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8 January 2026

Closure of *The Melbourne Anglican* publication and digital channels

Dear friends and colleagues across the Diocese,

I am writing to share an important update regarding *The Melbourne Anglican* (TMA). Earlier in 2025, after a careful and considered review, Archbishop in Council made the difficult and sad decision to cease the production of *The Melbourne Anglican*. This decision was taken in the context of the Diocese's wider financial challenges and was made prior to the installation of Archbishop Ric.

This decision brings to a close a publication that has served the Diocese since 1994 and which itself continued a much longer tradition of diocesan newspapers in Melbourne. That tradition stretches back to the 1850s with the publication of *The Church of England Messenger* and TMA's immediate predecessor, *SEE*. For about 170 years, the diocese sustained a regular newspaper presence reflecting Anglican life, faith and witness in this place.

Over the past three decades, *The Melbourne Anglican* has developed a strong reputation for independent, fair-minded journalism and for the breadth and quality of its reporting on social, ethical and spiritual issues. It has been widely read and valued by clergy, parishes and Anglicans across Melbourne and Geelong and also attracted subscribers from around Australia and overseas.

TMA's contribution has also been recognised nationally through multiple awards from the Australasian Religious Press Association, including the Gutenberg Award for excellence on four occasions (one when the newspaper was still called *SEE*) and being named Publication of the Year in 2017. These awards reflect the professionalism, integrity and editorial care that have characterised the publication over many years.

As part of this decision, and following a formal consultation process in early December, the TMA team's journalists' and communications assistant roles were made redundant. This is not a reflection on the quality or commitment of the staff, whose work has consistently been of a high standard. We are deeply grateful for their service and hold them in our prayers as they move into the next stage of their lives.

The *Melbourne Anglican* website will remain active for a period of time, allowing continued access to past articles and resources. However, TMA's social media posts as well as its weekly digital newsletters, *Newsstand* and *Best of the Week*, will also cease being published.

Making the Word of God fully known

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Looking ahead, future communications from the Diocese will be shared through the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne (ADOM) website and official social media channels.

If parishioners ask about this decision, clergy may wish to acknowledge both the significant contribution these publications have made over many years and the financial realities currently facing the Diocese.

We recognise that *The Melbourne Anglican*, and the newspapers that preceded it, have been an institution within the life of this Diocese, and that this moment will be felt deeply by many. We give thanks for all that has been shared, explored and recorded through these publications over many years, and for the people who have faithfully contributed to their life and witness.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at ceosoffice@melbourneanglican.org.au.

Regards

Matthew Crichton

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