



ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE

# NOTES & NEWS

[www.cathedral.org.au](http://www.cathedral.org.au)

Together transforming our City and Diocese

August 2025



## From the Dean

From the beginning of creation, God embedded a rhythm of work and rest into the fabric of our world. Six days of creation are followed by a day of rest—not because God was exhausted from the creative activity of calling the universe into being but to set an example to all people; to set a divine pattern of work and rest for all life. This Sabbath-principle can be traced throughout the Scriptures—from the weekly rhythm of rest to be observed by God's people to the jubilee year,

when the land itself was given time to lie fallow and renew.

Jesus lived out this rhythm of activity and rest. While he heals and restores people's lives on the Sabbath to the astonishment of the religious authorities, he does respect and inhabit the Sabbath principle. Throughout the Gospels, we see him regularly withdrawing to pray and be with God. When Jesus leaves the crowds behind to go and pray on his own, that is not an interruption of

his ministry, but an essential part of it. In the same way, a sabbatical is not a pause in ministry but a different expression of it—moving from activity to contemplation: a time to recharge, renew and reflect in the presence of God.

As I prepare for sabbatical from 1 September to 23 November, I am grateful for this opportunity to step into that Biblical rhythm of rest and contemplation. During my almost three months away from the day to day administration and leadership of St Paul's, I will take time for theological reflection and prayer, especially as we look ahead to a new chapter in our ministry, welcoming a new Archbishop and with him developing our 2026-2031 Strategic Plan. I look forward to be able to spend time thinking and discerning about what God is calling us, the St Paul's Cathedral community, to be and do in the years ahead—and very much look forward to the opportunity to begin exploring that with you on my return.

I will be spending most of my sabbatical in Melbourne, but will take out some time to travel towards the end of my time away. In late October, I will be headed to Europe, where I will take a week's

retreat before preaching at St Alban's Abbey on All Saints' Day—a wonderful opportunity to share in worship with another Cathedral community. Of course I will also be spending some time with my family in Bavaria and am grateful for that opportunity.

We timed this sabbatical to fall into a slightly quieter period in our liturgical calendar, with me returning to work in the week before Advent. During my absence, I am delighted that Canon Heather Patacca will return to St Paul's to be our Acting Dean. Heather knows us well, and I have complete confidence that the Cathedral's ministry will continue to flourish under her leadership, supported by our wonderful team of clergy and administrative colleagues.

I am grateful to our Cathedral Chapter for their support of my sabbatical, and to you, our Cathedral community, for your encouragement and interest. When I return in late November, I will bring renewed energy and fresh insights to our ongoing work of worship, service, and witness in the heart of Melbourne.

Until then, please keep me in your prayers as I keep you in mine, and join me in welcoming Heather back to our Cathedral leadership team.

**Dean Andreas**

**Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki 80 years on**

St Paul's Cathedral marked the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during our 10am Choral Eucharist on Sunday 3 August. The service brought together members of the Australian and Japanese communities in remembrance and reflection.

Consul-General Tokuro Furuya attended the service and delivered a peace message, reflecting on the events of August 1945 and their continuing significance for peace efforts today, and Canon Associate Professor Bob Derrenbacher preached. Members of Melbourne's Japanese community joined the Cathedral congregation and many visitors for this annual commemoration, and the Melbourne Chapter of Ikebana International created beautiful large scale floral arrangements.



**Thank you and Farewell to Cathedral Administrator Andreas Kiessling**

In mid-September our Cathedral Administrator, Mr Andreas Kiessling, will be leaving St Paul's to return to his homeland, Germany. Andreas has been an invaluable member of our Cathedral team and has brought energy, dedication and vision to his work at St Paul's.

In the years immediately following the Covid-19 lockdowns, Andreas has helped the Cathedral pivot to welcoming more than 500,000 visitors and 54,000 worshippers every year. His contributions included many practical improvements to Cathedral planning and program delivery, including pioneering our first Winterfest Market in July 2025 to raise funds for ministry to Melbourne's homeless.

Through his close collaboration with Finance Manager Patrick Kuah and Shop Manager Fabio Perozzi, Andreas has significantly strengthened the Cathedral's financial position. He has advanced crucial infrastructure projects, including preparation for our Halo heater system, the installation of a new electric switchboard and important ongoing maintenance works—including planning for important maintenance work to take place on the Moorhouse Tower.

Dean Andreas Loewe reflected on Andreas's service: 'We have greatly benefitted from Andreas' energy and expertise. He has been a transformational Cathedral Administrator, with a

passion for community, sustainability, and sharing our faith with others. We are deeply grateful for his commitment to our mission and his wonderful work on behalf of the Cathedral community'.

From the middle of next month, interim arrangements will come into effect to ensure continuity across the Administrator's portfolio. Our Finance Manager Patrick Kuah will take on expanded responsibilities as Interim Building and Finance Manager, while our Cathedral Shop and Visitor Centre Manager, Fabio Perozzi, will become our Interim Commercial Manager. Both bring considerable expertise to take on these expanded roles and will ensure that our infrastructure projects continue to be delivered, and our missional enterprises continue to flourish.

At their meeting on Tuesday, 12 August 2025, the governing body of St Paul's Cathedral, the Cathedral Chapter, moved a motion of thanks to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Andreas for his outstanding service and friendship. Dean Andreas reflected: 'I am sorry to see Andreas leave St Paul's but, as a fellow-Bavarian, understand well why he would want to return home to beautiful Bavaria. We will miss him very much, and wish him and his family every blessing, as he embarks on this new chapter. *Servus, Danke und vergelt's Gott!*'

**Dean Andreas**

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*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this edition of Notes & News may contain images and names of deceased persons in photographs and print.*

## Winterfest Market

St Paul's inaugural Winterfest Market proved a resounding success over two weekends in July, transforming our entrance area into a bustling indoor marketplace whilst raising significant funds for charity.

Running on 5-6 July and 12-13 July, the market saw the Cathedral's entrance area filled with beautiful Christmas market-style stalls, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere during Melbourne's chilly winter months. Congregational volunteers worked alongside Cathedral staff to manage the capacity crowds of visitors who came to browse, shop and support our Anglicare Victoria's ministry to the homeless and Australian Connection Cambodia.

During the market, Cathedral worship services continued as usual throughout both weekends—a beautiful example of how our Cathedral can serve multiple aspects of our mission and ministry at once.

The market's success exceeded expectations, raising a total of \$11,000 for charity: Anglicare's homeless relief efforts received \$6,000, supporting their vital work with Melbourne's most vulnerable residents during the harsh winter months. An additional \$5,000 was raised for Australian Connection Cambodia, a charitable ministry coordinated by Canon Emeritus Chris Carolane, which supports community development projects in Cambodia.

## By the Grace of God

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

—Jeremiah 29:11

Since 2022, our Chinese congregants had been gathering as a Fellowship averaging 20 persons every Sunday after the 10am Service. God is gracious. He knew I planned to retire in April 2024, yet He wonderfully sent an able Chinese theological student (Simon Li) and a group of musicians to the Cathedral late 2023. After my Long Service Leave, we were able to recommence the Chinese Service at 1pm on 28 July 2024 with great anticipation and joy.

On 27 July 2025, we celebrated our first anniversary, thanking God for his boundless grace and mercy to us the past year. We began with an average of 54 congregants and today we average 70 each Sunday. In every Service, God brought new worshippers to join us. In the past year, we had 20 baptisms and 17 confirmations.



Our Ministry includes Chinese New Year decorations and a congregational lunch in January each year; a Bible Study every Sunday after the Service enabling members' spiritual growth and discipleship training; training 20 volunteers to serve during Sunday services; Baptism and confirmation classes; WeChat and WhatsApp groups for encouragement and information; and a Christmas gathering in the Cathedral Courtyard.

The future is just as exciting. We look forward with anticipation to Simon Li's ordination as a Deacon in February, holding a Chinese Alpha Course by the end of this year, training up more members to serve, building a leadership team to enlarge the ministry, and more baptisms and confirmations this year.

My utmost gratitude and appreciation to the Dean for his unfailing and encouraging support. Also to my wife Ruth, Simon Li, Eugenie Li, the staff of the Cathedral, all who serve in the Chinese Ministry, and everyone for your prayers and encouragement in this vital ministry

We continue to trust in our gracious God's plan to give us a future with hope to the glory and praise of His name.

**The Revd Canon Emeritus Robert Vun**  
*Associate Priest*



In a world that never sleeps, in a city where the rhythms of life pulse through our streets around the clock, St Paul's Cathedral will offer a counterpoint of contemplation—an unbroken chain of prayer stretching across seven days and nights.

From 31 August to 7 September, our Cathedral will join the global 24-7 Prayer movement, extending an invitation to Christians from across Melbourne to experience our sacred space as a hub of intercession, worship and spiritual encounter, where many come together in prayer.

'Prayer has always been at the heart of what we do here at St Paul's', reflects Precentor Canon Dr Tim Watson. 'But this week offers us something special—the opportunity to join with believers around the world in an unbroken chain of prayer that does not stop. It's a powerful reminder that whilst we may sleep, God never slumbers, and there's always someone, somewhere, holding the world before God in prayer.'

The 24-7 Prayer movement began in 1999 when a group of young people in Chichester felt called to pray continuously for their community. Since then, it has spread to over 100 countries, with millions of people participating in non-stop prayer chains that have covered everything from local concerns to global crises. Now, Melbourne joins this worldwide community of prayer.

At St Paul's, the week will feature specially designed Prayer Spaces throughout the Cathedral, including a prayer labyrinth, which will allow visitors and worshippers to engage with prayer in creative and new ways. Whether you're comfortable with traditional liturgical prayer or prefer more contemporary expressions of worship, there will be spaces designed to help you connect with God in ways that resonate with your spiritual journey.

'What excites me most about this week is its inclusivity', Canon Tim said: 'This isn't just for the spiritually mature or those who find prayer easy. It's for anyone who wants to encounter God, whether you can spare five minutes or five hours. The beauty of 24-7 prayer is that it recognises that we all pray differently, and there's room for everyone in this conversation with the Divine'.

The week launches with a special service on Sunday 31 August at 6pm, featuring National Director of 24-7 Prayer Australia, Trudi Sayers, as a guest preacher at *Gather*. Other events throughout the week include a dedicated Youth Group Night on Friday evening and a Prayer and Worship Night on Saturday, designed to draw together Melbourne's diverse Christian communities.

During opening hours, the Cathedral welcomes both booked groups and casual visitors. Churches across the city invited to host specific time slots. When the Cathedral doors close each evening, the prayer continues—with volunteers committing to pray from their homes, offices, or wherever they might be, ensuring the chain remains unbroken.

'Standing at the heart of Melbourne, our Cathedral has always been a place where heaven and earth meet', Canon Tim reflected, 'this week, we're opening our doors wider than ever, inviting our city to discover that prayer isn't just about asking for things—it's about transformation, connection and experiencing the love of God in new and unexpected ways'.

Whether you join for an hour or follow the entire week, this promises to be a remarkable opportunity to experience the power of sustained, communal prayer in the heart of our vibrant city.

*For more information and to book time slots, visit [www.stpaulscathedral.org.au/prayer](http://www.stpaulscathedral.org.au/prayer)*

## Sharing the Gospel Across Boundaries

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

—Revelation 7:9

This vision in Revelation reminds us that God's saving work is not limited to one people group, culture, or language. The love of God is for everyone, without exception.

For many, the freedom to worship is far from reality. In countries like my homeland, Iran, openly worshipping the Lord is forbidden, and can carry the death penalty.

Even so, many Christians gather quietly in homes, whispering hymns, praying in secret, and meeting in underground churches. Their courage testifies that the Gospel cannot be chained.

Here in the heart of Melbourne, we have the extraordinary privilege of worshipping the Lord openly and in different languages—a gift that calls us to remember that God's love and forgiveness are for all people, and everyone, needs to hear the Good News.

Our Saturday Multicultural and Farsi-speaking ministry embodies this vision. We worship the Lord in English, Farsi, Arabic, and sometimes Turkish. Through multilingual liturgy, Scripture readings, and prayers, each person hears the Gospel in a language that speaks to their heart.

After the service, our Farsi-language Bible Study creates a space for discipleship and deeper engagement with the Word of God. Many participants come from non-Christian backgrounds, and these gatherings offer them a life-changing opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ personally. In response to a growing hunger for truth, we have also offered "Knowing Christ" sessions for those exploring baptism, alongside pastoral care for those seeking guidance in their spiritual journey.

At the end of each service, we stand at the entrance

of the church, making ourselves available for visitors who want to talk, ask questions, or receive prayer.

The vision of Revelation 7:9 is not just a glimpse of eternity—it is a call to action today. Every time we worship together in different languages, every time we welcome someone from another culture into the fellowship of believers, and every time we share the Gospel across boundaries, we are rehearsing for that great day before the throne. This is why our ministry matters. It is a foretaste of heaven and a testimony to the unstoppable reach of God's love.

«پس از آن نظر کردم و اینک جماعتی عظیم از هر ملت و طایفه و قوم و زبان پیش روی خود دیدم که هیچ کس آنان را نمی توانست شماره کند و همه پیش تخت و در پیشگاه بره ایستاده بودند.» مکاشفه ۷: ۹

این تصویر شگفت انگیز نشان می دهد که نجات خدا برای همه مردم، فارغ از قومیت، فرهنگ یا زبان است. اما در بسیاری از کشورها، از جمله ایران، پرستش خداوند آزاد نیست و حتی می تواند مجازات مرگ داشته باشد. با این حال، مسیحیان در سکوت و کلیساهای خانگی مخفیانه خدا را پرستش می کنند و این حقیقت را ثابت می کند که هیچ قدرتی نمی تواند جلوی پیشروی پیام انجیل را بگیرد.

در قلب ملبورن ما فرصتی بی نظیر داریم تا خدا را آزادانه و در زبان های مختلف پرستش کنیم؛ فرصتی که نباید آن را ساده گرفت. این یادآوری است که محبت خدا برای همه است و هر کس، از هر زبان و فرهنگی، نیاز دارد خبر خوش انجیل را بشنود.

خدمت چند فرهنگی و فارسی زبان شنبه ها بازتابی از این رؤیای مکاشفه ۷: ۹ است. در این جمع، پرستش به انگلیسی، فارسی، عربی و گاهی وقتها ترکی انجام می شود. قرائت کتاب مقدس و دعاها به زبان های گوناگون باعث می شود هر کس پیام انجیل را با قلب خود دریافت کند. پس از پرستش، جلسات مطالعه کتاب مقدس به زبان فارسی فرصتی برای شاگردسازی و آشنایی عمیق تر با کلام خدا فراهم می کند.

همچنین، جلسات «شناخت مسیح» برای علاقه مندان به تعمید و مشاوره شبانی برگزار می شود.

**The Revd Leili and the Revd Pedram Shirmast**  
Assistant Curates



## Dean Andreas appointed Dean of the Australian Priory of the OStJ

The Dean of St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne, the Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe, has been appointed as the next Dean of the Australian Priory of the Order of St John, effective 15 June 2025. Dean Andreas will continue in his full-time role as Dean of St Paul's, while working with Priory officials in Canberra in his capacity as Dean of the Priory. In a message to volunteers and members of St John, Chancellor of the Australian Priory Mr Cameron Oxley GCStJ announced the appointment, saying "a Commander of the Order, Dr Loewe brings to the role a perfect combination of theological depth, pastoral sensitivity, and distinguished leadership."

As Dean of the Priory, Dean Andreas will guide the continued growth and impact of the Chaplaincy across its four key expressions of ministry:

1. Pastoral Care – Providing compassionate presence and practical support to meet physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs.
2. Liturgical Ministry – Leading worship and ceremonial services, including Investiture Services, Youth Services, Chapter Prayers, and blessings for people, vehicles, and places.
3. Spiritual Care – Encouraging and sustaining the inner life of our members and those we serve, honouring diverse beliefs, values, and traditions.
4. Prophetic Ministry – Upholding the founding

Above: The St John's Ambulance Investiture at Yarralumla with Her Excellency the Hon. Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia.

Photo: St John Ambulance Australia Media.

ethos and enduring values of the Order, ensuring that our mission remains rooted in its noble spiritual foundations.

Dean Andreas shared the following message upon his appointment:

'I am delighted to have been asked to become the inaugural Dean of the Priory of Australia of the Order of St John. St John undertakes remarkable, lifesaving work in Australia and across the globe. All of us serve voluntarily driven by our faith and values in service of humanity. I look forward to offering my gifts as a faith leader to strengthen chaplaincy across Australia, support local first responders, and help ensure that our values and faith continue to shape our mission. Like all our volunteers, I will do this alongside my day job as Dean of Melbourne drawing on 12 years of experience leading Victoria's metropolitan Cathedral.'

Mr Oxley acknowledged the service of outgoing Sub Prelate (now emeritus Dean) Bishop Richard Hurford OAM KStJ, noting his dedicated leadership, wisdom, and pastoral care. Bishop Richard will serve in a transitional role during the handover to Dean Andreas in the coming months.

# Join Us for Worship

|           |         |   |
|-----------|---------|---|
| Sunday    | 8am     | Holy Communion (BCP)                            |
|           | 10am    | Choral Eucharist                                |
|           | 1pm     | Mandarin Service 華語崇拜                           |
|           | 4pm     | Choral Evensong                                 |
|           | 6pm     | <i>Gather at St Paul's*</i>                     |
| Mondays   | 12.15pm | Lunchtime Communion                             |
|           | 5.10pm  | Service of Evening Prayer in Simple English     |
| Weekdays  | 12.15pm | Lunchtime Communion                             |
|           | 5.10pm  | Choral Evensong* (Tues-Fri)                     |
| Saturdays | 12.15pm | Lunchtime Communion<br><i>*during term time</i> |

## Join our services online

[cathedral.org.au](http://cathedral.org.au)

[facebook.com/StPaulsCathedralMelbourne](https://facebook.com/StPaulsCathedralMelbourne)

[youtube.com/c/StPaulsCathedralMelbourne](https://youtube.com/c/StPaulsCathedralMelbourne)

For more information on joining us online or in-person, please visit our website

[www.cathedral.org.au/worship](http://www.cathedral.org.au/worship)

# Cathedral Prayer

Almighty God,  
who caused the light of the gospel  
to shine throughout the world  
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:  
grant that we may follow him  
in bearing witness to your truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.  
Amen.

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Notes & News Editor and Designer: Joel McFadyen  
Cover Image: Photo by Aditya soni on Unsplash

# Cathedral Directory

## Cathedral Clergy:

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| The Acting Dean                 | The Revd Canon Heather Patacca<br>9653 4305  |
| The Canon Precentor             | The Revd Canon Dr Tim Watson<br>9653 4305  |
| The Succentor                   | The Revd Lydia Thangadurai   |
| The Canon Pastor                | The Revd Canon Chris Carolane<br>9653 4320   |
| Canon<br>(Preaching & Teaching) | The Revd Canon Peter MacPherson  |
| Associate<br>Clergy             | The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Ames<br>The Revd Canon Dr Bob Derrenbacker<br>The Revd Canon Dr Garry Deverell<br>The Revd Canon Prof. Dorothy Lee AM FAHA<br>The Revd Canon Philippa Lohmeyer-Collins<br>The Revd Canon Glenn Loughrey<br>The Ven. Ray McInnes<br>The Revd Canon Robert Vun<br>The Revd Canon Jane Window |

## Cathedral Office:

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Interim Building and Finance<br>Manager | Patrick Kuah<br>9653 4333        |
| Assistant to the Dean & Precentor       | Joel McFadyen<br>9653 4305       |
| Events Officer &<br>Cathedral Secretary | Nathanael Armstrong<br>9653 4345 |
| Operations Officer                      | Stuart Tennant<br>9653 4321      |
| Interim Commercial Manager              | Fabio Perozzi<br>9653 4311       |
| Admin Assistant                         | River Gammon                     |
| Liturgical Admin Assistant              | Anthony Drake                    |

## Vergers

|                   |                    |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Geordan Apostolou | Jacob Goodger      | Daniel Morshedi     |
| Sarah Coe         | Benjamin Gunthorpe | Justin Rivers-Brown |
| Jerome David      | Elijah Lindsay     | Lachlan Sayer       |

## Music Department:

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Director of Music   | Canon Philip Nicholls |
| Leading Musician    | Emma Warburton        |
| Cathedral Organist  | Siegfried Franke      |
| Assistant Organist  | Roslyn Carolane       |
| June Nixon Organist | Mark Slavec           |

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Warden of Servers       | Contact Joel McFadyen |
| Society of Bell Ringers |                       |
| Tower Captain           | Brian Pettet          |
| Welcome Team            | Contact Joel McFadyen |
| Flower Guild            | Contact Joel McFadyen |
| Cathedral Guides        | Mary Harris           |
| Archives                | Dorothea Rowse        |