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BISHOP OF TASMANIA

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“A YEAR IN THE SADDLE”

The first Bishop of Tasmania, Francis Russell Nixon spent his time travelling through the Diocese on an actual horse and saddle. I have had the luxury of a modern motor vehicle, but we share in common, spending a great deal of time “on the road” visiting people and churches, in an attempt (quoting the ordinal) to “know and be known by” the people of God in this Diocese.

Since I commenced my role on March 18 last year, I have driven about 35,000 kms, visited 43 parishes for Sunday services (that leaves 5 to go), made 57 flights, have given 119 talks or sermons, and have had 103 nights away from home. It is has been a sheer joy to get to know, and hopefully be known by, the wonderful people God in our Diocese.

Today we embark on a new chapter of our life together; some significant changes as we set out on a new plan of ministry for the Diocese. I am excited to share a Diocesan Vision with you today. But before I do that, I want to make some reflections on my “year in the saddle”.

It has been a wonderful year of delight, as I have been blessed by the generosity of the churches. I have been welcomed everywhere, (with only one cup of cold tea thrown in my face – a funny moment in the Parish of the Huon) with warm hospitality, countless cakes, morning and afternoon teas and sumptuous suppers, a fishing trip, gifts of cheese and local fruit, vegetables, wine and even a bottle of whisky (Tasmanian of course)! Everywhere I go I meet people who love the Lord Jesus and His church, and faithfully seek to serve him.

As I have done my grand tour, my impression has been that the Parishes of the Diocese fall into three categories, and there is about one third of the Parishes in each. The first category is thriving and sustainable, the second category is currently unsustainable but with huge potential, and the third category are struggling parishes, who generally due to small population or isolation, are unlikely ever to become self-sustaining.

I don't imagine that this is a surprise to any of you. In fact, I think if I handed out a list of Parishes, and asked you to classify them, then you would probably come up with pretty much the same list.

The third of our Parishes that are thriving and growing their ministry, (with only one or two exceptions) have active children's ministry, active prayer ministry, small groups meeting around the Bible, and are trying to do some evangelism. Their church communities are active well beyond the Sunday service into the week.

When we consider the one third of Parishes in the middle category, that are currently unsustainable but with great potential, a little under half of them have children's ministry, and few have active small groups, and evangelistic ministries. The third of Parishes that are unsustainable in challenging places, rarely have any ministry to families and children, and the life of the congregation mainly focusses on Sunday services. This third group, almost without exception, is being sustained by the wonderful contribution of volunteer leadership.

Now I say this, not to puff some up, and bring others down, but simply to recognise the reality of the challenges before us.

When the Viability and Sustainability Task Force presented their report to me, I was able to put some data to these impressions. Their criteria of a sustainable Parish are: 30 households in regular attendance, leadership with full time paid ministry, people involved in Parish life, able governance, weekly services, programs of Christian formation, evangelistic ministry, financial independence, and a sustainable property plan. This helps us focus on which parishes are sustainable and which aren't. In many ways this provides us with a work plan towards sustainable ministry into the future. More of this below.

I want to point to a couple of highlights in the last year.

DIOCESAN TRAINING DAY

On October 29, 2016, we held a Diocesan Training Day. I could not have been happier with the number of people who attended the day. Nearly 400 Anglicans from across the state gathered together to consider how we can better make disciples. We had a terrific range of workshops, and people were really positive about what they learned. So much so, we have decided to make this an annual event. The Bishop's Training Day 2017 will be held on 23rd September at the Hutchins School in Hobart. We know this is a long drive from the North-West, but it is impractical to repeat the event in different locations. With the theme of "Flourish", helping us to be flourishing parishes where we are, we hope to exceed last year's attendance.

COHORTS AND COACHING

Most of the Clergy and ministry leaders are now in learning cohorts that have met several times. These are great opportunities to build relationships, and to spur each other on in ministry. I am leading two of these cohorts – emerging and senior leaders, Chris Jones is leading the fourth quarter group, Paul Cavanough has begun work with local ministry teams and non-stipendiary clergy, James Veltmeyer with youth and children's ministers, and Doug Edmonds with our chaplains. I am meeting with school chaplains later in the year. This is all very pleasing as people grow their personal and professional development. We have plans in place to take this further.

Fourteen of our clergy were trained as ministry coaches late last year, and now almost all our stipendiary clergy have a ministry coach assigned to them. Having a person who can speak into your life and ministry is a great blessing. I hope that this will bear fruit in the years ahead.

MINISTRY (CLERGY) CONFERENCE

I have changed the name from Clergy Conference to Ministry Conference to signal the breadth of ministry leaders in the Diocese. This conference in October last year was a great highlight for me. The level of trust, and willingness to engage with material was a true delight. I am hoping for another successful conference this year.

NEW MINISTRIES

With the help of New Ministry Grants we were able to fund full-time ministry in Circular Head, and a full-time Curate in the Parish of Northside. Both these appointments are bearing fruit. We are delighted to have full-time stipendiary ministry again in Circular Head. Initial indications suggest that this was a good move for us. I was also thrilled that Ed Cavanough was prepared to take on the Parish of St Leonard's with a half-time stipend, when Irfon Griffiths moved on from his long BCA supported ministry there. The same situation has occurred with Sue Willis taking on the Parish of Wynyard as a part-time appointment. We are so blessed to have such gifted leaders prepared to serve in this way.

Last year I announced our plans for a new church plant in Brighton. We have spent most of the last 12 months seeking out a planter for that role. Please continue to pray that God will provide. We are now looking to plant a new church in the Southern Beaches (in the Parish of Sorell, Richmond and Tasman) hopefully beginning in the new year.

ORDINANDS

It was a great joy to me to ordain the Revds Sue Willis, Ruth Hanlon and Jennifer Hercott in February. We also had other people offering for ordination. We now have two ordinands in College and two preparing here in Tasmania, as well as several enquiries from interstate. We are thrilled to see these new folk in the pipeline, coming to join our ministry team. We have a way to go, but it is my plan that the Diocese of Tasmania will be the “Diocese of choice” for clergy in the Australian church, based on our care and support, professional development opportunities, and clear missional direction, not to mention the most beautiful place in Australia to minister.

VAST

Last year’s Synod initiated a Viability and Sustainability Task Force (VAST), and God-willing we will soon adopt their report. This team did an exceptional amount of work, and have provided us with some very useful data that I hope we will be able to use in the future. My thanks go to the people who worked hard on it.

DIOCESAN OFFICE REVIEW

Late in 2016 I commissioned a review of the Diocesan office, to help us get a fix on the central functions of the Diocese. This review gives us helpful recommendations about streamlining processes, and efficiency measures. We recognise the good will and hard work of all the Diocesan staff. They pray for you all weekly, and seek to provide the best service possible to Parishes, institutions and individuals. We realise we are often overwhelmed by the volume of work, and systems that are overdue for revamping. We hope that the recommendations of this review will be put in place in 2017 and 2018.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

I want to make a couple of remarks about financial sustainability. You will now be aware that we are presenting you with another deficit budget this year at Synod. We recognise that this is not prudent stewardship of our resources, and that we cannot sustain deficit budgets in the future. I am determined to bring a plan to the next Synod to get us back to a balanced budget in the future. It is likely in the first few years of the Vision, that we will need to spend a bit more capital to fund some of our opportunities, but we need be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. I hope you will see your way to approve this Budget, and also commit to a plan for more robust financial sustainability in the future.

ROYAL COMMISSION

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has now finished its public hearings. We received their report into CEBS in January which detailed a number of historic failures in the Diocese of Tasmania. While difficult to read, this report has doubled my resolve to make sure that we do everything we can to ensure our churches are safe places for children and vulnerable people.

We are expecting the final report from the Royal Commission in December this year. We anticipate a number of recommendations for the Anglican Church as a whole. The General Synod is considering how we might have a national scheme for redress for survivors of abuse, and will be making a recommendation about our participation or otherwise, in the National Redress Scheme which was funded in the recent federal budget. The Tasmanian Government have announced their intention to remove the period of limitation on bringing civil claims for historic abuse. It is possible that the

removal of a time limit, the recommendations of the Royal Commission, and the presence of a National Redress Scheme, will result in more claims for pastoral assistance that the Diocese will need to address. We need to be prepared to act justly and compassionately, if and when that time comes.

I am grateful that the General Synod this year will debate and hopefully adopt minimum standards for child protection for Bishops in the Episcopal Standards Bill, and for Dioceses in the Faithfulness in Service Bill. Our community expects us to have these minimum standards, and if they come to our Diocese for adoption I fully expect that we will adopt them without amendment.

A CHANGING WORLD

We live in a changing world. It was clear to me a few weeks ago, when responding to some things to do with the Dark Mofo festival, how much Australia has changed in the lifetime of most current Tasmanian Anglicans. We have moved from an undergirding of Christian culture, to a society that is now aggressively secular and often anti-Christian. In some places, as we see in the Dark Mofo festival, Australia has moved beyond secular to even pagan rituals.

Some lament these changes as the loss of influence of the Church in society. However, I am thankful for the shifts. When society around us is clearly different and even opposed to the Christian faith it has two effects. The first is that it makes genuine Christian faith more distinct from the world. Christians are not to be mistaken for just good citizens of Australian society (although we must be at least this), but we must be authentic members of the Kingdom of God. We must be born again spiritually, and therefore distinct from the prevailing culture. We must be converted from paganism and secularism, by the Spirit of God to a new life with Him. Increasingly this will be a huge shift and transformation for the newly converted Christian. And we are going to need to support each other.

The second effect, is that I hope it will make us more focussed on mission to our world. As the contrast between Christians and society grows, we will be propelled out of our complacency into mission. As the world becomes a darker place, more obviously in the grip of the evil one, we will see its desperate need for a Saviour, for transformation, for redemption, and for spiritual light. The sooner that takes place, the more the church will be prepared for the mission challenges it faces. And I say, bring it on!

This means that if our mission is to “get people to come to church”, then we will fail spectacularly. The world is secular and will never develop an interest in religious observance. It just isn’t going to happen to anyone with a secular mindset – and that means anyone born after 1970. But if we consider our mission is “introducing people to Jesus”, or “helping people to follow Jesus”, or “making disciples of Jesus”, then we might just stand a chance.

We have particular problems in our changing world in Tasmania. With the rise of secularism, coupled with the move from rural areas towards larger population centres, we have a double whammy. It will make it increasingly difficult in these places for us to sustain anything like the church we knew in the past. We need to rethink our mission for a changing world.

SOCIAL ISSUES

In this changing world, there are many issues over which we will need to exercise our minds, and deep theological thinking. We only have to look back over the last few weeks to realise what we face: The Dark Mofo festival bringing pagan rituals to our capital city; Physician-assisted suicide legislation being debated in our Parliament; and the push to redefine the institution of marriage constantly in our news in one way or another. To make matters worse, the paucity of public debate in Australian society where anything outside the politically correct view is effectively silenced, makes engagement very difficult.

Now more than ever we need to develop a Christian mind on these issues. We need to consider how to apply the scriptures to these contemporary issues. We need to develop “convicted civility”, where we maintain our deep convictions flowing out of the authority of the Bible, at the very same time as taming our tongues, being civil, and loving those with whom we disagree. We need to think how to keep the conversation about Jesus, when there are so many things to distract and derail us.

THE NEED FOR VISION

All of this leads me to the need for a new Vision for the Diocese of Tasmania. We have to face up to the reality of our church. The glory days are well behind us. We know we are faced with declining attendance in many places. We recognise that the old ways of doing things just won’t cut it any more. In many churches I visit there is at least one, if not two, generations of people missing – our kids and their kids. We have failed to make disciples, and we are often more committed to keeping things the same, than we are finding new ways of being God’s people on mission.

In many places we have developed a “folk religion” which, while serving us and our needs, has lost its missional focus. In the recent National Church Life Survey people in our pews told us the things they most value. The top three were: “sharing holy communion”; “sermons”; and “traditional worship”. These are all essentially inward looking. While they are not bad in themselves, sadly at the bottom of the list of things we value were: “openness to cultural diversity”; “meeting new people”; and “reaching those who don’t attend church”; the items with an outward looking focus. We need to be equally passionate about both.

We need to change! If we continue as we are, we will become marginal at best. We will see more church closures, and more decline, until there will be very little left. I don’t think for one moment that the Church will cease to be. God is too committed to it for that. But if we are going to be obedient stewards of God’s gift to us, and to love His church, even half as much as he does, then we need to feel the weight of these issues, and do something about it.

We need to be more Christian and more Anglican. That is, we need to shed the cloak of our “folk religion” that serves our needs, and re-engage with the Lord our God, and His Son the Jesus Christ, and be so transformed spiritually by Him that we can’t hold the message back. We need to be more Anglican, by which I mean, committed to mission in the world, the mission of proclaiming the gospel in the language and culture of the people. After all, the birth of the Church of England in the 16th Century was a radical engagement with presenting the gospel in a language and style that people could understand.

My job as your Bishop is to lead you. I promised at my ordination (among other things) to “lead those in [my] care to obey our Saviour’s command to make disciples of all nations”, and I intend to do this. I intend to do this, through casting a Vision today to set the agenda for the next five years of the Diocese of Tasmania. Before I do, I want to tell you how we got here.

VISION DEVELOPMENT

The Vision we launch today is the result of a process. It began with the gathering of observations from my travels around the Diocese, and many conversations and lots of information. After consultation with the Diocesan Mission Support Team (DMST), (comprising senior leadership made up of Bp Chris, The Registrar, The Dean, The Director of Ministry Services, and the Mission Support Officers) on *critical issues facing the Diocese*, I presented the elements of a Vision to them. It was refined through discussion into a draft for consultation.

In February and March I invited everyone in the Diocese to join me in three Vision consultations, one in the North-West, one in the North, and one in the South. On each occasion we looked at the brutal facts of our current situation, I presented a draft Vision, and people gave me feedback. Each draft changed as a result of the previous consultation, sometimes quite significantly.

We then developed a master sheet of all the feedback. You may remember, if you were there, that I ended by asking two questions: What one thing if we did it, would have the greatest positive impact on the Vision?; and, What preoccupation would be the biggest distraction from our task? I spent time pouring over and analysing this feedback.

I presented a draft to the Diocesan Council in March, and they gave me feedback. At this stage a number of people also wrote to me with ideas and reflections. I re-drafted the Vision document and consulted with a couple of small focus groups. These groups helped refine the language and pressed me to articulate well what I had heard in the consultations. A final draft was then presented to the DMST for commendation to the Synod.

I also want you to know that the whole process was bathed in prayer. There was a small group of people interceding for the development quite closely, a larger group mostly of people who had been at the consultations, I was seeking prayer in my weekly emails, and I know its development was being prayed for in Sunday intercessions around the state.

My belief is that what we have before us today is, as far as possible, the mind and heart of the Diocese, and particularly those in leadership. It is written by me, and all the mistakes are mine, but I believe it is the shared output of the whole. I hope that some of you will be able to see your contributions and refinements in it.

I must say, it is not perfect. Even with all this work, there will be omissions and errors, and emphases that are not quite right. It is a human document. I also believe that figuratively, we have to plan in pencil. We might have to rub some things out and write new things in, but this is where we got to. As James 4:13-15 reminds us, we must only ever say what we will do tomorrow if we say, "if the Lord wills". So, this is our best effort in determining who we will be and where we will go in the next 5 years.

A VISION FOR THE DIOCESE OF TASMANIA 2022

This Vision begins with a statement of our convictions. It is very intentional that it does not start with a statement of our values. Values tend to lock us into the past, because we value what we have already known. But it begins with convictions which are settled beliefs and principles that we know to be true, that ought to drive our actions. By their very nature they are corrective, challenging our wrong behaviour and taking us on the right path. They are also inspirational in that the truths we know about God and his mission, inspire us to turn towards him.

CONVICTIONS

- *Jesus Christ is the head of the Church ...*

We are confident because we know that God is working out his sovereign purposes, and that his church will prevail because Jesus is its Lord and Head. We respond in humble service to his Lordship in the power of his Spirit.

- *And He has sent us to make Disciples ...*

Propelled by God's love, the purpose of the Church is to go into all the world and to make disciples of Jesus, baptising and teaching them to obey everything that Jesus commanded. There are many good things we could do, but this is our primary task and the centre of all of our activity.

- *By Word, Prayer and Service ...*

God builds his church by preaching the Word, and through the prayers of his people, supported by their loving service of the world. Spiritual vitality is found in the biblical gospel, and is expressed in our ministry of Word, sacraments, and prayer, and through acts of service.

- *Supported by fruitful godly Leaders ...*

God uses faithful people who have a mission heart to lead his church into growth. Therefore, we need gifted clergy and lay leaders to serve in and through our churches.

- *God being our provider, and us stewards of His gifts*

God owns all the resources for ministry in Tasmania and is able to bless and resource the ministry to which we are called. We need to be good stewards of these resources, unlocking and deploying them for His service.

OUR VISION

A church for Tasmania, making disciples of Jesus.

We want our church to be *a church for Tasmania*. At one level this simply means that we are here for the long haul. We have been here since European settlement (175 years this year in fact), and we will be here until the Lord Jesus returns. We are not the state church, but we need to be confident in our place as a significant part of Tasmanian society. We belong here.

But at another level it means that we are *a church FOR Tasmania*, in the sense that we want to make a positive contribution to it. It was William Temple, who was Archbishop of Canterbury in the 1940's, who said, "The Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members". We are primarily not a club for our own selves, but a missionary society for the world around us; and we have been sent by Jesus on mission to Tasmania.

If to be "A Church for Tasmania" is our objective, then our strategy to become this church, is "making disciples of Jesus". This was Jesus' instruction to the disciples after his resurrection just before he ascended into glory; his parting words of commission.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

I take it that these words are our commission too. Our mission is to make disciples, that is, followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is not a mission for the clergy alone, nor just for the leaders amongst us,

but the mission of every baptised believer. Jesus assures us of His authority to do this, and His presence with us. There are many good things that the church does, but if it is not doing this, then it is not being the church.

This is our Vision, a picture of our preferred future state: To be a Church for Tasmania, making disciples of Jesus.

How are we going to do this?

OUR MISSION

There are four elements to our mission. You can think of them as concentric circles of influence, starting from our parishes and moving out to our communities. Four things for us to focus on as we work on this Vision together:

1. Build a network of confident flourishing parish centres

We will concentrate on developing parishes across the state, that have confidence in the power and provision of Lord Jesus; that flourish in lively mission and growth, so that people might be reached with the gospel through them, and become disciples of Jesus. These parishes will be lots of different sizes and shapes, in lots of different places.

2. Develop partnerships with Anglican agencies and schools

There are a number of Anglican agencies we partner with already: Anglicare; Church Missionary Society; Bush Church Aid; and the Anglican Board of Mission. We also have strong historical connections with the three Anglican schools. We want to further develop these partnerships for disciple-making.

3. Grow missional chaplaincy in hospitals, aged-care facilities, and jails

We have existing opportunities across the state, in hospitals, with aged-care providers, and in the prison service. What would happen if these opportunities grew, and were connected into our disciple-making?

4. Be a people of blessing to our communities

We are all embedded in our local communities, and in Tasmania as a whole. Let's see what kind of influence for making disciples we could have if we intentionally blessed our local communities.

I want to say a bit more about each of these:

1. BUILD A NETWORK OF CONFIDENT FLOURISHING PARISH CENTRES

We will concentrate on developing parishes in our main centres that are strong, healthy, and growing, rather than simply maintaining Sunday worship in as many places as possible.

The thinking here is that spreading ourselves thin, and just "doing Sunday church" in multiple places each week, is not serving our mission well. It makes us preoccupied with Sunday, inward looking, focussed on buildings, and when we are few in number it is harder to have any real outreach. The best chance for making disciples, is to have more mission-focussed parish centres.

This will mean we reduce the number of church buildings, and consolidate our efforts. This is being good stewards of our resources. We will also have to work hard at building resilient rural ministries with models of disciple-making that work in these settings. This might look very

different from what we are doing now, but we must address it. We will also seek opportunities to plant brand new churches and congregations as we are able.

So that we understand what we are talking about, today we set seven expectations about what a confident flourishing parish centre will look like.

OUR EXPECTATIONS:

- **Active disciple-making pathways**

Each parish will have an executable plan for providing a clear pathway for people of every age and stage of life to become disciples of Jesus, who make disciples for Jesus. It will have clear strategies to **engage** with people of little faith or none, to **evangelise** them, to **establish** new Christians in the faith, and to **equip** them for our mission of making disciples.

- **Active ministry to young people and families**

Each parish will prioritise effective ways to minister to young people and families, with making disciples their chief aim, and supporting the work of Anglican Camping Tasmania.

- **Transformative public worship aimed at discipling**

Each worship service, regardless of style, will be focussed on the glory of the Lord Jesus, and aimed at growing our discipleship.

- **A transparent culture of safety for all**

The safety of all, especially children and vulnerable people, will be embedded in our leadership, governance and culture.

- **Avenues of intentional prayer**

Every parish will have a variety of prayer opportunities on Sundays and through the week, and include an intentional prayer strategy that is linked to disciple-making.

- **A commitment to world mission**

Our parishes will not only care that the gospel goes forward in our local communities, but also in the rest of the world, by supporting mission agencies that are focussed on the gospel.

- **Leadership from well-trained biblically orthodox clergy**

All the clergy in the Diocese will have a lively and growing relationship with Jesus and be convinced of the Bible's centrality, with a commitment to preaching and teaching it. Rectors will be highly skilled leaders of change, mission, and disciple-making ministries. They will be committed to ongoing personal and professional development, and review.

2. DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS WITH ANGLICAN AGENCIES AND SCHOOLS

We will develop partnerships with Anglicare, our Anglican Schools (Launceston Church Grammar School, The Hutchins School and St Michael's Collegiate), and our mission agencies (Bush Church Aid, Anglican Board of Mission and the Church Missionary Society) to enhance and strengthen our disciple-making purpose.

OUR EXPECTATIONS:

- Parishes will support, promote, and pray for the work of Anglicare.
- The Diocese will continue to explore alignment between the work of Anglicare and the Diocesan Vision.
- Parishes will support, encourage and pray for our Schools.
- The Diocese will work with the schools to develop a “shared understanding of Anglican education” for Tasmania.
- Parishes will support, encourage and pray for the work of the mission agencies.
- The Diocese will work with the mission agencies to equip parishes for local and global mission.
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3. GROW MISSIONAL CHAPLAINCY IN HOSPITALS, AGED-CARE FACILITIES, AND JAILS

We will develop our chaplaincy models to assist our disciple-making purpose.

OUR EXPECTATIONS:

- The Diocese will support the work of Clarendon, Anglican Health and Welfare, and Glenview.
- Together we will grow the number of chaplaincy opportunities in the state.
- We will commit to the professional development of our chaplains.
- We will develop relationships between chaplains and parishes.

4. BE A PEOPLE OF BLESSING TO OUR COMMUNITIES

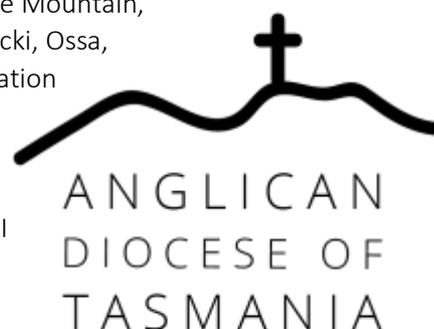
We will humbly take our place as community members alongside our neighbours, sharing God’s blessings with others.

OUR EXPECTATIONS:

- We will explore ways in which we can bless the communities in which we live and work.
- We will make thoughtful contributions to Tasmanian community life.

A NEW LOOK

To mark the transition, it is time for a fresh contemporary look for the Diocese of Tasmania. Today I am launching our new logo. It is modelled on the iconic Tasmanian Cradle Mountain, recalling this island state of mountains: think Roland, Wellington, Strezlecki, Ossa, Scott’s Peak, The Hazards, Frenchman’s Cap, Pelion, Ben Lomond, Federation Peak, Anne, Hartz and so on. It reminds us that God is our fortress, our rock, the steadfast one. It reminds us that His Son the Lord Jesus died on that lonely hill of Calvary for our redemption. And, as it hovers over the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania, so does the Holy Spirit hover over us. I hope you like it. It was designed by our own Lauren Jones, who is a very talented young graphic designer.



CONCLUDING REMARKS

We have a great God, who loves this Diocese and our church, and each single one of us, more than we could imagine. He has called us to be *A Church for Tasmania, making disciples of Jesus*.

I invite you today to join me in working for this Vision, for the Glory of God and the praise of His Son.

We finish where we began in the word this morning.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength Ephesians 1:17-19

VISION PRAYER

Glorious Father, God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Give to us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation,
so that we may know you better.

Enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
that we may know the hope to which you have called us,
the riches of Christ's glorious inheritance in your holy people,
and your incomparably great power for us who believe.

Please make us to be a church for Tasmania,
to bless those around us,
that Christ may be known and glorified through us.

Please help us to make disciples of Jesus in all that we do
through confident flourishing parishes,
partnerships with Anglican agencies and schools,
missional chaplaincy,
and by being a people of blessing in our communities.

We ask this for the Glory of the Lord Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray.

Amen