sydney anglicans

FAITH • LOVE • HOPE

THE ARCHBISHOP'S PURPOSE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE DIOCESAN FELLOWSHIP

As at May 2026

"For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,
and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Corinthians 4:5)

"We're For Jesus"

Our **continuing purpose** as Sydney Anglicans is given to us by God in the Scriptures. This purpose is **to make disciples** by:

- proclaiming and commending Christ
- establishing them in the life of the church
- equipping them for compassionate service in the world
- sending some to serve beyond our Diocese
- prayerfully seeking God's work in all things

As an expression of our love for God and our neighbours, our Diocese is **a fellowship of churches, schools and organisations**, all of which are shaped by the gospel and share our disciple-making purpose. The **churches** (including those that meet in schools, aged-care and independent living settings, and gaols) are the foundation of our Diocesan fellowship and have unique opportunity and responsibility for the work of making disciples since they are communities gathered by the gospel. We seek God's work amongst us to **multiply Christians, multiply churches, and multiply leaders**. To these ends, we long to see our fellowship marked by healthy **communication**, **collaboration**, and **coordination**. Ultimately we long to see the work of God prosper in all the world.

The following is a list of **areas of focus**, particularly thinking about **the next few years**. This is not intended to be a list of everything that's important to us, and we acknowledge that there are a number of existing areas of priority/work that warrant ongoing attention and effort. Rather these are some areas where we believe we especially need to grow/change.

Each in their own way the priorities below will express and foster our commitment to the purposes outlined above- multiplying Christians, multiplying churches, and multiplying leaders.

Our **highest priorities** are:

1) the ministry of the word

2) prayer

3) mobilising and motivating all Sydney Anglicans to be disciple-making disciples (including by inviting Sydney Anglicans to prayerfully seek 5% annual conversion growth in their churches)

Our **other priorities** (in no particular order) are:

4) encouragement of deeper collaboration between churches, schools, and organisations- including a more collaborative approach to the use of our property assets

5) healthy and flourishing churches made possible especially by the retention, strengthening, and accountability of Rectors through:
   (a) strengthening the ministry of Regional Bishops in supporting Rectors and churches (and the provision of better support for Bishops in their role)
   (b) professional supervision, professional development, and ministry reviews for Rector well-being and growth
   (c) providing resources to assist in parish revitalisation where most needed
   (d) providing resources to assist with theological equipping for lay leaders in churches

6) recruitment and training of ministry leaders, including but not limited to:
   (a) leaders for particular kinds of churches (church plants; larger (or "hub and spoke") parishes
   (b) leaders (both women and men) of ministry in particular communities (indigenous; cross-cultural; blue collar; marginalised areas; gospel-poor populations)

7) growth and strengthening of ministry amongst children and young people, especially through better leveraging of links between schools and churches, developing new support networks for Anglican schools ministry workers, and providing clearer pathways of training and recruitment for Anglican schools ministry workers

8) media and engagement: strengthening effective internal and external communication through diocese-wide coordination and strategy

9) church planting: establishing new fellowships in Greenfields areas (with accompanying investment in land and buildings) and other areas (with creative approaches to beginning new ministries/communities)

10) religious freedom: providing resources for advocacy, representation, and defence in pursuit of freedoms for Sydney Anglicans (and others) to proclaim and live out the gospel