

NOTES & NEWS

LENT 2026



St Paul's Cathedral
Together transforming our City and Diocese

FROM THE DEAN

Friends, as we enter the season of Lent, I invite you to join me in reflecting on our shared responsibility to care for God's creation. This year, our Lenten study program will focus on Jo Knight's thought-provoking book, 'Called to Care', which urges us to confront the climate crisis and its impact on the most vulnerable.

Jo is the chief executive officer of Anglican Overseas Aid, our Anglican international relief agency (as well as the daughter in law of Chris and Ros Carolane). The stories she shares from our global neighbours remind us that the poor are already disproportionately affected by climate change, despite having contributed the least to its causes.

Through her own experiences as a climate justice advocate, mother and minister's wife, Jo presents a compelling case for how our faith should shape our response to this crisis. She challenges us to re-examine our understanding of creation and justice, and to live out our beliefs through practical action and prayer. We were fortunate to have Jo preaching at our 8am and 10am services on 28 February, reminding us that, as Christians, we are called to love our neighbours and seek justice for all. Jo led our reflections and introduced the subject area to our study groups.

Throughout Lent, we will have the opportunity to explore 'Called to Care' further through study groups meeting at 9am and 11.45am on Sundays. These sessions will provide a space for open discussion and biblical reflection as we grapple with the climate crisis and consider our individual and Cathedral responses. At the same time as the 11.45am Sunday study, our Baptism and Confirmation preparation classes run. I am encouraged by the strong interest in our Baptism and Confirmation preparation classes, with 16 participants. Please pray for them, and their families as they explore the foundations of our faith and prepare for membership of the Church.

Towards the end of Lent, I invite you to take part

in the Archbishop's Listening in Lent program. At the Cathedral we will be participating with this diocesan wide process through a special congregational consultation on 22 March at 9am and 11.45am. This is a valuable opportunity for us to gather as a community, share our hopes and concerns, and discern God's will for our Cathedral community, and diocese.

As we journey through Lent, I pray that you and I will be renewed in our love for God, for one another, and for all of creation. May we have the courage to face the reality of the climate crisis, the compassion to stand with those most affected, and the creativity to envision new ways of living that honour and affirm God's intent for his world to be 'very good'.

I pray that this season of reflection will bear rich fruit in our own lives and enable us to be better stewards for our world.

Dean Andreas



The Revd Tereza Audo reads at the Christmas Eve Carol Service

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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.

WORSHIP WITH US

SUNDAY

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10am Choral Eucharist
 1pm Mandarin Service
 4pm Choral Evensong
 6pm *Gather* at St Paul's*

MONDAY

12.15pm Lunchtime Communion
 5.10pm Evening Prayer in Simple English

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

12.15pm Lunchtime Communion
 5.10pm Choral Evensong*

SATURDAY

12.15pm Farsi-speaking and Multicultural Communion

**During term time*

JOIN OUR SERVICES ONLINE

cathedral.org.au
facebook.com/StPaulsCathedralMelbourne
youtube.com/c/StPaulsCathedralMelbourne
 For more information on joining us online or in-person, please visit our website
www.cathedral.org.au/worship

SUPPORT US

cathedral.org.au/donate

VISIT US

Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm
 Saturday 10am to 5pm
 Sunday 7.30am to 7pm

cathedral.org.au/explore/visitor-information

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.

CATHEDRAL HOSTS MULTIFAITH STATE VIGIL

On Thursday 22 January, a Multifaith State Vigil was held at St Paul's to commemorate those who lost their lives in the Bondi Beach terrorist attack. The State Service was held on the National Day of Mourning, a day for all Australians to come together and honour the victims and all those impacted by the attack.

In a gathering of unity and remembrance the Governor, Premier, and religious leaders of many faiths joined political and community leaders from across Victoria including from the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faith communities.

The Vigil was an opportunity for Victorians to pause, to remember, and light a candle in honour of those who lost their lives – and to encourage peace, and an end to hatred.

The Dean said:

"We came together to give voice to our distress and sorrow, to mourn those murdered, and to support the wounded, bereaved and traumatised. We continue to stand side by side with members of the Jewish community here in Melbourne and throughout Australia, and with countless people the world over who, like us, condemn anti-Semitism, hate crime, persecution and violence.:"

You can rewatch the recording of the Vigil here: <https://bit.ly/4r1BYu6>



Clockwise from bottom left:

1. Faith leaders seated as the service begins.
2. Cantor Michel Laloum directs the Temple Beth Israel Choir.
3. The Governor and Premier at the Vigil
4. The Dean and Premier depart following the Vigil

WELCOME, SIMON!

I am Simon Li, the newly ordained Deacon and Assistant Curate at St Paul's Cathedral. My wife is Eugenie, and we have a 16-year-old daughter, Momo.

I think that in my life I have three homes. The first is my own home—my wife and daughter. I greatly enjoy cooking for them and taking my daughter to school in the mornings. We all love travelling and delicious foods, and we delight in experiencing diverse cultures, histories, and cuisines. Eugenie and I deeply love Yunnan Province in China—its landscapes and food are extraordinarily diverse and nice, and it is where we were married. Italy is a country that Eugenie, Momo, and I all adore; we love its churches, its arts, and of course its foods—Momo especially loves pizza.

My second home is MST, the Melbourne School of Theology. Last year I graduated from MST, having been awarded the degree of Master of Divinity. My four years of study at MST brought me immense joy; I delighted in studying theology, and in reading and researching in the MST library. I feel a strong sense of belonging to MST and treasure the time I spent there.

My third home is St Paul's Cathedral. In my background at MST and in my previous church context, I am an Evangelical Christian. Before I first came to the Cathedral for my student placement, it never entered my mind that I would serve in a church which I perceived as a "high church". But the work of God is marvelous—he brought me here, and immediately I felt a powerful sense of belonging to the Cathedral; it became a home to me. I feel peace and joy. Under the supervision and training of the Revd Canon Robert Vun and Precentor Tim Watson over the past two years, I have sensed my own growth in preaching, in pastoral care, and in church administration.

Now, at this new stage of my ministry as Assistant Curate, under the supervision of the Precentor and Canon Robert, and the training and teaching of the clergy team, I hope to become a fitful and faithful minister, serving God and his Church as his instrument, his ambassador, and his messenger. I pray continually that God would grant me the gift of English proficiency, that I might speak with the fluency of a native speaker, and that I might be enabled to chant at Evensong as well.

The Revd Simon Li
Assistant Curate





LENT: A SEASON OF REFLECTION AND RENEWAL

During Lent, a thought-provoking new exhibition in our transept gallery by Melbourne artist John Junor seeks to capture the essence of this time of reflection.

What is Lent, and why is it significant? Lent is a 40-day period leading up to Easter, the most important festival in the Christian faith. It begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. The 40 days symbolise the time Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness, enduring temptation and preparing for his ministry of proclaiming the reign of God.

For Christians, Lent is a time of introspection, prayer and spiritual discipline. Many choose to fast or give up certain things as a form of penitence and self-denial. Others take on new practises, such as volunteering or daily Bible Study or devotions, to deepen their faith and connection with God.

The artworks in John Junor's exhibition invite us to engage with the themes of Lent in a visual and visceral way. Through his use of colour, symbolism and perspective, Junor prompts us to confront our own wilderness experiences, our yearning for redemption and our hope in the promise of resurrection.

Our Lent exhibition will be on display in the transept gallery throughout the season.

Dean Andreas



Above: The Precentor preaches and the Archbishop administers ashes at the 6pm Ash Wednesday Eucharist on 18 February.



JOURNEYS TO BAPTISM

Easter Sunday, the day we celebrate Christ's victory over death, has traditionally begun with a service of Baptism and Confirmation. This is also the tradition here at St Paul's Cathedral and being involved in the baptism of a number of people Easter Sunday in 2025, was an experience I treasure.

The service begins outside the cathedral, people gathered around a fire before the sun has risen. It is still dark. There isn't even a hint of dawn. It is cold. I don't think I can remember an Easter Sunday morning in Melbourne that wasn't cold. The Dean lights the Easter candle from the fire and encourages us to let the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds. The doors open and we process into the cathedral singing.

I had journeyed with these people about to be baptised and confirmed for 7 weeks or so. It is always a time of discovering God's grace anew; being caused to pause and reflect on how much God loves each one of us. Dean Andreas had challenged us all to do the hard work of heart work during Lent. (His book *Heart Work: Working*

Deeper, Not Harder is still available in the bookshop and if you haven't read it then why not use it to accompany you through this Lenten period.)

Now a year later I find myself reflecting again and asking God's Spirit to help me peel back the layers of sin and so open me to his grace and love. It is not easy facing up to the so-called protective layers we set up around our heart, those self-justifications, denials, pride and fears. I find myself hesitating in admitting failures to God and reluctantly thinking a bit differently about some issues and then being surprised by God's grace and peace which comes with opening myself to God. I am reminded again that when we bring those fears and insecurities to God, he is ready and opens his arms like the father welcoming the prodigal son.

To all those preparing to be baptised and/or confirmed this Easter Sunday, God's blessings as you walk in the grace and mercy freely given by the work of Jesus on the cross. To all of us, may the hard work of heart work bring God's blessings in abundance. Happy Easter.

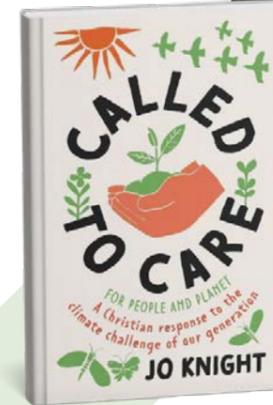
The Revd Canon Philippa Lohmeyer-Collins

ORDINATION OF DEACONS

FEBRUARY 2026



LENT BIBLE STUDIES



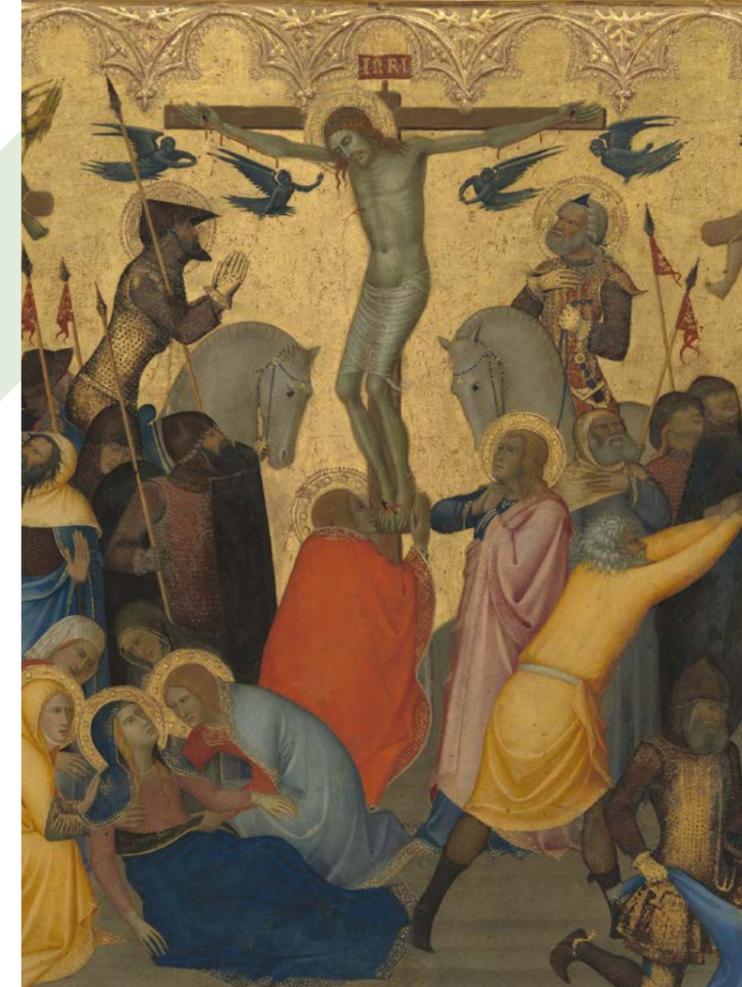
The focus for this year's Lent Bible studies is the book, *Called to Care: A Christian Response to the Climate Challenge of our Generation* (IVP, 2025) by local Christian leader, Ms Jo Knight, the CEO of Anglican Overseas Aid.

We were blessed to have Jo with us on Sunday February 22 to preach at both morning services and to lead the studies. In the opening chapter Jo lays out the biblical and theological framework which underpins everything that follows: a creation that God loves, humans created to take care of creation, a world gone wrong because of sin, and the good news that God has a plan to redeem creation through Jesus.

The rest of the book includes further biblical reflection but much of it is stories, ideas and testimonies to stimulate our imaginations and generate response. Each chapter ends with some reflection questions and exercises. There is a short bibliography and a list of helpful websites.

The Cathedral's two Bible study groups occur on Sundays at 9.15am and 11.45am in the David Penman Room. They are led by a mixture of clergy and lay leaders. Newcomers are welcome even if you can only come for one Sunday.

The Revd Canon Peter MacPherson
Canon for Teaching and Preaching



THE TWELVE WORDS OF CHRIST FROM AND BEYOND THE CROSS

for string trio and speaker op.43
Douglas Weiland

as part of The Weiland Project
in association with
St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne
The Academy of St Martin in the Fields London
The Sir Neville Marriner/Douglas Weiland Project

Members and guests of the Melbourne Quartet

Violin - Shane Chen
Viola - William Hennessy
Cello - Josephine Vains
Speaker - The Precentor

St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne
5.10pm Tuesday 31st March 2026
Entry by donation

BOOK LAUNCH

THE MONUMENTS OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY

5.45PM THURSDAY 5 MARCH



from practices of remembering and forgetting in medieval and renaissance Europe, to the impact of colonisation on First Nations Peoples and settler communities. His current research projects include how family history could be a tool for reconciliation, and the future shape of churches and Christianity in Australia. He is currently Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Charles Sturt University, and from 2012 to 2024 was Foundation Vice-Chancellor of the University of Divinity. Recent publications include *Monuments and Memory in Early Modern England* (2008), and *Theology Matters: How Thinking About God Shapes Australia* (with Daniel Nellor, 2024).

His most recent publication, *The Monuments of Westminster Abbey: Power and Memory in Early Modern Britain* (2025), will have a Melbourne launch here at St Paul's on Thursday 5 March following 5.10pm Choral Evensong by Professor Catherine Kovesi, Head of the History Programme (2025 and 2022-23) at the University of Melbourne, and former Chair of the Management Committee of the Australasian Centre for Italian Studies (2018-2022). This book is the first critical history of Westminster Abbey's sixteenth- and seventeenth-century monuments, tracing the Abbey's transformation from monastery to a centre of public commemoration. With 32 illustrations, including historic images and photographs, the book reveals the colour and creativity of early modern remembrance. Books will be available on the night for \$60 (cash or card), and Peter will be signing.

Please register your attendance via this link: you're very welcome to attend:
<http://bit.ly/4kJty3>

Thanks, Peter, for all you have done and all you do for us here at St Paul's!

Faithful God, throughout the ages you have enabled musicians to lead your people's song. Thank you for the gifts of those who give of their time and substance to enable that song. Bless them and those who support them with your love and care. And grant us grace to hear and join with the songs of the angels, and of all your faithful people. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Canon Philip Nicholls
Director of Music

Meet a Congregation Member: Professor Peter Sherlock. Regular attendees of choral services will have seen and heard Peter singing on the left hand side of the choir in the back row. He's a very handy bass, as well as all the other things he does.

Despite being the child of two ministers of word and sacrament (Peta and Charles Sherlock), Peter managed to avoid the allure of ordained ministry, more than happy instead to build a career as an academic historian and administrator. He has taken his vocation to the priesthood of all believers seriously, as an authorised lay reader, preacher and minister over a number of years and in a number of parishes. Having previously served as Lay Canon and member of Chapter from 2010-2016, he began singing regularly with the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral in 2018 and became a congregation member in 2023. He is currently a Trustee of the St Paul's Cathedral Music Foundation.

Peter was an active campaigner in the 1980s and 90s for the ordination of women and is widely published in this area. More broadly, his theological and historical research interests range widely

VALE, BARRY FRY

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Barry Fry on Tuesday 21st October, 2025. He had a long association with the Cathedral, contributing as a musician and also as a volunteer guide and shop assistant. Barry performed as the bass soloist in Stainer's *The Crucifixion* each Good Friday for around the past 40 years, and recorded the work with the Cathedral Choir on CD in 1998. Between 2014 and 2024, Barry performed five recitals in the Cathedral's Lunchtime Concert Series. The first two were accompanied by his late wife, Janet Perkins, followed by a recital in her memory on Ash Wednesday 2017, and recitals over the past two years accompanied by Bruce Macrae.

A seasoned performer specialising in oratorio and Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, Barry's extensive performing resume includes the title role in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at St Patrick's Cathedral and St John's Anglican Church, Camberwell, bass soloist in Faure's *Requiem* with The Melbourne Singers, and eighteen different Gilbert and Sullivan roles with The Savoy Opera Company. Alongside items from oratorio and G&S, audiences at Barry's solo recitals were treated to a wide variety of art songs and lieder, including Michael Head's *'Money, O!'*, Fauré's *'Après un rêve'*, and Schumann's *'Ich grolle nicht'*.

Barry's humble and gracious demeanour, sense of humour, and friendly presence will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

POHLENZ TO SOLO IN STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION

In our search for a bass soloist for John Stainer's *'The Crucifixion'* this year, we have been fortunate to secure the services of Manfred Pohlenz, a soloist and educator. Manfred maintains an active profile as a singer, conductor and teacher. As a singer, his stage credits include principal roles with Princeton Opera NJ, State Opera of South Australia, Queensland Opera,



Melbourne Opera, Citi Opera, Port Fairy Spring Festival and Oz Opera. Further, Manfred regularly appears in concerts in Melbourne, Geelong and other centres throughout Victoria and is sort after as a choral/vocal coach. His numerous conducting credits include the inaugural IB Schools Orchestra, Warrnambool Symphony Orchestra and Port Fairy Messiah. Manfred is currently the Director of Music at Kardinia International College and has taught in numerous schools in South Australia and Queensland in addition to tutoring at University Of Qld. Manfred brings a theological and musical understanding of *'The Crucifixion'* and we will enjoy hearing his singing on Good Friday. Welcome Manfred! ■

INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

This Ramadan, St Paul's Cathedral partners with the Muslim Women's Council of Victoria (MWCV) to support a homelessness Food Outreach Program. Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar, is a time of fasting, prayer, and charitable giving. This year, it began on Wednesday 18 February, coinciding with Ash Wednesday, and runs to 20 March.

Throughout the month, MWCV will distribute free halal meals to individuals experiencing homelessness in Melbourne's CBD. The Cathedral has made its carpark available as a base for the MWCV's food van. On Saturday afternoons and evenings during Ramadan, the van will provide nutritious halal meals and a listening ear to those experiencing homelessness. As Christians and Muslims alike reflect on spiritual renewal this season, we give thanks for the opportunity to live out our values in service to others.

Dean Andreas

CATHEDRAL DIRECTORY

CATHEDRAL CLERGY

The Dean	The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe	9653 4305
The Canon Precentor	The Revd Canon Dr Tim Watson	9653 4305
The Succentor	The Revd Lydia Thangadurai	lthangadurai@stpaulscathedral.org.au
The Canon Pastor	The Revd Canon Chris Carolane	9653 4320
Canon (Preaching & Teaching)	The Revd Canon Peter MacPherson	9653 4333
Assistant Curate	The Revd Simon Li	sli@stpaulscathedral.org.au

ASSOCIATE CLERGY

The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Ames
The Revd Canon Dr Bob Derrenbacher
The Revd Canon Dr Garry Deverell
The Revd Canon Prof. Dorothy Lee AM FAHA
The Revd Canon Philippa Lohmeyer-Collins
The Revd Canon Glenn Loughrey
The Ven. Ray McInnes
The Revd Canon Robert Vun
The Revd Canon Jane Window

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Jerome David Lachlan Sayer
Joshua Drake Emily Shalless
Jacob Goodger Esther Wang
Benjamin Gunthorpe
Elijah Lindsay
Daniel Morshedi

CATHEDRAL OFFICE

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

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Warden of Servers	Contact the Office
Bell Ringers Tower Captain	Brian Pettet
Welcome Team	Contact the Office
Flower Guild	Contact the Office
Cathedral Guides	Mary Harris
Window Storytellers	Boyd Eggleston
Archives	Dorothea Rowse

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