

A Service of Prayer for Electoral Synod

4th October 2026

Opening Hymn

LLM

I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to my heart and mind: I will establish a lasting house for him and he shall walk before me all his days. *1 Samuel 2:35*

The Lord be with

And also with you

Today, throughout the Diocese of Bunbury, we gather in prayer while the Election Synod meets to choose a new Bishop.

United with one another across our parishes, we seek God's will, asking for wisdom, humility, faith, and peace for all involved in this discernment and to raise up a faithful shepherd for his Church.

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. *Hebrews 10:23*

LLM

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open,

all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hidden:

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you,

and worthily magnify your holy name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LLM

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets, God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of
death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:4-13

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God

Psalm 133

¹ Behold how good and how lovely it is:

when families live together in unity.

² It is fragrant as oil upon the head,

that runs down over the beard:

fragrant as oil upon the beard of Aaron,

that ran down over the collar of his robe.

³ It is like a dew of Hermon:

like the dew that falls upon the hill of Zion.

⁴ For there the Lord has commanded his blessing:

which is life for evermore.

Second Reading: Titus 1:5-9

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God

The Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, chapter 10, beginning at verse 35 to 45

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection *(This or another Reflection may be read)*

Today the Diocese of Bunbury waits upon God. Across our parishes, and in the Election Synod, we are not simply making a choice by human wisdom alone. We are asking the Lord to lead us, to search our hearts, and to guide this Diocese in his way.

The readings today show us the kind of leadership God desires for his people: leadership marked by integrity, sound faith, and humble service. Titus is instructed to appoint elders whose lives reflect the gospel—people who are self-controlled, hospitable, faithful, and able both to encourage others in sound teaching and to resist what is false.

In the Gospel, Jesus reminds his disciples that greatness in God's kingdom is not about status or power. It is found in serving others, following the example of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life for many.

So today we pray not only that a Bishop will be elected, but that God will give this Diocese a Bishop after his own heart: a faithful pastor, a teacher of truth, a servant of Christ, and a shepherd of God's people. And we pray also that all of us, clergy and laity alike, may be renewed in faith, humility, and love, so that together we may receive God's gift with trust and thanksgiving. Amen

Silence may be kept

LLM

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

For a New Bishop:

Eternal God, shepherd and guide,
in your mercy give your Church in this Diocese
a shepherd after your own heart,
who will walk in your ways,
and with loving care watch over your people.
Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth,
so that your Church may be built up
and your name glorified;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the Nominating Committee:

Loving and gracious God,
grant your wisdom and grace to the Nominating Committee.
Give them a sure vision of your plan and purpose
as they have interviewed candidates
and supported them through the process.
Encourage their faith,
fill them with joy and hope,
and sustain them as they serve you and your Church in this
place.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the Candidates:

Good and gracious Father,
look with kindness and gentleness
on those who have accepted nomination as Bishop.
Give them a sure trust in your wisdom and love,
humble hearts,
deep peace,
and joyful surrender to your call.
Bless also their families, churches, and ministries in this season
of discernment.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the Members of the Diocese:

Holy and sovereign Lord,
we, your Church, wait in hope and trust for your choice.
We thank you for all you have given us through the
generations.
Sustain the members of this Diocese in patience, faith, and
charity.
Free us from fear, anxiety, and division,
and teach us to pray with one heart and mind,
"Your will be done."
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the Members of the Election Synod:

God of wisdom and truth,
give humility, discernment, kindness,
and listening ears and hearts
to the members of the Election Synod.
Keep them faithful to your word,
attentive to your Spirit,
and gracious toward one another,
for the sake of your kingdom and the good of your Church
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

For This Parish:

Gracious God,
bless the people of [insert name]
Strengthen this parish in worship, witness, fellowship, and
service.
Deepen love among us,
renew us in faith,
and make us ready to receive with thanksgiving
the Bishop whom you will give to your Church.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

For the Diocese of Bunbury:

Lord God,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon the Diocese of Bunbury.
Bless its clergy and lay ministers,
its schools, agencies, chaplaincies, and congregations.
Renew every parish in gospel faithfulness,
pastoral care, prayer, holiness, and mission,
that this Diocese may bear good fruit to the glory of Christ
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

For Australia:

God of justice and mercy,
bless Australia and all who live in this land.
Guide those who govern,
give wisdom to public leaders,
and strengthen all who work for peace, truth, and the common
good.
Teach us to care for the weak,
to seek reconciliation,
and to act with compassion and integrity.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

For the Whole Church:

Father of all,
strengthen your Church throughout the world.
Unite it in truth and peace.
Guard it in faithfulness.
Give courage to Bishops, priests, deacons, and lay people,
and make your whole Church a living witness
to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Faithful God,
receive these prayers which we offer
for your Church, for this Diocese, and for the election of a new
Bishop.
Give us grace to trust your promises,
to listen for your voice,
and to walk together in the way of Christ;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

A hymn may be sung

LLM

Prayer for our local Clergy:

Gracious God,
we thank you for the gift of our Priest [insert name], Assistant
Priest [insert name], and Deacon, [insert name],
and for the faithful ministry they share among us.

Strengthen them with your Holy Spirit,
give them wisdom, patience, and joy in serving your people,
and renew them day by day in prayer, love, and trust in your
word.

We also give you thanks for our retired Priests [insert name]

Bless them for all they have offered in faithful service,
and continue to uphold them with peace, health, and joy.

May they know your loving presence, your sustaining grace and
the encouragement of your people's gratitude and prayers.

Keep all our clergy close to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
that in every season of ministry they may serve as shepherds
after your own heart, faithful to your Gospel and gentle with
your people.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**Final Prayer

Let us pray.

Go before us, Lord, in all that we do,
with your most gracious favour,
and guide us with your continual help,
that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Closing Hymn

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.