



Melbourne
Anglican
Foundation

NEWSLETTER
FEB 2026

2026: Partner with us

Happy New Year, and welcome to our first newsletter for 2026.

We are delighted to celebrate the success of the Foundation's **Church Planting and Revitalisation Campaign**. Thanks to your generous support, the campaign is helping the Diocese work towards its bold vision of planting 30 new churches and revitalising 30 existing ones by 2030.

Similarly, our most recent **Youth and Food Relief Grants Round** supported vital parish-based work that engages young people and provides sustenance for those in need. We were proud to distribute **\$94,280** across **13** parishes, enabling meaningful, grassroots responses to local need. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Foundation throughout the year. Your generosity makes this work possible.

We are also excited to share our plans for the year ahead. First, we invite you to join us in supporting our **Easter fundraising campaign**, which will raise funds for programs that assist with the **settlement of migrants and refugees** within the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

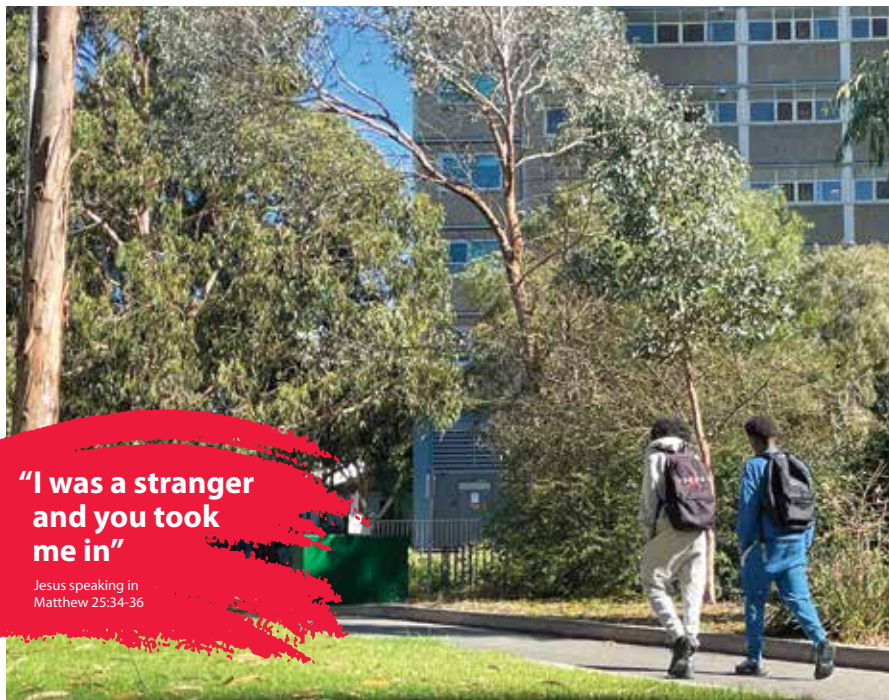
In addition, we are also going back to **school** this month to work with students as they learn about, and actively support, their peers and wider community.

Thank you again for walking alongside us in this work.



Carolyn Clark OAM
Chair

**SUPPORTING VITAL
PARISH-BASED WORK**



**"I was a stranger
and you took
me in"**

Jesus speaking in
Matthew 25:34-36

Walking Alongside New Arrivals – as they rebuild their lives

Every day in Melbourne, people arrive after fleeing conflict, persecution or danger, carrying extraordinary courage, but very little else. Each one hopes simply to feel safe, welcome, and able to begin again.

Your compassion helps make that possible.

Through the Melbourne Anglican Foundation's **Migrants & Refugees Settlement Fund**, Anglican parishes walk alongside individuals and families as they rebuild their lives. Your generosity becomes English language support, practical assistance, help accessing essential services, and much more for people who are often facing significant challenges.

What makes this work powerful is not only what it provides, but what it expresses – your commitment to dignity, your belief in welcome, and the compassion that God places on our hearts for those seeking safety.

Because of your generosity, people regain confidence, find stability, and begin to stand on their own feet.

This work is also deeply personal to me. My father arrived in Australia after the Second World War with very little. The kindness shown to him shaped our family's story, and it shaped my understanding of what a welcoming community can be. That same welcome is needed today and you help make it real.

If you believe in a Melbourne where every person can rebuild their life in safety, dignity and hope, I invite you to act on that belief today.

Your tax-deductible gift will support parish programs that provide stability, opportunity, and a renewed sense of possibility for those beginning again.

Thank you for the compassion you live out so generously.

Carolyn Clark OAM
Chair

**You can help partner with us in this crucial work
via our DONATION PAGE or use the QR code.**

**Donations to the Melbourne Anglican Foundation Migrants and Refugees Settlement Fund is tax deductible. You should always seek your own tax advice.*



Announcing the Recipients of the Youth and MABS Grants Round 2025



Following the success of the 2024 Youth Grants Round, the Melbourne Anglican Foundation decided to continue our annual grant round model in 2025.

We are now thrilled to announce the recipients of the MAF 2025 Grants Round, which distributed **\$94,280** to Youth Outreach and Food Relief programs across the Diocese.

We are incredibly excited to see the impact these programs will have on their communities and look forward to sharing their stories with you.



Youth Outreach Programs

- **All Saint's Clayton** – Youth and Young Adults Lay Ministry Apprenticeship
- **Plentylife Anglican Church** – Plentylife Youth Program
- **Red Door Church Caroline Springs** – Testify Music Festivals
- **St John's Camberwell** – Eat/Read/Play Program
- **St Jude's Carlton** – Carlton Estates Camp
- **St Mark's Spotswood** – Youth Ministry Program
- **St Peter's Brighton Beach** – Bayside Youth Program

**IMPACTING
COMMUNITY**

Food Relief Programs

- **Emmanuel Iranian Church** – Emergency Food Relief Program
- **Parish of Cranbourne with Tooradin** – Food Relief Program
- **Plentylife Anglican Church** – Love Thy Neighbour
- **St Columb's Hawthorn** – Low Cost Food Provision and Community Meal
- **St John's Diamond Creek** – Food Relief
- **St Luke's Cockatoo** – Food Store

**MEETING
NEEDS**

Stories from our 2025 food relief programs



Longbeach Pantry 5000

Food. Support. Hope.

Since 2012, Pantry 5000 has provided food, support, and hope to thousands in need. Inspired by the feeding of the 5000, this volunteer-run ministry has served over 8000 people and distributed more than 250 tons of food. More than 150 dedicated volunteers, including former guests, have walked alongside others through tough times, offering physical, emotional, and spiritual care. Pantry 5000 continues to be a place where lives are changed and hope is restored.



St John's East Malvern

Every little bit helps

In July, William and the choir kids from St John's East Malvern ran a stall to raise money for the Melbourne Anglican Foundation Food Distribution Appeal. Awesome effort, William!



Christ Church Geelong

Long-term service

For over 25 years, Christ Church Geelong has provided free daily breakfasts and twice-weekly evening meals to those in need – welcoming everyone from the homeless to families and schoolchildren. Demand surged in 2025: breakfast boxes have jumped from 50 to 75 daily, and emergency food parcel numbers have leapt. Rising costs mean each breakfast now costs \$5 more than 2024. Despite stretched resources, volunteers continue to serve with compassion and faith.



Your **tax-deductible** support helps to keep Anglican parish food programs running.

**"I WAS HUNGRY AND
YOU GAVE ME FOOD."**
JESUS (MATTHEW 25:35)

The Foundation's Schools Engagement Program

Demonstrating Faith in Action!



Melbourne Anglican Foundation Chair Carolyn Clark joined Development Officer, Nathan Oliver, to talk to the middle years students at Melbourne Girls Grammar School in 2025.



The sea of colourful tutus walking around the Botanical Gardens as a part of a 2025 Youth4Youth walkathon with Melbourne Girls Grammar School.



Melbourne Girls Grammar School students ran a pop-up op shop where each girl contributed a treasured item to support young people in need.

After an incredible inaugural year of School Engagement with Melbourne Girls Grammar School in 2025, we look forward to building on our program, expanding our reach with new schools, and continuing our partnership with MGGS.

Over the course of 2025, our Chair joined our Development Officer, Nathan Oliver, to talk to the middle years students at Melbourne Girls Grammar School about Anglican identity and how community support is a vital part of that identity.

Together, they explored ways the community can help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and, more specifically, what the students could do to support the youth and benevolence programs funded by the Foundation.

The students were immediately engaged and eager to raise funds and make a difference. Needless to say, we were not expecting a sea of colourful tutus walking around the Botanical Gardens as a part of a Youth4Youth walkathon nor a pop-up op shop where each girl contributed a treasured item to support young people in need.

The success of this pilot has resulted in the Foundation appointing a Schools Engagement Officer to nurture this relationship and develop similar partnerships with other schools across the Diocese. This is an exciting new chapter for the Foundation. But the most rewarding surprise came one day when a student approached Carolyn on the train and told her that, having participated in the Foundation's sessions, she and her family had established a small fund to help young people into the future. In that moment, we knew our job was done.

Stories like this are the impetus for a bigger and more far reaching schools program in 2026. We are looking forward to another fantastic Youth4Youth Walk and engaging with other schools to enable youth to support other youth in need.

We are excited to see the practical needs of young people being met by the work of young people themselves as they see the work God is doing in churches and enable that to continue to happen through various student-led fundraising projects.

We can't wait to see how God will impact the lives of these young people!

**IMPACTING
THE LIVES
OF YOUNG
PEOPLE**

We have appointed the Reverend Amy Brown to develop our new Schools Engagement program.

We offer opportunities for students to hear about God's love to the marginalised, see faith in action, and participate in service that makes a real impact.



School Partnerships

Providing students with an avenue to engage with God's mission in Melbourne through School partnerships

- Social welfare issues
- Faith perspectives
- Enhancing Anglican identity
- Experience faith in action
- Fundraising for impact

TAILORED PROGRAMS:

- Chapel talks / Workshops
- Guest speakers
- Cross-curriculum links
- Student leadership paths

INTERESTED?
Contact Amy
0432 417 005
abrown@melbourneanglicanfoundation.au



Thriving Churches for a Growing Melbourne and Geelong

The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne is stepping forward with renewed faith and bold vision, as Archbishop Ric Thorpe lends his endorsement to the Melbourne Anglican Foundation's Church Planting and Revitalisation Appeal.

"We are living in such exciting times," Archbishop Thorpe says. "God is on the move, and we are seeing signs of His Kingdom all around us." He describes church planting and revitalisation as essential to nurturing thriving, gospel-centred communities across Melbourne, Geelong and beyond. As the newly appointed Archbishop of Melbourne, he is encouraged by God's faithfulness already evident and calls Anglicans to step out together in faith by partnering with the Foundation to see this vision realised.

At the heart of this movement is the Diocese's ambitious **30x30x30 plan**: to plant 30 new churches and revitalise 30 existing congregations by the year 2030. Canon



30 new Church Plants
30 new Church Revitalisations
 By **2030**
by the Grace of God

for Church Planting, the Reverend Breeana Mills, says momentum is building, with new worshipping communities emerging and people encountering faith in fresh ways.

With Melbourne's population projected to grow by one million by the end of the decade, the need is urgent. Many congregations continue to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, while new suburbs are expanding faster than local churches can be established. "There are simply too few churches to meet the needs of our growing city," Mills explains.

Chair of the Melbourne Anglican Foundation, Carolyn Clark OAM, adds that in a world marked by uncertainty, the Appeal seeks to create places of hope, belonging and transformation.

In November/December 2025,
 with your help, we raised

\$9,400



Partner with us in the crucial work of church planting and revitalisation in Melbourne and Geelong.



**Melbourne
 Anglican
 Foundation**

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