



St Barnabas College News – October 2025

The Rev'd Dr Joan Riley, Principal

This is the first St Barnabas College News using a different communication method which I hope will make access to our news and events easier and less cumbersome than an attached document.

In the context of a world of many uncertainties, fears, and rapid changes in so many areas, theological education provides hope, stability, and certainty about who we are as people of God in our time. All of us are affected by the issues bombarding our media channels – war in the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia, conflicts ongoing in numerous other places, global climate emergency, economic and housing crises, the prevalence of violence in homes and in public places, the gap between First Nations people and other Australians, and so many more things. When we turn to theology and the scriptures, we resource ourselves to think critically about the things that affect and concern us and to apply our thinking in relationship to God and God's mission in the world. There is so much hope in our faith if we have the courage to hold it fast. The hope we have is also our gift to others, to uphold, sustain and empower, especially when the cruel edges of life bite hard.

It is a privilege to be here at St Barnabas College to facilitate your learning and your equipping for ministry. I am so grateful to God for the people who serve at the College, especially our valued lecturers who give up their time to prepare and teach the theological education we value so highly, and all the staff and volunteers. I am also grateful for the students who attend in person and online – you bring life to our work.

Farewell Archbishop Geoff Smith

It is with many feelings that we give thanks for the ministry of Archbishop Geoff and his presidential leadership of St Barnabas College. Archbishop Geoff has faithfully supported and prayed for the College and has affirmed our vision of being a community of learning for the whole people of God, where people may be equipped and enabled for ministry, service, and leadership. As Archbishop Geoff and Lyn prepare for the sunny Sunshine Coast and a new stage of ministry and service, we say farewell and God's

blessings be with you, from all the staff, students and wider community of St Barnabas College.



Farewell Archbishop Geoff and thank you!

Theologian in Residence 2025



On Sunday – Tuesday October 12-14, St Barnabas College and St Peter’s Cathedral welcomed Associate Professor Bishop Stephen Pickard as Theologian in Residence 2025. Bishop Stephen and his wife Jennifer live in Canberra and were very well received here in Adelaide. Bishop Stephen is a former Assistant Bishop of Adelaide and many remember his ministry, including a time as Acting Principal of St Barnabas College. Bishop Stephen preached at the Cathedral on Sunday and on Monday he met with students and friends at the

College. Following this, he spent time with students in the formation program and spoke about the vows made at ordination and the life journey of keeping those vows. On Tuesday Bishop Stephen delivered a public lecture at the Cathedral, *A Church for Pilgrims: Challenges ahead in the time that remains*.

At this lecture, Bishop Stephen spoke about *chronos* time as that space in which we rush about meeting the demands of our daily lives as opposed to *kairos* time – the messianic space in which the church should be living and serving as the people of God. The lecture was full and engaging and enjoyed by all.

Ordinations

On Saturday 25 October, students The Rev'd Jack Monaghan, The Rev'd Thomas Bassett and The Rev'd Beck Newell (The Murray) were ordained priest in St Peter's Cathedral. We give thanks to God for these new priests and pray for their unfolding ministry in the years ahead.



Left to right: The Rev'd Simon Waters, Administrator of the Diocese of The Murray; Bishop Sophie Relf-Christopher, Assistant Bishop of Adelaide; The Rev'd Beck Newell, The Rev'd Jack Monaghan, Archbishop Geoff Smith, The Rev'd Thomas Bassett, Bishop Tim Harris

What can I study in 2026?

Have you enrolled already for Semester 1 2026? Are you thinking about studying a new course for further learning or professional development? At St Barnabas College you can study courses ranging from undergraduate certificate, diploma, bachelor degree, postgraduate certificate, diploma, masters or doctoral program, all accredited through University of Divinity and eligible for Commonwealth FeeHELP. You can even audit academic units with full access to the University Library Hub and online resources.

In 2026 we are looking to promote the Graduate Certificate in Leadership, in partnership with the Uniting College for Leadership and Theology and the Australian Lutheran

College. We are also seeking applications for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) for Semester 2.

Or if you are thinking about lay education for learning or professional development the Archbishop's Certificate Program may be just for you. Take a look at the Community of Learning section of this newsletter.

Unit Offerings for Year 2026

Semester 1 2026

The Gospel of Matthew – Dr Michael Trainor

Foundations for Theology (Flipped Classroom) – Dr Mike Batholomaeus

Forming Communities: Introduction to Church and Ministry – The Rt Rev'd Dr Tim Harris

Exploring the Old Testament – The Rev'd Dr Joseph Chung

Introductory Koine Greek – The Rev'd Dr Joan Riley

Aboriginal Cultures and Spirituality (Intensive) – The Rt Rev'd Chris McLeod

Signs and Gifts of God: Sacraments of life and church (Intensive)

Foundations for Theology (Year 12 St Peter's College) – The Rev'd Dr Theo McCall

Clinical Pastoral Education (Summer Intensive) – Rev'd Roslyn Wright

Semester 2 2026

Interpreting the New Testament – Dr Damian Szepessy

Homiletics: Theory and Practice – Rev'd Dr Matthew Anstey

Leadership Formation and Praxis – Rev'd Dr Lyndon Shakespeare

Who is Jesus – Rev'd Dr Rodney Fopp

Growing Faith: Forming Christians in Multiple Contexts – The Rt Rev'd Dr Tim Harris

Koine Greek B – The Rev'd Dr Joan Riley

Liturgical Theology and Practice (Year 12 St Peter's College) – The Rev'd Dr Theo McCall

Dinka Community – Study and Formation Program



In Semester 2 2025, St Barnabas College began a program of study and formation to equip for ministry a cohort of Dinka speaking students from South Sudan. Subjects studied are not accredited at university level but nonetheless cover the ground necessary to maximise learning for practical ministry. The academic work is done in the morning and in the afternoon spiritual formation and other ministry training is undertaken.

In 2025 The New Testament unit and Pastoral Care has been studied. In 2026 students will do Old Testament, Anglican Studies, Mission in an Australian Context and Liturgy and Worship.



The program is vibrant and engaging and always involves an amazing lunch!

Research News

‘Under the Radar Mission’. Watch this space for the launch of a new blog associated with the St Barnabas Centre for Missional Research and Praxis bearing this name.

It’s an innocent enough sounding phrase, but it belies significant learning both in research and praxis over the past three decades. As various church traditions and denominations explore how to adapt approaches to mission and ministry to the profoundly changing cultural environment, certain dynamics are emerging.

It is well-recognised that there is no ‘one size fits all’ strategy, let alone masterplans to adopt. Less recognised is that significant growth has been occurring ‘under the radar’ in many and varied expressions. Growing from half a dozen people to a gathering of 45 might not sound that dramatic but recognising that this represents 750% growth strikes a very different note! And when we multiply such stories alongside other ‘under the radar’ initiatives, suddenly we find pathways of hope.

A significant priority for our Research Centre is to draw on data and research both locally and further afield to identify what can be learned from stories such as these. Research combines both quantitative data with qualitative case studies.

And this isn’t just about numbers. Our understanding of mission is framed within the *missio Dei*, the workings of our missional God. As Jesus puts it, those who ‘hear these words of mine and acts on them’ (Mt. 7:24) is engaging in the work of the Kingdom.

So the full title of our new blog is expressed as ‘Under the Radar Mission: cultivating space where Kingdom stuff happens’. Watch this space!

St Barnabas College Council

Following the recent election synod three new members have joined St Barnabas College Council. The new members are The Rev'd Sally Sandford-Morgan, Dr Sarah Black and Ms Deborah Bloor. We warmly welcome these members to the Council and look forward to their wisdom and contributions to the life of the College.

Community of Learning

Community of Learning programs offer short courses and professional development for all of God's own people in our diocese and the province of South Australia.

The Archbishop's Certificate commenced in May 2025 with Module 1 Lay Leader's Toolbox. Other modules held are Handling the Bible, Understanding Pastoral Care, Enriching Spirituality, and Introduction to Music and Hymns. These courses will be held again in 2026 with dates to be confirmed. The modules coming up are Praying with the Psalms (November 2025), Listening for God (February 2026) and Being Anglican (March 2026). Archbishop's Certificate courses are held in parishes, face to face, for lay disciples, at no cost.

Professional development courses offered through the Community of Learning include Parish Governance and Conflict Management.

If you'd like to know more about the Archbishop's Certificate and other short course, please email Caralyn Lammas educationprograms@sbc.edu.au.

Library

Katrina Dal Lago, Librarian

While you currently may not have much time to read for enjoyment, here is a list of titles and recommendations you might want to keep in mind for later.

Bishop Stephen Pickard's Reading List

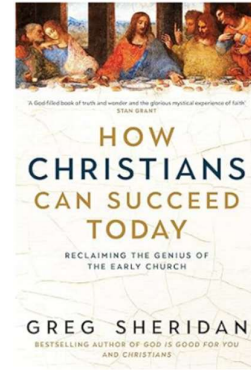
If you attended the Monday lunch discussion with Bishop Stephen Pickard, you may remember that he recommended several books to read. I can confirm they have been purchased for the library and can be requested. Bishop Stephen's full title list can be found here

<https://divinity.on.worldcat.org/list/23094571> .

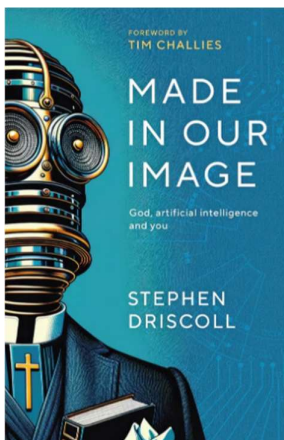


Greg Sheridan Books

You may have been aware that on Monday 20 October, Rev'd Dr Lynn Arnold hosted an evening with Greg Sheridan, who talked about his most recent book, How Christians can succeed today. Mr Sheridan is the Foreign Affairs Editor for [The Australian](#) and has written three books on the Christian faith which are all available to borrow from the library. [Full book title list](#)



Sparklit Christian Book of the Year 2025



[Sparklit](#) is an Australian book award held every year in August, which aims to promote the gospel of Jesus through Christian literature. You may recognise past winners such as Meredith Lake's book *The Bible in Australia*. This year's winner is [Made in Our Image](#) by Stephen Driscoll. This book addresses the topic of artificial intelligence from a Christian point of view with Mr Driscoll answering questions such as "What will living for Jesus look like in a world where humans, made in God's image coexist with intelligent machines made in our image?" Find this book and others by searching for Sparklit in the library catalogue.

Read an article by Stephen Driscoll which is adapted from this book

<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/made-in-our-image-the-rise-of-artificial-intelligence/>

Library Drop-in sessions online

For those who need assistance with searching for resources, or navigating electronic resources, there is a Library Drop-In session online every Monday during the semester. Just use the Join the meeting now link to drop in and ask questions.

Mondays, 10:30 am – 11:30 am

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 477 645 730 318 3

Passcode: 9684Nv6X