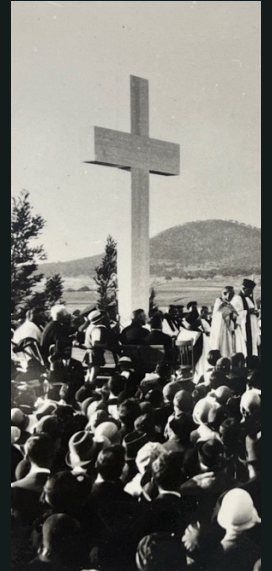




St Mark's
NATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CENTRE



STRATEGIC PLAN 2026 – 2029

A NEW WAY FORWARD

Anticipating the Future, *now.*



A NOTE FROM THE BISHOP

Bishop Mark Short

For seventy years, St Mark's has served this Diocese—and, beyond it, the wider Australian Church—as a place where God's people are equipped for faithful service.

As the needs of the Church continue to change, so too must the ways in which we form those who serve it. This plan sets that direction. It reaffirms St Mark's commitment to high-quality accredited theological education, while broadening its contribution through ministry formation, leadership development, and partnerships with Anglican schools and diocesan agencies.

As President of St Mark's Council, I have watched this plan take shape through careful consultation, and I commend it to you with confidence. With God's grace and the continued support of this Diocese, St Mark's is well placed to equip God's people for faithful service in parishes, schools, workplaces, and the wider community.

The Right Reverend Dr Mark Short

*Bishop, Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn
President, St Mark's Council*



A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dr Jacqueline Service

This Strategic Plan sets the course for St Mark's over the next three years. Developed in consultation with faculty, staff, St Mark's Council, and the leadership of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn, it offers a fresh and focused direction, attentive to the animating work of the Spirit of God and grounded in the hope of Christ.

This strategy's four key directions renew and deepen our commitment to cultivating men and women to serve the redeeming purposes of God in the Church and in a rapidly changing world. It does so with a view to **anticipating the future**, by acting in new and decisive ways **now** so that future generations might reap what we sow.

Yet, we cannot do this alone. More than ever, we need the body of Christ to awaken to the new work God is doing in this time. We need people who will pray, people who will give, and people who will share our vision to equip the Church to nurture the green shoots of God's new creation.

As you read this strategy, I encourage you to ask the Lord of the harvest how you might support St Mark's and the work of Christ in this moment and this place.

Dr Jacqueline Service

Director, St Mark's National Theological Centre

OUR CONTEXT

St Mark's was founded to be a centre of rigorous theological education, spiritual formation, and public engagement for the Anglican Church and the wider community. Rooted in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, and in partnership with Charles Sturt University, St Mark's continues to serve both the Church and society.

Today, we face new challenges:

- 01 an AI era marked by both promise and peril
- 02 a divided society longing for meaning
- 03 a church needing more equipped leaders
- 04 mounting pressures in the higher education sector

Yet, we are *uniquely placed* to respond.



Thousands

EQUIPPED FOR MINISTRY
AND LEADERSHIP



70

YEARS OF FORMATION



Generations

SERVING CHRIST
AND HIS CHURCH

Vision: Our Future

*The future that **draws us forward** and **fuels our purpose**.*

St Mark's is a centre for transformational Christian learning, forming people in Christ's grace and truth to serve the Church, connect faith with life, and bear witness to the gospel hope in the world.



Mission: Our Purpose

*The calling that **directs our work** and **defines our contribution**.*

We deliver theological education that nurtures biblical wisdom, scholarly rigour, spiritual maturity, and practical service, integrating Christian faith with life and work.



“

*Studying at St Mark's is
like drinking from a well
brimming with living water.*

*And I am the woman at the
well, running to meet Jesus,
time and time again.*

- MARLENE DE BEER

COMPASS: OUR CONVICTIONS

Anchored in Christ's unchanging grace and truth, we are biblically grounded, graciously orthodox, and Anglican in ethos.

VALUES: OUR PRINCIPLES



EXCELLENCE

delivering high-quality theological education and scholarship



HOSPITALITY

welcoming and caring in a Christ-centred community



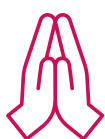
WISDOM

shaped by Holy Scripture and the Holy Spirit



WONDER

inspired by the beauty and majesty of the Triune God



FAITHFULNESS

prayerful and persevering through Christ's truth and love

HALLMARKS: OUR DISTINCTIVES

- 01 Christ-centred convictions and a gracious orthodoxy
- 02 Shared participation of women and men in leadership, ministry, and vocation
- 03 A unique partnership with Charles Sturt University

Strategic Pillars and Priorities

01



Formation

Forming Leaders to Serve

02



Partnerships

Connecting Life and Work

03



Renewal

Fostering Stability for
Future Generations

04



Community

A Trusted and
Connected Community

FOUNDED

1957

70 YEARS

2026

2029

THIS PLAN



“

The teaching staff of St Mark's are wonderful models of maintaining genuine care and attention to God in theological pursuits. They are genuinely invested in you, your life, and your studies.

KAI BOYLAN



Formation

Forming Leaders to Serve

Focus

Cultivate theological formation that integrates scholarship, spiritual maturity, and practical skills for ordained and lay leaders.

Key goals

- A Consolidate current formation activities into a dedicated formation centre
- B Equip future Church leaders through accredited and non-accredited training
- C Strengthen our world-class academic research culture
- D Multiply the number of theologically trained women for Christian leadership



“*St Mark’s is the kind of place that keeps the church grounded in the big truths. It has a heart for the breadth of the church and its mission. I enthusiastically recommend St Mark’s as a place that prepares people well for the exciting work of proclaiming Christ.*”

REVEREND DAVID MCLENNAN



Partnerships

Connecting Life and Work

Focus

Building pathways through which theology intersects with wider society and resources diverse professions.

Key goals

- A Deepen and extend our partnership with Charles Sturt University
- B Develop theological learning pathways for Christians in diverse professions
- C Develop partnerships that strengthen professionals in their vocations
- D Incorporate Christian theological witness in administration, governance, and service



“The curiosity and conversation sparked in the lecture room and student kitchen flows on and on across my personal and professional life – from the new boss who spotted my degree on my resume and wants to know more, to the friends who walk with me in the world, opening up and sharing their own journeys and questions on Christ’s life with us.

REBECCA KLEINIG



Renewal

Fostering Stability for Future Generations

Focus

Renewing long-term stability by aligning people, systems, and resources to strengthen capacity for sustainable growth and lasting impact.

Key goals

- A Strengthen governance, staffing, and operational systems
- B Diversify income through philanthropy, fundraising, and new initiatives
- C Invest in infrastructure, digital delivery, and the St Mark's Library
- D Initiate a site master plan to further develop St Mark's as a modern central hub



OVER
100,000

PRINT ITEMS ACROSS THEOLOGY, BIBLICAL
STUDIES, CHURCH HISTORY, MISSIOLOGY,
THE ANCIENT WORLD, AND MORE

Established in 1957, by Bishop Ernest Burgmann, St Mark's Memorial Library houses several notable special collections, including rare archives and one of the most important Australian church history collections in the sector.



Community

A Trusted and Connected Community

Focus

Strengthening trust, belonging, and engagement with local Churches and the wider community

Key goals

- A Strengthen ties with local Churches, Anglican schools, and other faith-based agencies
- B Provide credible Christian voices in theology that serves the public good
- C Build a “sabbath” culture – working from a place of non-anxious trust in Christ
- D Grow alumni networks and volunteer engagement



“

Twenty years since I first walked through those doors, I can say with certainty: koinonia—true community—is alive and well at St Mark’s. It’s given me not just theological knowledge, but friendships and formation that continue to shape how I serve.

ANDREW BLYTHE

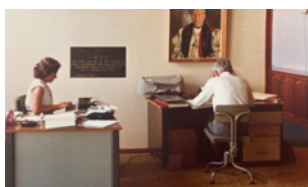
1957-2027

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*Anchored in Christ's
unchanging **grace and truth.***



This strategy ultimately sets its hope in the God that holds the future; the God who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.



2027

A NEW WAY FORWARD

Foundations for another 70 years

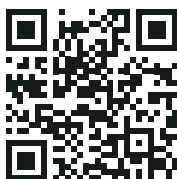


I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.

PHILEMON 1:6



Subscribe to the St Mark's monthly eNews for the latest news and events. You will also be equipped to pray for St Mark's — asking God to meet our needs, and giving thanks for all He is doing.



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR ENEWS

stmarks.edu.au/enews

Partner financially

Student tuition covers only 60% of our costs.

Will *you* help us form the **next generation** of Christian leaders?



SPACES FOR COMMUNITY AND HOSPITALITY

Renewing our ageing facilities, creating spaces of hospitality that better support teaching, formation, events, and community life.



EQUIPPED TO LEAD WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP

Removing financial barriers for gifted Christian women called to lead and serve. Your support will enable more women to study at St Mark's.



MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Accessible, practical, theologically grounded training for lay leaders, clergy, chaplains, and volunteers serving across our region.

Ways to give

Donations to St Mark's are tax-deductible.

ONE-OFF

a single gift, at any time
and of any size

ONGOING

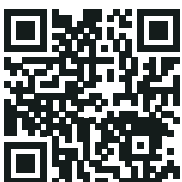
a regular monthly or
annual gift, giving us the
confidence to plan ahead

WILLS AND BEQUESTS

a gift in your will,
shaping St Mark's for the
generations after us

FOR A CONFIDENTIAL CONVERSATION ABOUT BEQUESTS:

ANDREW GUILLE • ANDREW.GUILLE@ANGLICANDS.ORG.AU • 0412 287 706



GIVE ONLINE

stmarks.edu.au/support

MAIL: 15 BLACKALL STREET, BARTON ACT 2600



St Mark's
NATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CENTRE



1957 – 2027

*We are a people who **live into promise**, hastening
towards what God intends for us.*

*And so, with every present act, we move forward,
shaping **St Mark's future-now**.*