



## Vocations Sunday

Date

Church name

*"For each one of us, there is only one thing necessary: to fulfil our own destiny, according to God's will, to be what God wants us to be."*

— Thomas Merton, No Man is an Island

*A hymn may be sung*

*The president may say:*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
**Blessed be God's Kingdom now and for ever.**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be always with you. **And also with you.**

*The president greets the people:*

On this Vocations Sunday we give thanks to God that you call us all to varieties of forms of service in God's Church and in the world. And so we pray for openness to the Holy Spirit, that each of us may discern the call of God upon our lives.

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.**

*A minister says:*

'I set no store by life:  
I only want to finish the race and complete the task  
that the Lord has assigned to me,  
of bearing witness to the gospel of God's grace.'  
Let us confess our failure to live up to our calling.  
Lord Jesus, you said to your disciples:  
'You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.'  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, we know that the harvest is plentiful  
but the labourers are few.  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you appointed us to go and bear fruit that will last.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*A minister says:*

God of the spirit of kindness,  
in the gory of earth and sea and stars,  
in the kaleidoscope of colour and share and shapeliness,  
in the patters of humour and tenderness and touch,  
we celebrate your generosity.  
Forgive us when we forget the gift in our every breath,  
the care that sustains our every moment,  
the grace that can transform our every day.  
Set us free from the prison of grudging hearts,  
mean desires,  
resentful spirits,  
give us the courage to act with justice and generosity,  
and draw us into love that does not calculate or keep scores.

Pattern of our Days

**We turn to you, O God;  
we renounce evil;  
we claim your love;  
we choose to be made whole.**

*The presiding priest says*

God forgives you.

Forgive others;

Forgive yourself.

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*The Collect*

Let us pray for the ministry of the whole people of God.

Almighty God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of your Church  
is called into a royal priesthood,  
hear our prayer for all members of your Church  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may truly serve you,  
devoutly love you  
and faithfully follow in the way of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God our Shepherd,  
in every generation you call  
ministers of your word and sacraments.  
Equip them to preach the gospel,  
to care for your people  
and to show forth the fruit of the Spirit in their lives;  
in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

*One or two readings from below or use some of the suggested ones from the leadership team.*

#### **First Reading – Jeremiah 1.4-9**

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.' Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. Hear the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Psalm 27.1-11**

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear? :  
the Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,  
come upon me to devour me :  
they shall stumble and fall.  
If an army encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid :  
and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.  
One thing I have asked from the Lord, which I will require :  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,  
To see the fair beauty of the Lord :  
and to seek his will in his temple.  
For he will hide me under his shelter in the day of trouble :  
and conceal me in the shadow of his tent,  
and set me high upon a rock.  
And now he will lift up my head :  
above my enemies round about me.  
And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary with exultation :  
I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.  
O Lord, hear my voice when I cry :  
have mercy upon me and answer me.  
My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face' :  
your face, Lord, I will seek.  
Do not hide your face from me :  
or thrust your servant aside in displeasure;

### **Second Reading – Romans 12.1-8**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*A hymn or song may be sung*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter nine, beginning at the thirty fifth verse.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Sermon*

*The president says:*

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**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 from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and was made 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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.  
He 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.

*Prayers of the People*

Lord God of all,  
over all and in all and through all:  
we give thanks that we are called to your service;  
may all your people be attentive and obedient to your calling.  
Lord, hear your people  
**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be apostles, sent out to do your work.  
We pray for all who respond to this calling to serve in your name:  
for those immersed in the world, seeking to bear witness to the gospel in word and action,  
for those whose service takes them to places where they face opposition and difficulty,  
may they be continually filled with your Spirit, and empowered to follow your calling.  
Lord, hear your people  
**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be prophets.  
We pray for all whom you have called to speak out and proclaim the values of your kingdom:  
for those who challenge injustice and apathy and untruth,  
for those who campaign for the well-being of your people and your world,  
may they be continually filled with your vision, and have courage in their prophetic calling.  
Lord, hear your people  
**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be evangelists.  
We pray for all whom you have called to share the message of your love:  
for those who communicate the good news of Christ to others from a variety of backgrounds,

for those whose enthusiasm and love conveys your truth,  
may they be filled with your love as they share the good news with others.  
Lord, hear your people  
**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be pastors.  
We pray for all whom you have called to care for others through prayer and through service:  
for those who take care of any who are young or old, who are sick or struggling,  
for those whose work supports medical, social and community services,  
may their lives be channels of your love and grace.  
Lord, hear your people  
**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be teachers.  
We pray for all whom you have called to encourage adults and children to learn and grow:  
for those who teach informally as parents, mentors and facilitators,  
for workers in schools, colleges and universities, and for those who teach in our churches,  
may they speak your truth, and help others to grow in wisdom.  
Lord, hear your people  
**and answer our prayers.**

God of peace,  
let us your people know,  
that at the heart of turbulence  
there is an inner calm that comes  
from faith in you.  
Keep us from being content with things as they are,  
that from this central peace  
there may come a creative compassion,  
a thirst for justice,  
and a willingness to give of ourselves  
in the spirit of Christ.  
**Amen.**

*The priest says*

Grace to you and peace  
from God our Creator,  
the love at our beginning



and without end,  
in our midst and with us.

**God is with us,  
here we find new life.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.  
*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

*A hymn or song/s may be sung  
The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.  
This prayer may be said:*

Heavenly Father,  
as we set before you these gifts of bread and wine,  
bless also the gift of our hearts and minds  
as we offer our lives in your service;  
for Jesus Christ's sake.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right,  
it is our duty and our joy  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise,  
heavenly Father, source of all that is,  
for you have called our world into existence,  
and filled it with abundant life.  
You called a chosen people as your own,  
and led them in the way of holiness.  
You called your beloved Son,  
in whom you were well pleased,

to give his life for us on the cross,  
and rise again in glory.  
And now we give you thanks  
that you call men and women  
to equip your holy people for the work of ministry,  
for the building up of the body of Christ.  
Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and *saying*:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**  
**God of power and might,**  
**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**  
**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.  
So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection

until he comes in glory.

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord of all life,

help us to work together for that day

when your kingdom comes

and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,

gather us in your loving arms

and bring us with all the saints

to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,

for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.  
Silence is kept.*

Giver of life and love,  
we thank you that in this heavenly banquet  
you invigorate and renew us.  
Living in the unity of the Spirit  
may we boldly use your gifts  
to continue your work in the world.  
**Amen.**

**Through Christ, and with all your saints,  
we offer ourselves  
and our lives to your service.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit,  
to stand with you in your world.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the servant,  
our friend and brother. Amen.**

*A hymn may be sung.  
The president says:*

As you have been fed at this table  
go to feed the hungry.  
As you have been set free  
go to set free the imprisoned.  
As you have received – give.  
As you have heard – proclaim.  
And the blessing which you have received  
from the Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be always with you.  
**Amen.**

Iona, Pattern of our Days

*A minister says*  
Go in the peace of Christ.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**



## Anglican Diocese of Grafton

**Vocations Sunday 2025**

*Resources:*

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

<https://anglicanprayerbook.nz/456.html>

*The Church of England – Common Worship*

*The Anglican Church of Australia – A Prayer Book for Australia*