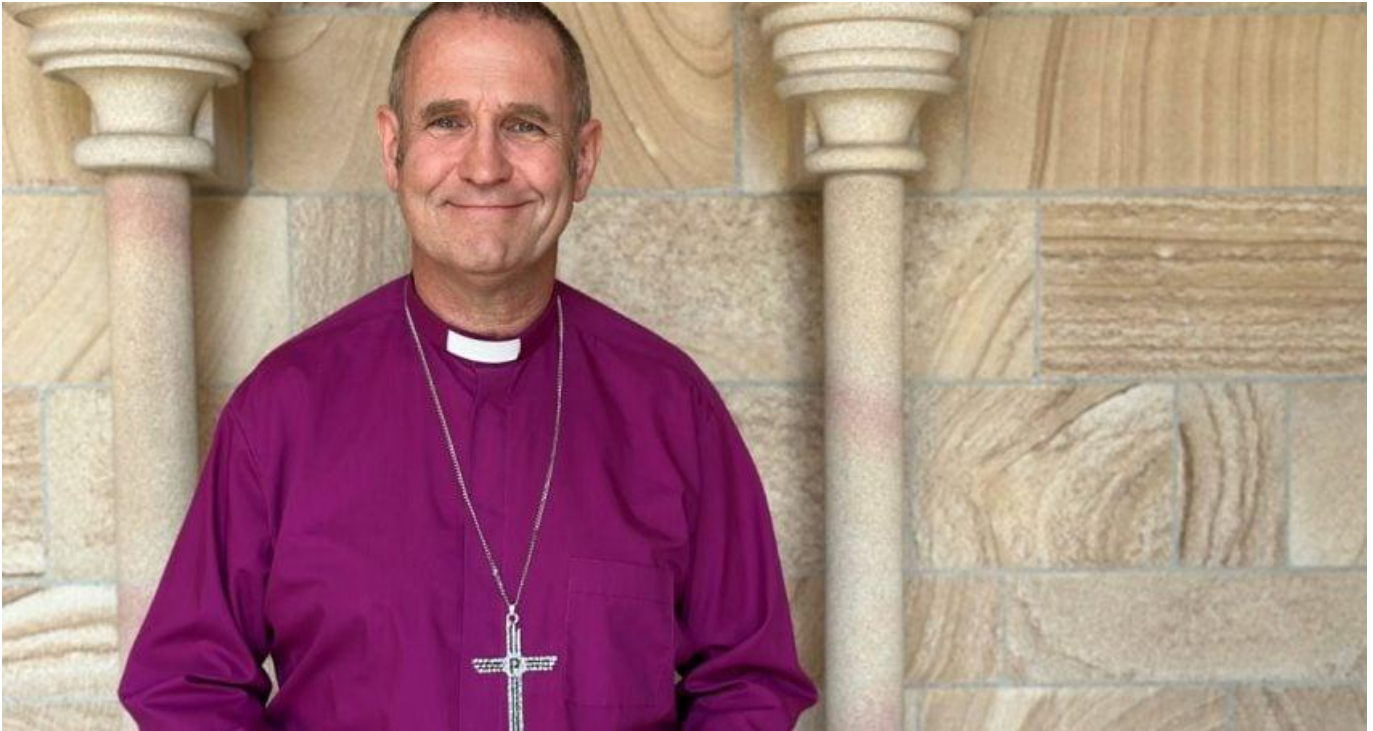


## What is it that we Christians do?



**"Whom we worship — God in the Holy Trinity — and the way we particularly worship through the patterns of worship laid down in our prayer books — it is these that make us distinctive," says Bishop John Roundhill**

What is it that we Christians do? We do plenty of things — take a look at our wonderful Diocese and think of the parishes, schools and early learning centres, university residential college, theological college, aged-care facilities, women's shelters, youth counselling and support, and Cathedral Precinct activities. We are truly a broad and active Diocese.

But let's ask this question again with a slight twist. What is it that we Christians do that mark us out? What is it that we do that other groups of folk do not? Then the answer is briefer. The state and other agencies run hospitals, schools and universities. You could almost say that one of the great historical successes of Christianity in the West is the presence of hospitals and education systems that were inspired by the Gospel.

Whom we worship — God in Trinity — and the way we particularly worship through the patterns of worship laid down in our prayer books — it is these that make us distinctive. It is also these practices that make us catholic, in the sense of being "universal". Step into any Anglican church wherever you are in the world and you are likely to come across a similar pattern for worship and a similar level of care for the proclamation of the Word.

Having moved around the world a little in my own life, I have had to get used to different prayer books, sometimes in languages other than English. Yet everywhere I have been, the 1662 Book of Common Prayer has remained a touchstone, authorised for use alongside local prayer books, underscoring this shared heritage.

The expected ending for a reflection like this would be that worship is vital to the mission of the Church and that worship has been in decline in the West for over a generation.

However, despite these historical trends and the understandable concern about declining church attendance, something remarkable is beginning to stir in the West. Something that is being called the "[quiet revival](#)" is seen to be stirring. Young people, particularly young men, are turning to the Church and are engaging in worship.

The Rev'd Stewart Perry from The Parish of Robina shared this rather stirring quote from Pete Hughes, Vicar of Kings Cross Church in the UK:

"Secularism has crumbled — young people have feasted on its narrative and now they are sick."

It appears that young people have not only "diagnosed" themselves, but are discovering the remedy.

In our vast and wonderful Diocese, we need to keep our eyes on worship — it might be the very place where young people, and indeed others, encounter God.