



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL GRAFTON

open doors ... open hearts ... open minds

Christ Church

A generous faith community centred on Jesus, seeking wisdom for life and acting with compassion in the heart of Grafton since 1842

Your Cathedral

Christ Church Cathedral serves the civic community of Grafton and the Clarence Valley Regional Council.

All are welcome

We seek to form and sustain an inclusive Christian community.

Our mission is five-fold:

- (1) To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
- (2) To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
- (3) To respond to human need by loving service.
- (4) To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
- (5) To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Welcome to 2019

As the Dean of Grafton, it is my privilege to reach out to all the people in our diverse Cathedral community as we start a new year of blessing and service.

According to the most recent census data, Anglicans are the largest religious community in Grafton with just over 4,000 adherents.

Imagine the impact we can have on our community when we mobilise all our people, and not just the 2,700 from the Cathedral Parish.

We have a lot of lost ground to make up, and especially with families who have young children and the grandparents of those children.

In this first newsletter for 2019 you will see that we are a vibrant and creative community with much to offer, and we are much more than a Sunday worship gathering.

We do that as well—and in fine Cathedral style—but every day of the week Anglicans from the Cathedral are making a difference in the community. For the most part we do this anonymously as we simply seek to be agents for God's love in the local community and the wider world.

Chances are you already know lots of Grafton Anglicans. But you may not know they are Anglican, and they may not realise you are as well.

Get involved and make a difference, for the sake of our community.

*Greg Jenks
Dean of Grafton*

KEY DATES 2019

Here are some major dates from the Cathedral calendar for you to add to your calendars ...

January 6 - Epiphany

January 27 - Australia Day service

March 5 - Pancake Tuesday

March 6 - Ash Wednesday

April 10 - Liturgy of the Oils

April 14 - Palm Sunday

April 19 - Good Friday

April 21 - Easter Day

April 25 - ANZAC day

May 30 - Ascension Day

June 9 - Pentecost

June 16 - Trinity Sunday

June 22/23 - Synod

July 25 - Cathedral Festival

October 27 - Jacaranda Sunday

November 3 - All Saints/All Souls

November 24 - Christ the King

December 1 - Advent Sunday

December 15 - Carols and Lessons

December 25 - Christmas Day

All the public events happening at the Cathedral are published on our website. There is a calendar app on the lower portion of the home page. If you download the mobile app you can also receive updates with the latest details.



celebrate AUSTRALIA DAY Sunday, 27 January @ 9am

Join us on the last Sunday in January to start the new year with a joyful celebration of our identity and our opportunities as Australians.

The service will begin at 9.00am and there will be bring-and-share picnic in the Cathedral grounds afterwards.

Good music • Inclusive liturgy • Thoughtful sermons

Get a taste from last year's Australia Day sermon:

www.gregoryjenks.com/2018/01/26/rainbow-faith-in-an-ancient-land/

Caring for the AGED

Did you know your Cathedral visits more than 100 people every month in residential aged care facilities on the north side of the river? In addition to visiting Dougherty Villa, St Catherine's Villa, St Francis Aged Care and the Whiddon Group, the Revd Camellia Flanagan also takes Communion services in people's homes if they are housebound. We are looking for volunteers to help us expand this program of care for the frail and aged members of our community, so contact Camellia to find out more about how you can assist with the precious gift of time spent listening to our older folks who have so much wisdom to share and so much love to give.

Building Strong Families



There is no more important task and no more rewarding role than nurturing the spiritual capacities of our children and other family members.

As a Cathedral community, our number one priority this year is to work with parents, godparents, grandparents and other members of the extended family to offer our children the best support as they grow in their knowledge, in their sense of connection with God, in their compassion for others and in their care for the fragile web of life.

We are collecting a curated set of resources for parents and this will be available 24/7 on the Cathedral website for people to access at times that work best for them.

We will be offering occasional seminars and workshops to help us be better parents and carers.

We will be offering the sacramental program—*Going to the Supper of the Lord*—during the first half of the year, with the date for admission of children to Holy Communion most likely set in May. This program will be offered to all Year Four children at Clarence Valley Anglican School as part of the Christian Studies curriculum, and we offer resources for children who do not attend CVAS.

We are delighted that CVAS is now offering generous Cathedral Scholarships that allow families affiliated with the Cathedral to offer their children the benefits of an independent education in a faith-based environment. More details can be found on the Cathedral website.

This year we also hope to appoint an Associate Priest to work with Children, Families and Youth, while also serving as Chaplain to Clarence Valley Anglican School.

We are also working with ETC to host programs at the Cathedral for at-risk youth who need extra support to return to their studies or find a pathway to training and employment.

FUNDING your Cathedral COMMUNITY

The Cathedral needs around \$400,000 this year to continue our vital ministry as an inclusive faith community in the heart of Grafton.

We receive no grants from the Government or from any charitable foundations, but Clarence Valley Regional Council does give the Cathedral concessions on our rates and pay the electricity for flood lighting the Cathedral.

From time to time parishioners leave money for the Cathedral in their wills, and these gifts are mostly used to maintain the heritage-listed buildings in the Cathedral precinct. Some of the heritage projects are eligible for matching grants from the NSW Heritage Commission.

These major conservation and heritage projects are not included in the operational budget of \$400,000 per year.

Staffing costs are the largest single item among our expenses.

Our income comes from offerings and other gifts, fees or funerals and weddings, proceeds from the Cathedral OpShop, and fees for the hiring of the Cathedral facilities.

Our most important source of income is offerings and other gifts from our members and supporters.

We encourage everyone associated with the Cathedral to set up a personal schedule of gifts via the Cathedral App..

Whether or not you are able to be at church on a Sunday we need your help to fund this beautiful Cathedral and maintain its ministry in the heart of Grafton.

It takes just a few seconds to set up your personal contribution using the mobile payments facility on the Cathedral app:

https://pushpay.com/g/graftoncathedral?src=_hpp

Contact us

Email & Phone

You are welcome to contact us directly by email with any questions or other issues. We will usually reply within one working day.

Dean (Greg Jenks)
dean@graftoncathedral.org.au
0426 067 344

Associate Priest (Camellia Flanagan)
priest@graftoncathedral.org.au
0417 928 914

Director of Music (Robert Eather)
music@graftoncathedral.org.au
0458 093 292

Parish Office (Roger Millard)
parishoffice@graftoncathedral.org.au
02 6642 2844

Cathedral Bookshop
02 6642 3958

Cathedral OpShop
02 6642 1906

Parish Office

The office is located in the Cathedral Centre, with direct access from Duke Street. It is open Mon/Thr between 9.00am and 5.00pm.

Mailing Address

PO Box 258
Grafton NSW 2460



Grafton Cathedral **HERITAGE project**

Christ Church Cathedral is one of the major heritage assets of Grafton and the entire Clarence valley.

Indeed, Grafton was proclaimed a city in 1885 partly on the basis of the Cathedral having been constructed the previous year in 1884. Because of the Cathedral, Grafton became the 'first city on the north coast'.

At the time Grafton had a population of around 1,500 people so those pioneers certainly had a powerful vision for the future of our city.

The Cathedral Church of Christ the King was built in two stages. The Cathedral was really only completed 50 years later when the western half of the current building was constructed, including the *Baptistry*. Even then the spire and bell tower was never constructed.

There is more to the Cathedral heritage precinct than the Cathedral itself.

The oldest building in the Close is the most northerly red brick cottage facing Duke Street. The building—now known as the *Ministry Centre*—was constructed around 1856 and restored in 1984. The cottage next to the Ministry Centre was built circa 1891 only a few years after the Cathedral. Like its neighbour, it was restored in 1984. This cottage—known as *Greenway Cottage*—currently houses the Cathedral's music department with an office for the Director of Music, a choir rehearsal room and choir robing room.

The *Hunt Hall*, also designed by Horbury Hunt, was completed in 1890. Adjoining the hall is the *Cathedral Parish Centre*, completed in 1976 and incorporating the Parish Office, a kitchen and the more recent buildings that house the Cathedral Bookshop and the Cathedral OpShop. The timber bell tower between Hunt Hall and the Cathedral originally stood beside the first wooden church (built in 1854) but was moved to its location when the Cathedral was opened in 1884.

There is a related cluster of historical buildings adjacent to the Cathedral but just outside the Close. The *Deanery* was built in 1872. At one time it would have overlooked the original wooden church from 1854, close to the street corner opposite the Cathedral. That church was demolished in 1900 and a memorial stone in the grounds of Clarence Valley Anglican School (formerly The Cathedral School) marks its location. The Registrar's residence, *McWilliam Lodge* (which is now privately owned), was built around 1910, then renovated in 1991 and is currently undergoing further works. It was named after the first registrar of the Diocese. *Bishopholme*, the official residence of the Bishop of Grafton, is also situated on the river bank and was completed in 1924.

We have recently repaired the Baptistry to solve persistent water damage issues, and next we plan to restore the two historic cottages in Duke Street.

This important conservation work preserves the heritage of our city, but can only proceed as funds become available. Donations to assist with the preservation and conservation of the Cathedral heritage precinct are always welcome. But most importantly come and enjoy the Cathedral and its grounds. They belong to all of us.

The DIGITAL Cathedral

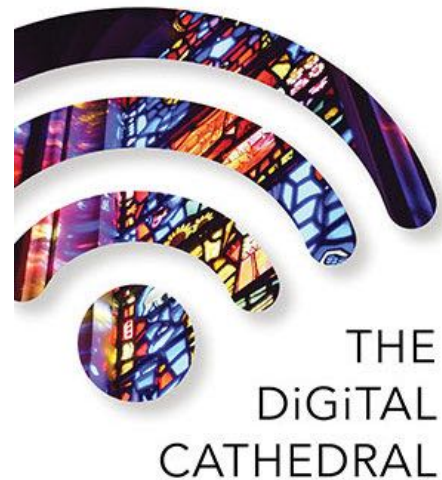
During the past year the Cathedral has installed a high speed WIFI network throughout the buildings and grounds. Due to the clever application of existing technologies by our friends at Computer Troubleshooters Grafton, we have upload speeds around 10 GB per second and this allows us to live stream conferences, sermons, special events and workshops.

We also provide a free **public WIFI** throughout the campus so that anyone in the Cathedral grounds can enjoy some digital hospitality as they check online.

Most Sundays and other special occasions we **livestream** the Dean's sermon on the Cathedral Facebook page. You can watch the sermon live if not able to be in church that day, or you can find it later by going to the *Video* page on the Cathedral website. Most weeks around 200 people watch the sermon online.

At the beginning of August last year we launched our Cathedral **mobile app**. This provides a very convenient way to keep up with all the latest news and information from the Cathedral on your smart phone or tablet. You can choose which categories of news to receive from the Cathedral, and the app provides a gateway to a wide range of information.

The app has allowed us to provide daily inspirational messages, that we call the **Daily Morsel**. These messages arrive in your phone around 8.00am every day, and offer an invitation to think more deeply about a selected 'morsel' from the rich spiritual legacy of Christianity as well as occasional servings from other faith traditions. This is 'food for the soul' for people on the go, and we recommend it for all our families with young children as it can be hard to find time to nurture your own life when caring for children.



To download the app to your own device, simply go to your online app store, search for "My Church App" and once downloaded to your device enter this code: GRAFTONCATHEDRALAPP

More details on the Cathedral website: www.graftoncathedral.org.au/app-1

One major section of the Cathedral website is devoted to the **Building Strong Families** program, so we highly encourage everyone to check out the growing set of resources there and to bookmark these pages so you can check them from time to time. For those with the Cathedral app we shall also send alerts about new resources being added to this section of the site.

Mobile giving is another feature made possible the Cathedral app. You can now make a gift to the Cathedral from your smart phone or other digital devices. It is fast, secure and a great way to invest in the mission and ministry of your Cathedral.

You can edit or cancel these gifts at any stage, and resume them again when you are ready. There are options within the app to direct your gift to an area of special interest to you: General Cathedral purposes, ministry with children and families, heritage project, music ministry, or welfare activities to assist people in need.

If everyone connected with the Cathedral used the app to make a small weekly gift to one or more aspects of our work we could really make fantastic progress as we enrich and transform our local community.



Dean's Forum

Join us on the first Sunday of the month for a stimulating forum led by our Dean, Dr Greg Jenks, as we explore the Bible, Christian faith in the modern world, justice and peace, eco-theology, and any faith questions that you want addressed. We meet in the Edwards Hall at the Parish Education and Welfare Centre from 11.00am to 12 noon, on the first Sunday each month. Join us at 9.00am for contemporary worship with deep roots in the ancient traditions of Christianity, or just arrive around 10.45am in time for the Dean's Forum to commence. The schedule of topics for future sessions will be posted on our social media channels, so check the Cathedral website or download the app. Video recordings of past sessions are also available on the Cathedral website.



VOLUNTEER

The Cathedral offers many volunteering opportunities, including: Altar Servers (children and adults), Cathedral Bookshop, Cathedral OpShop, Cathedral Cleaning Crew, Flower Guild, Gardens and Grounds, Aged Care visitors. For each position, we provide some basic orientation and training, as well as ongoing support and supervision. All volunteers also need to meet the church's Safe Ministry requirements. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like more information about any of these volunteer opportunities at the Cathedral.

FACILITIES for hire by community groups

During the last few months of 2018 the kitchen in the Parish Centre was replaced with a modern food preparation facility that provides improved food safety as well as a server and an industrial dishwasher. We also replaced the access ramp so that it meets contemporary standards and provides a much gentler point of entry, especially for people using walkers and wheelchairs. We expect to replace all the carpets in the next few weeks, and the Cathedral WIFI network already operates throughout the centre. Large electronic screens are to be installed in both the Edwards Hall and the Hunt Hall, so these can each function as well-equipped meeting rooms.

Our goal is to offer these facilities to businesses seeking a convenient meeting space with the latest technology, as well as to community groups and clubs. If you know of groups who may be interested in hiring any of these facilities occasionally or on a longer term basis, please encourage them to contact the Parish office. While we do need to generate some income from these bookings, our primary goal is to make our facilities available to a wide range of local community groups, while preserving the option to use the Parish Centre for catering after funerals from time to time.

Copmanhurst

The Church of the Holy Apostles was once the centre for an independent parish, but with the passage of time the numbers attending mean that Copmanhurst is now a pastoral district within the Parish of Grafton.

Services are held at 11.00am on the third Sunday of each month, with special services being arranged as required for Christmas and Easter.

We are making a special effort to reconnect with Anglicans living in the Copmanhurst area to make sure they know about our services, as well as keeping them informed of the latest news and information from the Cathedral.



Lawrence

All Saints' Anglican Church at Lawrence has also become part of the Parish of Grafton in the past few years.

Services are held at 11.00am on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, with special services being arranged as required for Christmas and Easter. When there is a fifth Sunday in a month we have a combined service with the local Uniting Church, alternating between their chapel and All Saints Church.

This growing congregation provides an informal pastoral care network for each other, and they have a couple of community events each year to raise funds for the upkeep of the beautiful church with its panoramic views over the Clarence River.



Making a list and checking it twice

While Santa was checking his lists prior to the Christmas run, the Dean and the Reverend Camellia were making lists of a different kind.

They were poring over old lists of parishioners to identify people who had disappeared from the pastoral care lists since 2010, but were still known to be living in Grafton and nearby areas. They made their lists and checked them twice, and then checked them again and again. They have included people who assist as volunteers in various capacities around the parish, as well as people in aged care facilities who we visit each month, local next of kin for those whose funerals we have conducted, and all of the families who have had their children baptised at the Cathedral since 2010.

If this is the first time you have heard from the Cathedral in a while it may well be because we have only now got your details right to include you in our pastoral care records. It is good to be back in touch!

We would love to improve our parish records by recording birthdays, email addresses and mobile phone numbers. Please drop us a note with your details so we can check that we have everything correctly recorded, or send the information by email to: parishoffice@graftoncathedral.org.au

We still only have about half of the Anglicans in Grafton in our records, but even that is a significant milestone as we seek to provide effective pastoral care and spiritual support to the local Anglican community.