



Prayers for the Election Synod

THE GATHERING

A hymn may be sung

Leader:

We have met together to thank God for the life work and witness of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Newcastle. We will praise God with all our heart for his love and goodness towards us.

We shall hear from his holy word how he calls people to leadership in his church. We shall pray for the election Synod and those who are part of this journey of discernment.

Jesus said, 'If any one serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there my servant shall be also; if anyone serves me, the Father will honour him'

(John 12: 26)

Let us pray.

**Lord God,
you are our eternal shepherd and guide.
In your mercy grant your Church in this Diocese
a shepherd after your own heart
who will walk in your ways
and with loving care watch over your people,
that your name may be glorified;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading: John 21:15-17

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God

The Third Reading: The Exhortation from the Ordination of Bishops

A bishop is called to maintain the Church's witness
to the resurrection of Christ from the dead,
to protect the purity of the gospel,
and to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord.

As a chief minister and pastor in Christ's Church,
you are to guard its faith, unity and discipline,
and promote its mission in the world.

You are to ensure that God's word is faithfully proclaimed,
Christ's sacraments duly administered,
and Christ's discipline applied justly, with mercy.

You are to lead and guide the priests and deacons under your care,
and be faithful in the choosing and ordaining of ministers.

You are to watch over, protect and serve the people of God,
to teach and govern them, and to be hospitable.

You must, therefore, know and be known by them,
and be a good example to all.

These are the duties of a bishop, and they are weighty.
Are you willing to perform them?

APBA

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

A hymn may be sung

LITANY OF DISCERNMENT FOR THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

Leader:

Almighty and everliving God, in all ages you have raised up faithful people
to pastor and guide your people and to make known your will among us:
increase in us the gifts of discernment and understanding that we might
know and do your will as we prepare to elect a bishop for your Church.

Send your Holy Spirit among us, O Lord.

Open our minds, our hearts, and our eyes that we may see you and
choose as you would, a new bishop of faith and godliness.

Send your Holy Spirit among us, O Lord.

Open our ears and guide our tongues that, in all our conversations and deliberations, our listening and speaking might be filled with your grace and favour.

Send your Holy Spirit among us, O Lord.

Make known to us who best will share compassion and grace to care for our churches, our people, and our wider communities.

Send your Holy Spirit among us, O Lord.

Reveal to us a bishop who is filled with your Spirit and will passionately support the mission and ministries of social justice of our Diocese.

Send your Holy Spirit among us, O Lord.

Make known to us the shepherd of learning and understanding who can preach and teach, guard and interpret the apostolic faith of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Send your Holy Spirit among us, O Lord.

Bless Arthur, John, and Peter who have entrusted their lives to us in this common discernment.

Send your Holy Spirit among us, O Lord.

Gracious and loving God, you are our guide and Good Shepherd, in you we place our hope and trust: hear the prayers of your faithful people, lead us to one mind and one heart in you, and show us that bishop who will feed and tend your flock.

God of Grace,

you judge your people with wisdom and rule us with love.

**Give a spirit of understanding to the Synod of this Diocese
that it may make wise decisions**

that will give glory to you and be a blessing to your people.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A hymn may be sung

The blessing