

# Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

## 3rd Session of the 47th Synod Business Paper: Monday 24 September 2007

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*(Page references are to the Standing Committee's Report - see Part 5 of the Synod Business Rules for ordinance procedures.)*

1. **Devotions will be led by the Rev Dr Mark Thompson: see attached.**
2. **Minutes of 19 September 2007.**
3. **Answers to questions**
  - 3.1 Mr Robert Tong to ask –  
  
Who are the members of the Doctrine Commission?
  - 3.2 The Rev Bruce Stanley to ask –  
  
Considering especially policies two and four of the Diocesan mission, can the Archbishop advise as to what funding has been set aside and what planning has been undertaken or considered for a Diocesan strategy for cross cultural or multi-ethnic ministries in the Sydney Diocese –
    - (a) for the past 5 years of the mission, and
    - (b) for the next 5 years of the mission.
  - 3.3 Dr Fletcher Cole to ask –  
  
Regarding the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education – given that the Statement is seen as a “living document”, what will be the procedure in future for making submissions about revisions to the Statement?
  - 3.4 Dr Greg Clarke to ask –  
  
If Diocesan Mission policy four encourages organisations to work together in order to maximise opportunities for the gospel –
    - (a) What efforts have been made by Evangelism Ministries to consult with the synod-funded Anglican Media Sydney regarding the creation of the Connect 09 website?
    - (b) Will there be any duplication of resources between the websites for Connect 09, Sydneyanglicans.net (the multi-award-winning central Diocesan website) and Christianity.net (the current evangelistic website)?
    - (c) What are the names of the ‘top industry firms’ that have been consulted on the marketing and distribution of the Connect 09 mission; what are the names of the ‘leading website design firms’ that have advised on the project’s internet needs; and what is the level at which they are currently engaged with the project?
  - 3.5 Mr Brian Flower to ask –
    - (a) His Grace, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams gave the lecture entitled ‘The Bible Today: Reading and Hearing’ at a recent meeting of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges in Toronto, Canada. Is it not the case that apart from his professional type of presentation those hearing and reading

his lecture must be confused at the internationally believed head of the Anglican Church's interpretation of the Word of God?

- (b) Is it a fact that several liberal dioceses of the Episcopal Church of the USA that have supported the consecration of a practising homosexual bishop have been invited by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the forthcoming Lambeth Conference?
- (c) On Monday night was it not said that the Anglican dioceses of Africa are being pressured by the American Church? Isn't it time that our Diocese with our relatively small number of hard working active Christians spreading the Word of God, with the greatest Christian theological college in the world, and with a very profitable financial situation, grasp the nettle and start bringing our influence and support to a greater extent on the massive Christian growth nations in Africa and China?
- (d) If this is the case should you Archbishop and your Assistant Bishops accept the Archbishop of Canterbury's invitation to Lambeth or stand up as you have over other issues in the past few years and decline the invitation and at the same time invite other worried dioceses particularly those of evangelical practice, both in our own country and overseas to Sydney for the start of a regular conference of Bible-based churches wanting to follow the true Anglican belief in the love of God, the gift of eternal life through our Saviour Jesus Christ all based on the Word of God through the Holy Scriptures?

3.6 Mrs Heather Kelley to ask –

What consideration has been given to involving and pastoring with non-parish organisations (in Connect 09) in order to better reach those in our city who are homeless?

3.7 The Rev Barry Lee to ask –

What progress has been made under Diocesan Mission Policy (d), "To reform the life of the Diocese ..." specifically with reference to the Standing Committee under item (xvii) and in particular the second part of that item, namely, "that the restrictions currently attached to the use of church property and funds be reviewed with the aim of giving more discretion to local leaders" and item (xviii) namely, the number of committees and processes involved in obtaining approvals be reduced to give greater authority to the parish about building issues?

**4. Petitions**

**5. Procedural motions from members**

**5.1 Arrangements for considering the motion concerning the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education**

Synod agrees that, if the motion that the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education pass as a policy of the Synod is carried, the mover may move the subsequent motion in the following form –

"Synod –

- (a) requests that a copy of the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education, or the relevant part or parts thereof, be circulated to all parishes and Diocesan organisations, and
- (b) requests that each parish and Diocesan organisation review its own policies where necessary to ensure they are consistent with the Diocesan Policy, and

(c) authorises the Standing Committee to amend the Policy Statement from time to time provided that any such amendments are reported to the Synod."

(Bishop Glenn Davies)

## 5.2 Arrangements for considering the motion concerning a Theology of Christian assembly

Synod agrees to the following arrangements for considering the motion concerning a Theology of Christian Assembly at item 7.5 on today's business paper –

- (a) the motion will be taken to have been moved and seconded in a form which includes an additional paragraph (d) as follows –
  - “(d) invites members to submit written comments about any of the matters referred to in (a), (b) and (c) above to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2007.”, and
- (b) the mover may speak for up to 15 minutes and a seconder may speak for up to 5 minutes, and
- (c) during debate on the motion, other members may each speak for up to 3 minutes, and
- (d) at an appropriate time during the debate, the President may request that members discuss the motion in small groups and provide written comments and suggestions about the matters raised in the motion, and
- (e) after the debate has concluded, the mover has a right of reply by speaking for up to 5 minutes,

and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.

(Mr Robert Wicks)

## 5.3 Arrangements for considering related motions concerning gambling

Synod, noting that the motions at items 7.8, 7.22 and 7.24 on today's business paper and the amendment on today's amendment sheet to the motion at item 7.8 in the name of the Rev Philip Wheeler (together the "Motions") are related but not substantially the same, agrees to the following arrangements for considering these Motions –

- (a) upon returning to the motion at item 7.8 (after the calling of motions on the business paper) the mover of each Motion which has not been passed formally during the call over may speak to his or her Motion for up to 5 minutes, and
- (b) debate is to proceed on such Motions collectively as a single debate during which other members may each speak for up to 3 minutes, and
- (c) at the conclusion of the debate, the right of reply may be exercised by the mover of the motion at item 7.8 by speaking for up to 5 minutes, and
- (d) following the right of reply, each such Motion is to be put separately,

and suspends so many of the business rules as would prevent these arrangements.

(Mr Robert Wicks)

## 6. Calling of motions on the business paper

## 7. Motions

### *To be continued today immediately after the formal matters*

#### 7.1 Government intervention on child abuse

Synod welcomes the recent determination by the Federal Government to address problems of child abuse, violence and substance abuse in Indigenous Communities in the Northern Territory. Synod wishes to express the following –

- (a) remorse that there has been inaction about these matters for so long and inadequate support for our Christian brothers and sisters in the affected areas;
- (b) concern at the limited consultation with Aboriginal communities over the Federal Government's legislative package, when so many instances of limited consultation in the past have led to good intentions being ineffective and damaging, when it is clear that many communities are in fact not dysfunctional;
- (c) commendation of the Bishop of the Northern Territory for his initiative in calling a conference of indigenous Christian leadership on the matter of the intervention;
- (d) recognition of those who over many years have attempted to help at risk Indigenous children and communities in the NT often with little acknowledgement or support;
- (e) support for the stance taken by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian Alliance, of which our own Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee is a member, as outlined in NATSICA's policy statement released following a national conference held in Alice Springs in July;
- (f) concern about the qualifications of the Racial Discrimination Act made necessary by differentiated treatment of Aboriginal communities;
- (g) concern about the avoidance of the requirement of the constitution that property can only be acquired on just terms;
- (h) acknowledgment that child abuse is happening in all communities across Australia and should be addressed as a matter of high priority by the Federal Government and State Governments;
- (i) calls upon the New South Wales Government to give a high priority to addressing the problem of child abuse in this State, and in particular urges the Government to address the issues raised by the report into child abuse in NSW Aboriginal communities entitled *Breaking the Silence* as a matter of urgency;
- (j) commendation of this whole matter to the prayers of all members of the Diocese.

*(see NATSICA policy statement circulated on 17 September)*

(Archdeacon Deryck Howell/Pastor Ray Minniecon)

### *To be taken today at 4.30 pm*

#### 7.2 Diocesan Policy Statement on Education

That the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education pass as a policy of the Synod.

*(Page 52)*

(Dr Bryan Cowling/The Rev Dr Mark Thompson)

*(If the motion that the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education pass as a policy of the Synod is carried, the mover may forthwith move the following further motion –*

*"Synod –*

- (a) requests that a copy of the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education, or the relevant part or parts thereof, be circulated to all parishes and Diocesan organisations, and
- (b) requests that each parish and Diocesan organisation review its own policies where necessary to ensure they are consistent with the Diocesan Policy.”)

### 7.3 **Connect 09 (Funding) Ordinance 2007**

That the Connect 09 (Funding) Ordinance 2007 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.

(Supplementary Report page 6)

(Canon Jim Ramsay/The Rev Stephen Semenchuk)

*(If the motion that the Connect 09 (Funding) Ordinance 2007 pass as an ordinance of the Synod is carried, the mover of the motion may forthwith move the following further motion –*

*“Synod enthusiastically endorses the campaign of evangelistic contact with all people in the Diocese known as Connect 09 and encourages all parishes, regional councils and diocesan organisations –*

- (a) *to work in fellowship with the Standing Committee, its Mission Board and Evangelism Ministries to ensure the effective planning and implementation of Connect 09, and*
- (b) *to consider assisting parishes which are struggling financially to pay the charge for gospel resources under the Connect 09 (Funding) Ordinance 2007.”*

### 7.4 **Recognised Churches (Provisional Status) Amendment Ordinance 2007**

Synod permits the introduction of the Recognised Churches (Provisional Status) Amendment Ordinance 2007.

(Page 193)

(Bishop Robert Forsyth/Mr Robert Wicks)

***To be taken today at 8.00 pm***

### 7.5 **Theology of Christian assembly**

That this Synod,

Thankful to Almighty God for the inheritance of the Book of Common Prayer, and mindful of the biblical injunction for believers to gather together regularly as the Body of Christ –

- (a) asks the Doctrine Commission to prepare a report for the next Synod presenting a theology of Christian assembly which can help shape authentic, biblical and Anglican orders of service suitable for the contemporary church, and
- (b) asks the Archbishop’s Liturgical Panel to review its Sunday Services in consultation with the Doctrine Commission and the Diocese as a whole, and
- (c) requests the Archbishop to appoint a committee to investigate and report on the architecture of buildings for contemporary church with special attention to the impact of technological changes.

(The Rev Canon Sandy Grant)

***To be taken on Tuesday 25 September 2007 at 4:30 pm***

### 7.6 **National Register Canon**

Synod endorses the concept of a national professional standards register of clergy and lay persons including information about child abuse and sexual abuse of an

adult but considers that any canon to establish such a register must embody the following –

- (a) if the information included on the register about child abuse and sexual abuse of an adult is not limited to persons who have admitted to or have been found to have committed such abuse, access to the register within a diocese must be limited to –
  - (i) the diocesan bishop (or delegate) and the Director of Professional Standards of the diocese in circumstances where the diocesan bishop proposes ordaining or issuing a licence to a member of clergy or a lay person, and
  - (ii) to the Director of Professional Standards of the diocese for the purposes of electing a bishop of a diocese provided that before any information on the register about a candidate in the election is disclosed by the Director of Professional Standards to the electing synod, nomination committee or Board of Electors, the candidate is given an opportunity to consider whether he wishes to proceed with or withdraw his candidacy,or, for the purposes of access within this Diocese, must be capable of being limited in this way by ordinance of the Synod or the Standing Committee, and
- (b) the definition of ‘abuse’ under the canon should be extended to include behaviour which is not ‘chaste’ within the meaning of *Faithfulness in Service*,

and directs that any canon which does not include the foregoing must not be implemented in any way unless and until the canon is approved by this Synod.

(Mr Neil Cameron)

***To be taken on Tuesday 25 September 2007 after the Mission funding presentation at 7:00 pm***

#### **7.7 Parish Administration Ordinance**

Synod, noting the report from the Ordinance Reform Group about the exposure draft for the Parish Administration Ordinance –

- (a) supports in principle the approach taken in preparing the exposure draft, and
- (b) requests that members provide comments in respect of the exposure draft to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 December 2007, and
- (c) requests that a bill for the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008 be brought to the Synod in 2008 incorporating, as appropriate, comments made by members about the exposure draft.

(Additional Materials)

(Bishop Robert Forsyth/Mr Robert Wicks)

***Motions for which no particular time has been specified for consideration***

#### **7.8 Use of raffles or other games of chance**

Synod considers that parishes and diocesan organisations should not use raffles or other games of chance as methods of raising funds.

(Mr Richard Lambert)

## 7.9 Bishop Martyn Minns

The Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney congratulates Bishop Martyn Minns on his installation as presiding bishop in the Convocation of Anglicans in North America on 5 May 2007 and assures him of our prayers as he, along with many other faithful men and women, seeks to encourage faithfulness to God and his word amongst American Anglicans.

(Mr Robert Tong)

## 7.10 Biblical teaching on Jesus Christ

Synod –

- (a) notes with concern recent public comments denigrating a penal substitutionary understanding of the atoning death of Christ, for example during Easter 2007 from the Dean of St Alban's in England, and affirms the biblical teaching that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son truly incarnate as a human being, died in our place, bearing the curse of the Law and paying the penalty for our sin, and by so doing he reconciled us to God, expressed God's determined love for us and together with his resurrection accomplished a complete victory over the principalities and powers, and
- (b) requests the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to provide a report which explores the importance of penal substitution in understanding the Bible's teaching on the atonement.

(The Rev Dr Bill Salier)

## 7.11 Biblical pattern of marriage

Synod –

- (a) affirms that the relationship of loving, sacrificial leadership of a husband and the intelligent, voluntary submission of a wife is the Biblical pattern of marriage, and
- (b) totally rejects the use of this Biblical pattern to justify any form of domestic abuse, and
- (c) totally rejects all forms of domestic abuse, and
- (d) expresses its concern for those children, women and men, who are victims of domestic abuse, and
- (e) calls on Christian husbands and wives to use their God-given responsibilities for the good of their families, and
- (f) calls on ministers to teach congregations the Biblical model for marriage and also to teach against domestic abuse.

(Mrs Lesley Ramsay/The Rev Dr Bill Salier)

## 7.12 Fellowship meal for the proclamation of the Lord's death

Synod requests the Diocesan Doctrine Commission to consider the appropriateness, with respect to the teaching of Scripture and the Anglican formularies, of Anglican churches having a fellowship meal for the proclamation of the Lord's death, and to bring a report to Synod at a convenient time.

(Dr Barry Newman)

## 7.13 Ordination of women

Synod notes that –

- (a) within both the Anglican Church of Australia and the wider Anglican Communion there is a diversity of practice in regard to the ordination of women, and
- (b) Synods of this Diocese have consistently voted not to permit the ordination of women as priests, based on the understanding that whilst scripture

encourages the ministry of women, it denies the eldership of women in the congregation.

However, Synod also notes that there is another understanding of scripture held by a small but significant minority within the diocese. This understanding holds that scripture supports and endorses women being involved in all aspects of the life and ministry of God's people including eldership of the congregation and so in Anglican Polity being ordained as priests and Bishops. Synod therefore asks the Archbishop to explore ways in which these different views can be creatively lived out in the life and practice of the diocese.

(The Rev Chris Albany/Miss Betty Allan)

#### 7.14 Publishing of ordination lists

Synod requests that the Diocesan Registry publish lists in Southern Cross or on the diocesan website of those proposed to be ordained as deacons or presbyters at least 1 month before the ordination is scheduled to take place. ~~Guidelines are to be provided for appropriate means to respond by those who wish to raise concerns about any of these candidates. This will encourage prayer for the candidates and allow any concerns to be reported to the Archbishop.~~

(The Rev David Clarke)

#### 7.15 Responsibilities of Synod members

Synod requests that –

- (a) the Standing Committee be asked to produce a brief paper outlining the role and responsibilities of lay Synod members to be read at each parish service 2 weeks before the vestry meeting electing Synod representatives, and
- (b) Mr Robert Tong's booklet be sent out to those subsequently elected to Synod, and
- (c) ~~within one month of Synod's completion a written summary of Synod's work be presented to all church members attending services over a 2 week period~~ as soon as possible after the receipt of the Synod Summary Circular to Ministers, Churchwardens, Parish Councils and Synod Representatives from the Diocese, the parish make copies of this Synod Summary available to all church members requesting copies over a 2 week period and the Synod representatives be available to discuss the Summary with parishioners.

(Mr Brian Flower)

#### 7.16 Displaced persons

Synod –

- (a) notes that there are 25 million displaced persons in the world, 11.5 million of whom are uprooted refugees or asylum seekers with some 7 million of these having been "warehoused" for 10 years or more in refugee camps or urban slums, and
- (b) commends the Australian Government for increasing the humanitarian resettlement component of its immigration program after August 2001, and encourages a further significant increase in the number of displaced persons offered resettlement in Australia under that program, and
- (c) calls on the Government to offer resettlement in Australia to the group of Sri Lankan nationals currently held on Nauru whose refugee status has recently been confirmed, and
- (d) endorses a non-discriminatory approach in all aspects of Australia's immigration policy especially its humanitarian component, and



- (e) requests that a copy of this motion be sent to the Parliamentary leader of all political parties represented in the Federal Parliament.

(The Rev Chris Albany)

#### 7.17 **Ad hoc theological recitations and summations of Christian doctrine**

Synod notes occasional presentation of motions calculated to emphasise particular aspects of doctrine or affirm certain principles of faith as understood by the respective movers of the motions in question. While acknowledging that such motions are motivated by zeal, Synod respectfully reminds all members that Christian truth is adequately and wholly expressed in scripture and sound doctrine is summarised by the creeds. Again acknowledging the zeal of movers, Synod respectfully suggests that members desist from presenting *ad hoc* formulations of doctrine in the interests of unequivocal understanding, by those inside and those outside the church, that authoritative Christian teaching expressed in definitive terms is to be found in the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer and the 39 Articles.

(Professor Bernard Stewart)

#### 7.18 **Reporting of diocesan organisations**

Synod, noting that Anglican Retirement Villages and Anglicare are not due to submit their annual reports until 30 September 2007, affirms the principle of diocesan organisations reporting to the Synod and asks that these reports continue to be made available, when available, in the most cost effective way.

(The Rev Martin Robinson/Dr Stephen Judd)

#### 7.19 **Synod debate**

Synod respectfully requests that the programming of Synod be reviewed to allow more time for debate. In particular it requests that on each day the Synod meets significant time is set aside for debate, and while recognising the value of presentations for informing the Synod asks that less total time be allocated to them.

(The Rev Richard Humphrey)

#### 7.20 **Retiring members of Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation**

Synod give thanks to God for the work of Mr John Brew as Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation since 1999 and Mr Philip Butcher as a Board Member of the Corporation since 1997, both men having indicated their intention of retiring from the Board at the next Corporation meeting in November. Synod thanks them for their considerable efforts on behalf of the Corporation during a time of significant growth and development, thanks their wives and families for enabling them to undertake their various roles on behalf of the Corporation and asks for our Lord's continuing blessing on their lives and works.

(Mr David Minty/Dr Laurie Scandrett)

#### 7.21 **Human tragedy in Zimbabwe**

Synod, lamenting the appalling human tragedy in Zimbabwe caused by the regime of President Robert Mugabe, urges the Archbishop on behalf of our Synod to contact the Primate of Central Africa to encourage him to gather the support of his fellow bishops in denouncing publicly the regime of President Mugabe and to distance himself and themselves from those who publicly support the Mugabe regime.

In so doing, Synod recognises the enormous difficulties facing the Anglican Church in Central Africa and wishes to assure the Primate and bishops of our prayerful support.

(The Rev Dr Roger Chilton/Bishop Peter Tasker)

#### **7.22 Poker machines**

In the light of the news release today of Peter Holmes a Court's move not to reinstate the 60 poker machines within the new building for the South Sydney Leagues Club – this Synod wholeheartedly supports whatever financial profit may be foregone for the benefits and rewards to the community that will flow. This Synod commends with acclamation such a bold initiative against the tide of revenue raising from gambling and supports the education of the destructive effects of looking for “gain without pain” resulting when we are not content in whatever situation the Lord assigns us.

This Synod calls upon our government, clubs and community groups to work together in reducing reliance upon the revenue of gambling and alleviating the crippling effects of gambling within our communities.

(The Rev Shane Rogerson)

#### **7.23 Parish Administration Ordinance 2007**

Synod –

- (a) signifies its wish to expedite progress of the draft Parish Administration Ordinance 2007 by its introduction in the form of a bill for enactment as an ordinance in the current session,
- (b) requests Standing Committee to determine a commencement date for the ordinance, if passed, being not later than 30 April 2008 for presentation to the Archbishop-in-Council,
- (c) delegates to Standing Committee any necessary amendments to the transitional arrangements arising from the changed timetable.

(Mr Jody Trouncer)

#### **7.24 Keno machines**

Synod objects strongly to the introduction of Keno machines into pubs as announced by the NSW Government, and urges the Government instead to reduce its reliance on revenue from gaming machines and in so doing help those families and individuals in the grip of gambling addictions.

(Dr Karin Sowada/Deaconess Margaret Rodgers)

#### **7.25 Retirement of Mr Geoff Kyngdon**

Synod gives thanks to God for the ministry of Mr Geoff Kyngdon as Assistant to the Bishop of Wollongong.

(The Rev Glenn Farrell/Mr Peter White)

#### **7.26 Parish Annual Financial Returns and Audited Accounts**

Synod –

- (a) noting that only 37% of parishes submitted its annual audited financial returns by 15 April this year, thanks those parishes for their diligence and reminds the remaining 63% of parishes of the Diocese of the need to submit their returns for 2007 by 15 April 2008, and



# Indicative Timetable for Synod Business

*References to items and motions are references to items and motions in the business paper for Monday 24 September 2007.*

<b>Monday 24 September 2007</b>	
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters 7.1 Government intervention on child abuse Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4:30 – 5:45 pm	7.2 Diocesan Policy Statement on Education 7.3 Connect 09 (Funding) Ordinance 2007 7.4 Recognised Churches (Provisional Status) Amendment Ordinance 2007
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Missionary Hour
8:00 pm +	7.5 Theology of Christian assembly Thereafter, other business as per business paper

<b>Tuesday 25 September 2007</b>	
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Bible Study/prayer Formal Matters Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
4:30 – 5:45 pm	7.6 National Register Canon Thereafter, other business as per the business paper
7:00 pm +	Presentation on Mission funding strategy 7.7 Parish Administration Ordinance Thereafter, other business as per the business paper

## Bible Reading, Hymn & Prayers: 24 September 2007

**Bible Reading: Galatians 1: 11-24**

**Bible Reader: Mr Vanda Gould**

**Bible Study Leader: The Rev Dr Mark Thompson**

<sup>11</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up.

<sup>12</sup>I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

<sup>13</sup>For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup>I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. <sup>15</sup>But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup>to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, <sup>17</sup>nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.

<sup>18</sup>Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup>I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. <sup>20</sup>I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie. <sup>21</sup>Later I went to Syria and Cilicia. <sup>22</sup>I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. <sup>23</sup>They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."

<sup>24</sup>And they praised God because of me.

*Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version*

### **Hymn: Rock of ages**

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
cleanse me from its guilt and power.
2. Not the labours of my hands  
can fulfill thy law's commands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears for ever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
thou must save, and thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to the cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;

wash me, Saviour, or I die.

4. While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when my eyelids close in death,  
when I soar through tracts unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee..

Words: Augustus Montague Toplady 1740-78

Pianist: The Rev Geoff Deutcher

**Prayer: Dr Philip Selden**

**Grant us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we who cannot do anything that is good without you, may in your strength be able to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**