



## Newsletter #2

# Pray for Renewal of Hope in Christ

Welcome to the second Hope25 monthly newsletter. We are pleased to say we now have over 750 subscribers from Anglican churches all over Australia (please keep asking others [to sign up!](#)). Last month in the first newsletter we encouraged the formation of a "**Hope25 working group**" in each parish or community. We suggested that the first things a working group could do are:

1. Dream about what God might do in your parish or community
2. Brainstorm hope-sharing activity ideas
3. Pray

Has your parish formed a Hope25 working group? [Click here for a printable version](#) of last month's newsletter.

This month we will consider the importance of prayer for renewal in Christ which precedes sharing the hope we have in Jesus. It could be that your Hope25 working group has one person whose responsibility is to encourage the parish to be praying. Or you could even have a separate intercessory team form just to pray for your parish over the next 12 months.

### Praying for ourselves and our parishes

In the wonderful prayer of the apostle Paul in Ephesians 1, his bold request is that *'the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you.'* (Ephesians 1:18a)

This is a prayer for spiritual renewal in Christ. Praying that we might more deeply know the hope of Christ. If we want to be sharers of the hope we have in Jesus, we must ourselves be renewed in our knowledge of *"the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people"* (Ephesians 1:18b).

It is vital that our Hope25 working groups around the country lead the way in praying for spiritual renewal. Pray that we would know more deeply and joyfully the hope we have in Jesus. Sisters and brothers in Christ who are growing in hope will more ready to share that hope with others.

## Praying for discernment and openness for the Hope25 season next year

The apostle Paul commends the Ephesian church for their faith and urges them to know God better and keep growing.

As you discuss and brainstorm Hope25 outreach activities for your specific context, it will be important to pray for God's guidance:

- Pray for wise ideas for activities that will connect
- Pray for discernment to know what is achievable in your parish with the gifts and resources unique to your situation
- Pray for God to send visitors to your parish services and activities
- Pray to be richly welcoming and engaging with visitors
- Pray for insight to consider where we might fall short of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives or our parish culture

The apostle Paul wanted his readers to not only know the riches of Christ but also the power of God at work in his church. This is God's "*incomparably great power for us who believe...*" (Ephesians 1:19).

- Pray for openness that the power that raised and exalted Jesus from the dead would be at work in his church today
- Pray for openness to try new outreach ideas or activities
- Pray that God's power in Christ would change our own hearts, as well as the hearts of those we are trying to reach
- Pray for courage to trust God's power to work when we take risks to share the hope that Jesus gives

What else would you add to these lists of prayer points? Please discuss together in your Hope25 working group.

## Writing a Prayer to Be Used in Your Church or Faith Community

A good idea is to write a prayer specifically for your church or ministry and pray it regularly. You could use it in every service, and encourage people in your church to pray it daily in their own prayers.

You could use Ephesians 1 or another Bible passage as the basis to write a prayer for renewal and sharing the hope of Jesus Christ.

Or you may like to use the Hope25 collect:

### **God of Hope**

**you call on us to be your witnesses in this uncertain world;  
by your Spirit awaken in us  
a true vision of your kingdom,  
a greater certainty of our salvation, and  
a deeper dedication to your service;  
that through our words and actions the same Spirit may  
bring many who are lost to be found,**

and for them to celebrate the hope  
that we can only have in Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen

<https://www.hope25.com.au/2024/03/20/a-collect-for-hope25/>

## **Praying with others in the Hope25 movement around the Anglican Church of Australia**

Elsewhere in this email we have information about the national Hope25 prayer meeting which will be on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm (AEST) on Zoom. This will be a great chance to unite with other Australian Anglicans from other Hope25 working groups.

We would love to hear of Hope25 diocesan prayer meetings or clusters of Anglican parishes having special prayer meetings to pray for renewal and sharing the hope we have in Jesus. Please share your story with us to encourage others.

For those who use the Prayermate app, we also have [a channel for Hope25](#). The [Hope25 Facebook page](#) will also be used for sharing prayer points about parish outreach activities.

Imagine if we prayed regularly not only for ourselves and our own parishes but also for the outreach activities of other Anglicans around the nation. By next year, we hope to have multiple networks and gatherings for prayer, both online and in person.

May the next 12 months be a historically unique season where Anglicans in Australia pray for each other more fervently than ever before.

### **Hope25 Contact Details:**

Website: <https://www.hope25.com.au/>

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## **Hope25 Parish Working Group Meeting Notes:**

**Read Ephesians 1:18-23. What parts of the Apostle Paul's prayer could apply to our parish?**

**What might be other good things to pray for ourselves and our parishes as we seek to become more faithful in sharing the hope of Jesus?**

**Draft a short prayer for renewal in Christ and sharing the hope of Christ that could be used in your parish services or in personal prayer.**