

Weekly News

Synod

Good morning and welcome to Church. It's great to have you here especially if you're new or visiting. We'd love to meet you after church over a cup of tea.

Next Saturday the Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney will begin its annual sitting. The Synod will meet in the city at the Wesley Theatre on Pitt St, apart from the first day which will be held at Rouse Hill Anglican College. The reason for this first day excursion is to highlight the changing nature of Sydney and its impact on Anglican ministry particularly in the ever-expanding greenfield developments in the West and South-west.

In the coming weeks, I will write a few articles about the things that are discussed and decided. This week however I will write more generally about Synod and what it is.

Different Anglican Diocese around the world (and even within Australia) are organised in different ways. Congregations, Ministers, Synods and Bishops have varying degrees of authority as well as different areas of responsibility. In this article, I'll just be speaking about our system here in the Sydney Diocese (we sit almost at its western border). I should begin by explaining that the 'Synod' is simply a council or parliament of the Anglican Churches of Greater Sydney.

In our Diocese the Synod has one sitting each year. That sitting consists of 5 days of meetings over a period of 2 weeks (plus the bonus Saturday). Each day begins at 3:15pm and concludes at 9pm. This is in order to limit the disruption for members of Synod who work for someone other than a church.

The Synod primarily consists of three people from each of the Parishes in the Diocese. The rector as well as two elected lay (not clergy) representatives. That's me, Adam Court and Stephen Hodgkinson. There are also representatives from various Diocesan organisations as well as the Archbishop and Bishops.

The primary task of the Synod is to govern the Diocese of Sydney. Many significant decisions relating to finance, property and ministry at a Diocesan level are made at Synod. During the year Standing Committee (which is a subcommittee of Synod) meets regularly so that smaller day to day decisions can be made on behalf of the Synod.

The Synods' primary role is to support churches as they do ministry in the Diocese. It is also worth remembering that Synod is responsible for a very large collection of Anglican Schools, Retirement villages, Anglicare and Youthworks.

If you are interested in knowing more about this year's Synod you can find all the pre-reading material and the agenda for each day posted on the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat website (<https://www.sds.asn.au/>). There is a vast array of material there to read including several reports which were commissioned by last year's Synod.

Finally, whilst Synod is a gathering of elected and representative members, it is also a public meeting. Anyone and everyone is welcome to come and sit in the public gallery. Synod will be meeting Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week (16th, 17th 18th Sept), followed by Monday and Tuesday (23rd, 24th Sept) the following week. Let me know if you'd like to make an appearance.

Yours in Christ, Tim.

BCA Boxes—September is box opening month, if you have a BCA money box for your small change, now is the time to bring it to church. St Aidan's box secretary is Annabel Childs and St Peter's is Carol Crowther.

Both these ladies would welcome you bringing your box to them sometime this month. If you don't have a box and would like to support Bush Church Aid with your small change, then speak to either of these ladies to get a box.

Christianity Explored—an 8 week course suitable for a convinced atheist or committed Christians (or anyone in between), will start this afternoon in St Aidan's Church hall in Blackheath from 2—3.30pm. Rowan Coull will be running this course, exploring what makes the Christian faith unique by looking at the life of Jesus in Mark's Gospel. People won't be asked to sing or pray aloud, you don't need to know anything about the Bible to get a lot out of it. Speak to Rowan after the service if you or anyone you know might be interested.

Notes

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BLACKHEATH

St. Aidan's Blackheath, St. Peter's Mt Victoria,
St. John's Hartley, St. George's Mt Wilson

CENTRED ON CHRIST

Building up One Another, Reaching Out to the World

Sunday 8th September, 2024

SERVICES FOR TODAY

8.45am Mt Victoria —Morning Service

10.30am Blackheath— Morning Service

3.00pm Mt Wilson—Communion Service

6.30pm—Night Church

First Reading—Job 15:1-35

Second Reading—Luke 18:1—17

Welcome

Next Sunday 15th September, 2024

Bible Readings

1st Reading—Job 16:1-22

2nd Reading—Luke 18:18-43

Sermon—Rowan Coull

Prayers

St Peter's : Deb Orford. **St Aidan's**: Jodie Mclver.

Night Church: Terry.

Minister: Rev Tim Mclver

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