosity, dignity and care could flourish. And flourish it did."

Annie's first operated from a Broadway building that previously housed a chicken shop.



Eventually, the local Barrett family purchased the premises and leased it to St Luke’s, before Iris later secured a loan and paid the building off, allowing the church to take ownership.

Today, the store forms part of the St Luke’s Church Property Trust, with all funds raised poured directly back into missions and helping locals.

Quiet Support When People Need It Most

While many know Annie’s Place as a second-hand treasure trove offering clothing, shoes, toys, books, bric-a-brac and homewares, fewer realise how far its impact reaches.

Profits from the store help support a young missionary working overseas, presentation day awards for local schools, and quiet, confidential assistance for locals facing hardship — including paying for urgent medication or essential items.

“We don’t want a pat on the back for anything we do,” Peter said.

“We try to keep it anonymous. If someone in town is struggling, we find out the situation, and if we can, we help — quietly.”

“We just want to be able to give and help people who need that help.”

The shop also doubles as a safe place for conversation, comfort and connection.

“People come in just needing someone to talk to. There’s a lot of ministry that happens in that building,” Peter said, describing the store as

“a beacon of generosity & love.”

Renovates. Refreshed. Renewed.

More than 30 volunteers — a mix of parish members and community locals — keep the op-shop running.


Recent renovations have refreshed the store, making it brighter and more functional, with new carpet, fresh paint, a dedicated sorting room, and upgraded interiors.

“We’ve got the building in A1 condition,” Peter said.

“Our volunteers love working there because it’s clean and nice, and they feel looked after.”


“They give their time, their energy and their hearts — that’s what makes Annie’s what it is. None of this would have been possible without them.”

Celebrate Christmas with a local Anglican Church



**Find a
Christmas Service
Near You**

[CLICK HERE](#)



WHAT'S ON AT ST MARK'S



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Do you have an existing degree in any discipline?

Do you want to dive deeper into theology?

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Our Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies is a 4-subject course to get you started on a new journey of learning. For example, you could study:

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- Intro to New Testament
- Intro to Old Testament
- Elective Choice

EMAIL DAVID NEVILLE TO FIND OUT MORE →

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THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

Discover the richness of Matthew, Mark, and Luke and deepen your understanding of Jesus' life and ministry in their shared but distinctive witness to the significance of Jesus.

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 Online lectures

Please enrol using the QR code or at www.stmarks.edu.au



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Step through the glass: a new look at enchantment



LIVE WEBINAR

STEP THROUGH THE GLASS: A NEW LOOK AT ENCHANTMENT

Has the world lost its magic since you grew up? Join Dr Aden Cotterill and Dr Jacqueline Service as they explore the theme of enchantment in our modern life.

 December 18, 5-6pm

 Online

Please register using the QR code or at www.stmarks.edu.au



REGISTER HERE →

St Mark's 2026 Commencement Lecture

A Church for Seekers and Dwellers



Join us for the St Mark's Commencement service, and you'll hear a fresh perspective on how the Holy Spirit may be at work in our culture today. Our newest faculty member, Aden Cotterill, will speak to us on how we support contemporary rise in spiritual seeking, while also holding onto the value of "dwelling" - those who find a home and comfort in the stability of the church as an institution. Aden has been completing a PhD in Christian Theology at the University of Cambridge, where he has researched Charles Taylor and Tomáš Halík's on faith and doubt.

REGISTER HERE →



25 February 2026 | 5:30pm-7:30pm

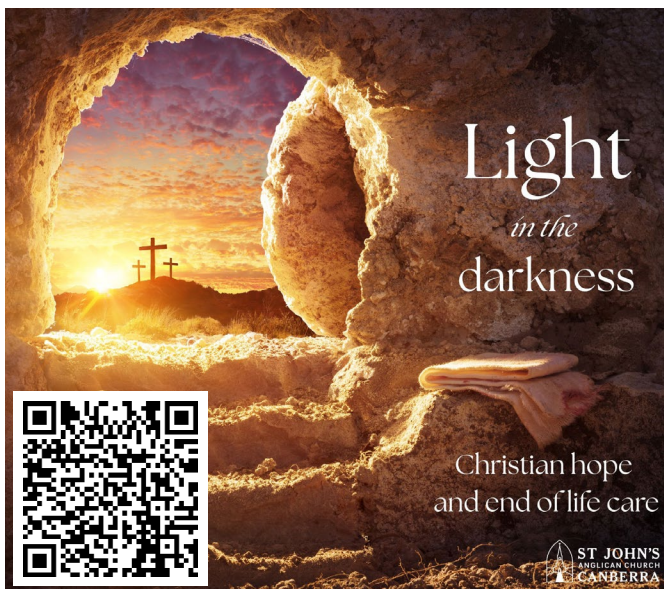
Clergy News

- † **The Reverend Gaynor Elder** was Ordained as Priest and licensed as Chaplain, The Australian Federal Police, and Honorary Assistant Priest Queanbeyan and District Anglican Church on 29 November 2025.
- † **The Reverend Susan Robertson** was Ordained as Priest and licensed as Assistant Priest, Cartwright Mission District, and Senior Chaplain Anglicare on 29 November 2025.
- † **The Reverend Sean Heslehurst** was granted an Authority to Officiate on 2 December 2025.
- † **The Reverend David Hilliard** was granted an Authority to Officiate on 2 December 2025.
- † **The Reverend Douglas Newman** was granted an Authority to Officiate on 2 December 2025.
- † **The Right Reverend John Stead** had his Authority to Officiate renewed on 14 October 2025.
- † **The Venerable Joy Harris** has resigned as Rector of Abercrombie Living Waters Anglican Parish (formerly Crookwell) and Taralga Parish after 31 December 2025 and as Archdeacon for Goulburn and the Southern Tablelands effective 8 December 2025.
- † **The Reverend Lance Lawton** has moved to Victoria and relinquished his ATO from 1 December 2025.
- † **The Reverend Douglas Newman** has resigned as Rector of Batemans Bay Parish after 30 November 2025 (and has been granted an Authority to Officiate).
- † **The Reverend Cameron West** has been posted to Darwin and is no longer licensed in this Diocese, effective 26 December 2025.

Parish News



- † On 27 October Bishop-in-Council passed a resolution abolishing the parishes of Crookwell and Binda and establishing the **Abercrombie Living Waters Anglican Parish**, covering the area previously covered by the parishes of Binda and Crookwell with effect as and from 5pm on the 27 October 2025.

Upcoming Events



Light
in the
darkness

Christian hope
and end of life care

Light in the Darkness: Christian hope and end of life care. With 'voluntary assisted dying' (VAD) now implemented in the ACT, there's still room for care shaped by the hope of the resurrection. At this half-day conference, Professor Megan Best, an expert in palliative care, will address the impact of VAD for carers and patients. We will also hear some Christian thinking about suffering and death.

- 9.30am – 3.00pm
- Saturday 28th February 2026
- St John's Anglican Church Hall
- 45 Constitution Avenue Reid
parking onsite or in Amaroo Street

Program details, and bookings essential, at www.trybooking.com/DHUQY (or via the QR code).

\$46 per head or early bird \$38 until 12 January 2026.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

APPEAL 2025

This Christmas, you can keep children smiling bright by supporting education in Sri Lanka and around the world.



DONATE ONLINE

www.abmission.org/Advent2025





PRAYER

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025


We give you thanks, Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, for the opportunities that peace affords.


We thank you for improved educational prospects: quality education for pre-schoolers where children of all religions – Hindu, Muslim and Christian – are learning and growing together in harmony; excellent tuition for teens, helping them to step out into good careers; transformative training for women allowing them to set up businesses; and the provision of clean water for the community.

We thank you for these blessings, and we ask you to prosper all those in Australia who help to enable this work through their generosity and interest.



Hear our prayer for your Name's sake.

Amen






TAKING JESUS TO THE BUSH AND SHAPING GENERATIONS...





Across rural, regional and remote Australia there are tens of thousands of people who may never hear the name of Jesus.

You can be part of training the **next 25** future ministers, reaching the **next 25** communities, building the **next 25** ministry initiatives and taking the Good News of Jesus to those longing to hear.

Giving your best gift before 31 December to help meet a \$420,000 funding goal means your legacy can echo for decades to come.





NEXT25

bushchurchoaid.com.au/next25pa

SHIFTING YOUR GIVING

Why Financial Gifts Make a Bigger Impact in Emergency Relief



When Libby and her 4-year-old son arrived at Gordon community Centre on a Friday morning, they were incredibly thankful to receive a bag of food to get them through the next week. But unfortunately, the centre had just run out of laundry detergent—so their washing would have to wait.

Meanwhile, in Queanbeyan, our Emergency Relief team had plenty of detergent—but no pasta sauce for Roger, who was preparing dinner on a hotplate in his temporary accommodation.

These stories highlight a key challenge in delivering Emergency Relief: logistics. It is impossible to predict which items will be in highest demand—or where—in any given week.

With half of renting households in NSW and the ACT experiencing food insecurity*, families are prioritising rent and utilities—leaving gaps in their ability to afford food, hygiene products, and household essentials like dish soap and detergent. That’s where Anglicare steps in.

But operating without a regular, consistent funding source makes this work even harder. That’s why flexible, financial gifts are so important.

While we deeply appreciate donations of food and essentials, monetary gifts give us the flexibility to respond quickly and effectively. They allow us to buy exactly what is needed—whether it’s detergent for Libby or pasta sauce for Roger—without the added cost of transporting goods between centres or renting storage units.

Simply put, dollars go further. They’re more efficient, more adaptable, and more impactful.

As we enter the Christmas season, when demand is at its peak, consider shifting your giving. A dollar donated today provides exactly what is needed tomorrow.

Thank you for standing with us—and with the families who rely on Anglicare’s Emergency Relief services.



*FoodBank Hunger Report 2025



We need your help!

Anglicare provides emergency food relief to families in crisis across the Canberra region. Christmas is always a time of high demand.

We need your help to reach families who are struggling.

Your donation will change lives this Christmas. Give Now.



anglicare.com.au/give



EVENT SUBMISSIONS

We welcome submissions from across the Diocese!

To have your event featured, please email us at anglicannews@anglicancg.org.au and include your **event flyer/image** at least **1 month prior** to the event date. Ad submissions should preferably be high-resolution PDF, PNG, or JPEG files, ideally formatted to suit a quarter-page A4 layout.

Events will be promoted until they occur in the both the Anglican News and on the Diocesan website. Placement may not be guaranteed.

VIEW ALL UPCOMING EVENTS ONLINE →

Diocesan VACANCIES



Anglican Diocese of
Canberra & Goulburn



Rector

Bega Parish, NSW



Rector

Sapphire Coast Parish, NSW



Hope Ginninderra Anglican

Rector

Hope Ginninderra, ACT



Rector

Cooma Parish, NSW



Rector

Murrumburrah-Harden Parish, NSW

+ ST MATTHEW'S

Children's Evangelist & Pastor

St Matthew's Wanniasa, ACT



Wagga Anglican

Rector

Wagga Wagga Parish, NSW



Rector

Southern Monaro Parish, NSW

www.anglicancg.org.au/positions-vacant

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MORE & APPLY
TODAY!**

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“May the God of *hope* fill you with all joy and peace
in faith so that you overflow with hope by the
power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13