

DIOCESAN CALL TO PRAYER FOR A NEW BISHOP

The time is fast approaching when we will be called upon to elect a new bishop to lead us into the future. This comes at a crucial time not only for our Diocese but for the Anglican Church in Australia and worldwide. We cannot underestimate the importance of the decision we are about to make.

It is vital that we do not seek to do this in our own strength and wisdom, but instead submit ourselves to God and seek His leading in this matter. I am therefore writing to all parishes to urge earnest prayer for guidance as to who should lead our church into the future. God promises that when two or three are gathered in Jesus' name, He will hear our prayers.

Therefore, all parishes are invited to commit themselves to active personal and corporate prayer, on a regular basis, leading up to and during the election Synod in October/November. To assist in this commitment, this letter contains some prayer points, a written prayer, and some ideas as to how you can be part of this Diocesan call to prayer.

How can your parish get involved?

- Commit to praying regularly for this issue in your existing small groups, bible studies, prayer groups, and prayer chains.
- Include the election on your weekly list of prayer points in the pew sheet
- Choose a day of the week, and ask your parishioners to commit to praying on this day every week for the election.
- Get together with your clergy and Synod reps before the Election Synod and pray with them
- Join the Diocesan Prayer Vigil on Election weekend in October/November (see below)

Prayer points

- Pray for the candidates, that they would be prayerful about the result of the election, and open to God's leading for the future, whatever it may hold.
- Pray that God will guide the Electoral Committee in their work towards the election.
- Pray for all clergy and members of Synod as they prepare for and gather at Election Synod, that they will be prayerful and open to God's guidance in their decision-making.
- Pray for Bishops Allen and Trevor and other senior clergy, as they lead the Diocese through this interim period, that God will sustain and strengthen them, and give them wisdom in all they do.
- Pray for the Anglican Church in our Diocese, Australia and world-wide, that we will continue to be faithful messengers of God's truth in an ever-changing world.

Diocesan Prayer Vigil in November

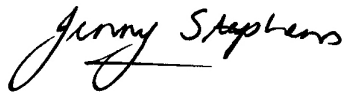
A Diocesan prayer vigil is planned for the weekend of the Election Synod to be held 31st October – 2nd November 2008. We invite parishes to assist us in providing

continuous prayer coverage, between the hours of 8am and 8pm, on each day that Synod is in Session. If you wish to be part of this, please contact Jenny Stephens (Parish of Gungahlin) on 02 6255 6724 (AH) or stepjenny@gmail.com

A Prayer for the election of a new bishop

Eternal God, shepherd and guide,
in your mercy give your Church in this diocese
a shepherd after your own heart
 who will walk in your ways,
 and with loving care watch over your people.
Grant us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth.
So your Church may be built up
 and your name glorified;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[From *A Prayer Book for Australia*, p212]

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Stephens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jenny Stephens
Gungahlin Anglican Church