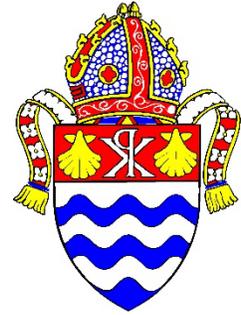


# Registry Update - March 2026



## Registrar's Forward, Entrusting the Year to the Lord

The year seems to have begun at a sprint. Amid a full inbox and a full diary, I'm very aware of the size of the workload I've taken on. Yet beneath it all, I'm grateful for a steady peace, and genuinely joyful about what God is doing among us.

Together with Bishop-in-Council (BiC) and the Registry team, we are shaping a strategic direction that will move us from being reactive administrators to proactive service agents for our Diocese. This isn't about adding layers of process; it's about clearing pathways, strengthening support, and serving in ways that enable mission and ministry to grow across all our parishes, schools and ministries.

As the scope and size of the task becomes clearer, so does the invitation to entrust it all to the Lord. With God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26), but they unfold in His time, not mine, this is hard for me to accept, however, I am reflecting and being faithful in my trust to the Lord for this. My part is to be faithful, diligent, and patient, trusting that the Lord will establish the work of our hands in the season He appoints.

I find myself praying often along these lines:

*Lord, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.*

May God continue to guide our Diocese as we seek to serve Him with hope, joy, and trust in His timing.

## A Busy Start to the Year

It's been a busy start, and we're grateful for the patience and goodwill across our parishes, ministries, schools, and agencies. Please be kind to one another, and to the Registry team, as we work through shared priorities and tasks together. Thank you for your understanding and collaboration.

### Farewell and Thanksgiving for Dr Susan

We give heartfelt thanks for Dr Susan and her contribution to the life of our Diocese. As we farewell her, we acknowledge her wisdom, kindness and service. Please keep Dr Susan in your prayers, asking God's blessing for the next chapter.

With Gracious Thanks: Anne Helmrich, Lismore Parish Preschool

We express our profound gratitude to Ms Anne Helmrich, who has been part of the Lismore Preschool community since the 1970s. We especially appreciate Anne's faithful service as Preschool Management Committee Chair. Thank you, Anne, for your decades of dedication to children, families, and staff.

## Executive Schools Officer

We will provide a further update on the Executive Schools Officer portfolio shortly, as we are currently going through recruitment processes. In the meantime, we extend our appreciation to our school leaders and boards for their steady partnership and care of students, staff, and communities.

## Budget 2027: Planning Underway

Preliminary work for the 2027 Budget has already commenced. Over the coming months we will:

- Review current settings and pressures,
- Identify mission-aligned priorities, and
- Engage with key stakeholders to ensure prudent stewardship and clear alignment with our diocesan strategy.

Further consultation details will be circulated shortly, all to be ready for Synod 2026.

## Governance Document Hierarchy Policy Adopted

Bishop-in-Council has adopted a Governance Document Hierarchy Policy to clarify the order and relationship of our governing instruments (e.g., Acts/Constitution, ordinances/canons, regulations, policies, procedures, guidelines, forms).

The purpose is to provide clarity on what sits where, reduce ambiguity, and support consistent decision-making and compliance. This policy will be shared with all ministry units shortly.

## Registry Functional Business Plan Endorsed

The Registry Functional Business Plan has been endorsed. It sets the strategic direction for the next 5+ years, guiding our shift from reactive administration to proactive mission enablement. Our aim is to deliver timely, reliable, and mission-shaped services that strengthen parishes, schools, and ministries across the Diocese.

## Strategic Reporting Framework – Development Underway

Work is progressing on a Strategic Reporting Framework to provide clear, useful, and timely insights to our leaders. We are working with three separate groups to ensure the framework is appropriately designed and genuinely helpful for decision-making and governance. More to come as pilots commence.

## 19th General Synod – August

The 19th General Synod meets in August this year. Please pray for our Diocesan representatives as they prepare, asking for wisdom, unity, and a focus on Christ's mission and One Kingdom in all deliberations.

## Roles & Responsibilities Conference — Postponed

Our Roles and Responsibilities Conference, originally being planned for April, has been postponed. This allows us to prioritise immediate tasks and invest further preparation time so we can deliver an excellent conference and training package for new parish leaders and representatives.

A new date and details will be communicated as soon as they are confirmed.

Yours in Service,



**James Gale**  
**Registrar/General Manager**  
**Anglican Diocese of Grafton**

