



Friday, 5 December 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers

I am pleased to announce that The Venerable Tiffany Sparks will be consecrated as Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Grafton in early 2026.

The Venerable Tiffany Sparks has served as Diocesan Archdeacon and Ministry Development Officer since June 2019. During this time she has taken a diocesan perspective on mission and ministry, acting at all times for the peaceful conduct of the Diocese and the wellbeing of its people, both lay and ordained. Throughout her ministry she has maintained a high level of integrity, transparency and trust. Tiffany has enhanced the ministry of the wider diocese through vocations, formation, facilitation of whole-of-diocese strategic change (restructure), and encouraging, equipping and training clergy and lay people for ministry and mission. Archdeacon Tiffany is committed to, and has a well-developed understanding of, the importance of safe ministry including the fostering of a culture of safety and wellbeing in the diocese. She sees the church as precious yet able to be corrected, and has been at all times loyal to the Diocesan Bishop, with a view to the integrity and reputation of his episcopal leadership. All this has been enhanced by Tiffany's delightful, refreshing approach as well as the clarity of her communication with individuals and parish communities. This describes a ministry that is episcopal in nature.

Archdeacon Tiffany is an outstanding example of women in leadership in the church. Her consecration as a bishop will be an encouragement to women in ministry in this diocese as well as in the wider church.

Her current role as Diocesan Archdeacon has similar duties to that of Assistant Bishops in other dioceses. It is my discernment that Archdeacon Tiffany is called to and ready for this ministry. I have every confidence that she will undertake this ministry with great care, Godly wisdom and grace and that this appointment will greatly enhance the ministry and mission of the Diocese.

The Primate has been assured that she is a priest of good character. The Primate and the Metropolitan have certified that she is Canonically Fit for this office in accordance with the *Canon Concerning Holy Orders 2004*. The requirements of the Assistant Bishops Canon 1966 Adopting Ordinance 1967 of the Diocese of Grafton have also been met. The Bishop in Council has concurred with my recommendation that Archdeacon Tiffany be appointed to episcopal orders. The office that she currently holds is an Episcopal office for the duration of her tenure. I will license her to minister in that office.

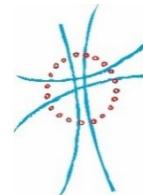
After her consecration, and for the duration of her tenure, Tiffany will continue exercising her ministry in the way that she has been doing, as this position is one that is in line with that of an Assistant Bishop. She will also undertake such episcopal duties as will assist me in my role as Diocesan Bishop.

The date for her Consecration will be advised in due course. In the meantime, please uphold Archdeacon Tiffany and Deacon Grant in your prayers as Tiffany prepares for this new chapter.

Yours in Christ,

Dr Murray Harvey
Bishop of Grafton

For Further Information
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The Venerable Tiffany Sparks

Biography



Role and Diocesan Ministry

The Venerable Tiffany Sparks currently serves as the Diocesan Archdeacon and Ministry Development Officer in the Anglican Diocese of Grafton – a position she has held since June 2019 graftondiocese.org.au. In this senior role, she works closely with the Bishop and diocesan leadership to shape and support ministry across the NSW North Coast and Mid-North Coast. Her portfolio is broad: she oversees the diocesan Vocations and Formation program; chairs diocesan Presentation Panels. She also organises and facilitates the annual diocesan Ministry School and other conferences and training for clergy and laity. Tiffany has responsibility for Lay Ministry development across the Diocese; this is a role that Tiffany really enjoys. Lay Ministry is a jewel in the crown of Grafton Diocese.

Tiffany is known for her energetic and forward-thinking leadership. Upon announcing her appointment as Archdeacon, Bishop Murray Harvey noted that the selection panel was “convinced that Rev'd Tiffany will meet the requirements of the role with integrity,” adding that “she offers the kind of creative energy and leadership that are currently needed as we grow into becoming the church of the future.” graftondiocese.org.au. From her diocesan vantage point, Tiffany has gained a deeply formative perspective on the life of the Church in all its diversity. Clergy and lay colleagues describe her as approachable and passionate in ministry. When she announced her departure from her former parish to take up the Grafton post, “there were tears from the pulpit and in the pews” as both she and her parishioners reacted with a mix of grief and gratitude anglicanfocus.org.au, a testament to her genuine care for her community.

Early Life and Education

A lifelong Anglican, Tiffany became a mother at a young age, an experience that profoundly shaped her outlook and commitment to an inclusive Church thepointmagazine.com.au. She studied at The Australian Catholic University and earned degrees in Social Sciences and Theology, completing an Honours Thesis in Pauline literature in her twenties graftondiocese.org.au. Tiffany worked as a tutor in the Department of Theology at the Australian Catholic University and also served as a Chaplain and Chaplaincy Coordinator at Griffith University graftondiocese.org.au. These formative academic and ministry experiences nurtured in her a deep love of Scripture and theology – especially the writings of St Paul – and a fascination with how philosophical and theological conversations inform our understanding of culture and community. She reflects that some of the most influential conversations of her life have been theological in nature, encouraging her to continually ask what being a Christian really means for how we treat others with love, dignity, and respect graftondiocese.org.au. This reflective foundation has remained central throughout her ministry.

Tiffany also engaged in grassroots community work before ordination. Notably, she helped establish support groups for young mothers in Western Queensland and became active in advocacy for refugee support and homelessness initiatives graftondiocese.org.au. These early experiences gave her firsthand insight into the challenges faced by people on the margins of society – and the importance of the Church’s presence among those who might feel excluded or voiceless. Tiffany was ordained in 2011 at the age of 29 graftondiocese.org.au.

Parish Ministry and Innovative Outreach

Following her ordination, Tiffany served in parish ministry in the Diocese of Brisbane. She served at St Mark's, The Gap in her curacy, and in 2012 became Priest-in-Charge (later Rector) of St Paul's Anglican Church, Ithaca Ashgrove. She served with loyalty, love and dedication at St Paul's for the next seven years anglicanfocus.org.au. Tiffany developed a reputation for creative, outside-the-box ministry initiatives that connected the church with the wider community.

Tiffany developed an online Lenten initiative called Repent4Lent (at repent4lent.org), a creative social media campaign inviting people to reflect on contemporary social issues as a form of Lenten practice. The campaign gained significant traction – garnering over 30,000 engagements worldwide graftondiocese.org.au. In 2014, she also led St Paul's to become the first mainstream church in Australia to accept Bitcoin for offerings/donations graftondiocese.org.au.

Theological Perspective and Advocacy

Tiffany is firmly grounded in Anglican theology and liturgy, yet unafraid to ask hard questions and advocate for a more inclusive, compassionate expression of the faith. In April 2016, she appeared as a panellist on ABC TV's flagship forum Q&A, on a special all-Christian episode discussing *“Church and State.”* youtube.com. Tiffany used the national platform to speak up for those often marginalized in church debates.

In 2019, Tiffany was one of ten Christians from across Australia selected to take part in SBS Television's documentary series “Christians Like Us.” This two-part reality show – a follow-up to the acclaimed *“Muslims Like Us”* – placed Christians of very different beliefs and backgrounds in a house together for a week to discuss and debate contentious topics of faith. Tiffany represented the egalitarian Anglican viewpoint on the program and was in fact the only ordained minister among the housemates. Stepping well outside her comfort zone, she embraced the challenge *“to show how broad Christianity is”* to the wider public eternitynews.com.au. *“I really wanted to be part of the show because I wanted to show that we get pigeon-holed... But there's a lot more nuance in the Christian world,”* she explained eternitynews.com.au. She endeavours to represent a Christianity that is intellectually credible, empathetic, and authentically focused on Christ's love.

Personal life

Outside of her formal duties, Tiffany enjoys a rich family life. She is married to the Reverend Grant Sparks, who is Vocational Deacon, Software Engineer and expert in Artificial Intelligence. Together they share a blended family of six children and one grandchild – a source of great joy. Tiffany and Grant also have two beloved border collies Chloe and Ruby who complete their household.

Tiffany brings with her a wealth of experience, a pastor's heart, and a visionary commitment to seeing the Church *“flourish in love, reverence, and mutual respect.”* Those who have worked with her describe her as a bridge-builder and an innovator. She has a gift for bridging the old and the new, the sacred and the secular, the traditional and the progressive – encouraging the Church to hold fast to its core while also “growing into the church of the future” in creative fidelity graftondiocese.org.au.

Sources: Tiffany Sparks' remarks and biographical details have been drawn from official Anglican Church publications, news media, and her own writings and interviews, including Anglican Focus Queensland anglicanfocus.org.au eternitynews.com.au, the Anglican Diocese of Grafton's North Coast Anglican magazine graftondiocese.org.au graftondiocese.org.au, the Guardian theguardian.com, SBS and Eternity News muckrack.com eternitynews.com.au, and A Progressive Christian Voice Australia progressivechristians.org.au, among other sources.