

Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

# Praying & Planning

†Martin: St Mark the Evangelist  
DSC: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018



# It's all about seeking God

2

Taking forward the vision of the Diocese:

To *make disciples* in vibrant, self-sufficient Congregations established and linked to each other by sharing in:

- ⊕ Resources
- ⊕ Ministry and service
- ⊕ Outreach and evangelism





# In resurrection power!

3

## Ephesians 1:17-20

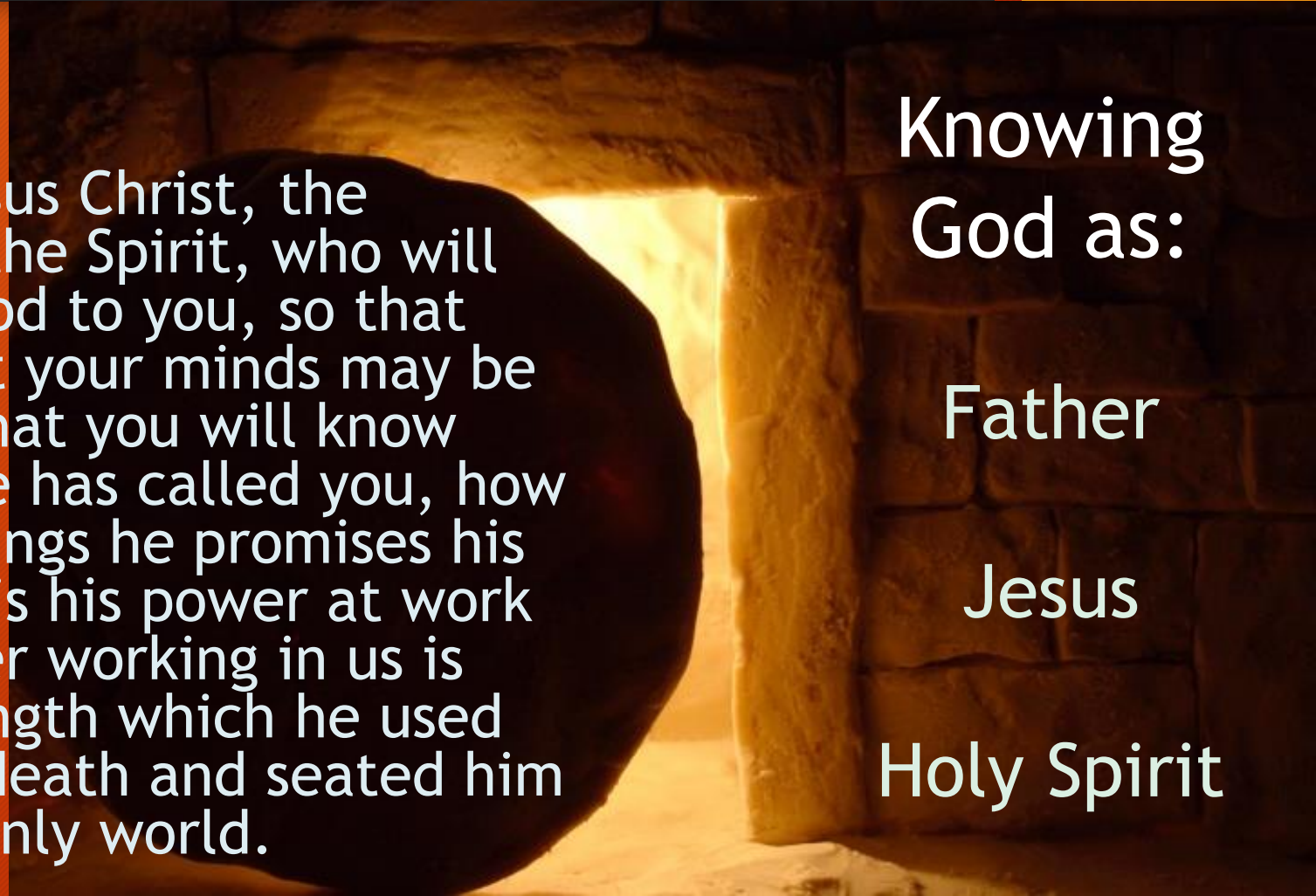
I ask the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, to give you the Spirit, who will make you wise and reveal God to you, so that you will know him. I ask that your minds may be opened to see his light, so that you will know what is the hope to which he has called you, how rich are the wonderful blessings he promises his people, and how very great is his power at work in us who believe. This power working in us is the same as the mighty strength which he used when he raised Christ from death and seated him at his right side in the heavenly world.

Knowing  
God as:

Father

Jesus

Holy Spirit



# Two challenges in the next year...

4

## 1) Diocesan Synod

16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> August at  
Christ Church  
Cathedral

## 2) Election of a new Bishop

Date to be set by Archbishop  
Thabo & Synod of Bishops  
(early in 2019?)





# Synod deadlines

5

Date	Item
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Summons to Synod (done today!)
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Submission of proposed rule changes
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Publication of 1 <sup>st</sup> Agenda book
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Amendments to proposed rule changes
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Submission of motions & reports
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Publication of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Agenda book



# Synod outline

6

Day	Item
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Synod opening & Bishop's charge
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Rules 1 <sup>st</sup> reading Reports
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Finances - including 2019 budget Diocesan Rules 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading Motions
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Elections Diocesan Rules 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading Motions



# Now is the time to start...

7

- 1) Praying for Synod
- 2) Thinking about rule changes & motions to submit
- 3) Preparing reports

What is God saying to the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist?

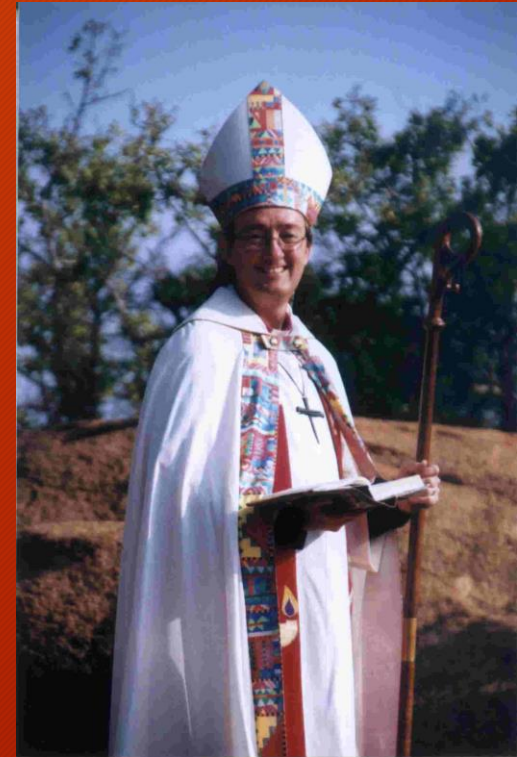
What does God want us to say to the world?



# My Last Year as Diocesan Bishop

8

- 1) Continue what we have started
  - ⊕ Multiplying parishes
  - ⊕ Training leaders at all levels
  - ⊕ Making disciples
- 2) Make sure every ministry has clear leaders
- 3) Try to get all parish pledges up to date





# Election of a new Bishop

9

I hope to help the Diocese prepare (but not to interfere in who gets elected).

Some questions we need to address :

- 1) What is the ministry of a Bishop?
- 2) What are we doing when we elect a Bishop?
- 3) What is the process of electing a Bishop?
- 4) How should we behave during the process?

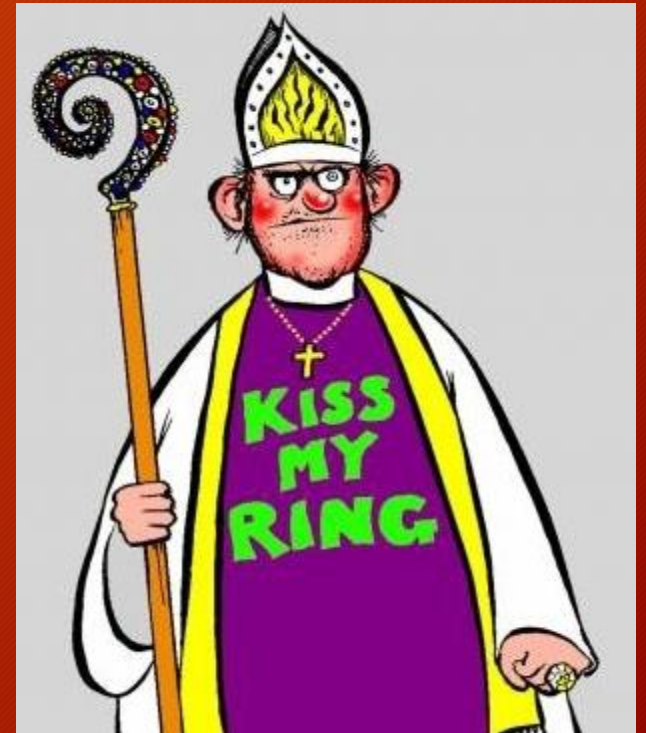


# 1) What is the ministry of a bishop?

10

It is *not*...

- ✘ Power and glory
- ✘ Wealth
- ✘ Popularity
- ✘ *Better* than laity, deacons or priests
- ✘ Hot line to God





# 1) What is the ministry of a bishop?

11

It *is*...

## 1) Implications

- ✦ In fellowship with other bishops, chapter... a shared or collegial ministry
- ✦ A lot of travelling
- ✦ Hard work
- ✦ Can be lonely



# 1) What is the ministry of a bishop?

12

It *is*...

## 2) Roles

- ✘ Support system for the church (servant)  
Pastoral, prayer, discipline, confirmations
- ✘ Leadership  
Vision, direction, wider church, spokesman, deployment
- ✘ Teaching & training  
Clergy, lay ministers, church councils, “guard the gospel”
- ✘ Management  
Trustees, Finance Board, Office



## 2) What are we doing electing a bishop?

13

Both involve democratic voting...

### Election (Political)

- ✘ Winners & losers
- ✘ Campaign
- ✘ Election promises
- ✘ Threats
- ✘ Popularity
- ✘ Character assassination

### Discernment (Spiritual)

- ✘ God's will
- ✘ Prayer
- ✘ Listening
- ✘ Discussion
- ✘ Respect for all
- ✘ No "losers" if God's will is done!

...but  
they are  
very  
different  
processes

# What kind of process will you have?

14

## The “flesh”

People become enemies and they fight; they become jealous, angry, and ambitious. They separate into parties and groups; they are envious...

(Galatians 5:19-21)

## The Spirit

But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control.

(Galatians 5:22-23)





And...



To God be the glory!

15

...in the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist