

March Quarter, 2025 Highlights



DIOCESE OF POLYNESIA HIGHLIGHTS COMPASS ROSE SOCIETY PILGRIMAGE

25th—26th January, 2025

The Compass Rose pilgrimage to the Diocese of Polynesia was a memorable event. Archbishop Sione welcomed the General Secretary of the Anglican Communion and staff from Anglican Communion office, Lambeth Palace Office and members of the Compass Rose Society accompanied by Archbishop Don and the team from Te Pihopatanga o Aotearoa marking the start of a journey of learning and sharing. It celebrated our culture as people of the Moana which sparks the talanoa on the Diocese and its priorities and from Lamentation to Hope.

The focus on the vulnerable communities includes Melanesian Community, St Christopher's Home, Climate Justice was especially important, as climate change is a major threat to the Pacific islands. The Archbishop's message was clear: although climate change is a huge challenge, faith gives us the strength to face it with hope and determination. The Church has an important

role in helping vulnerable communities and offering support during tough times.

The Hikoi of Hope and the experience on the Uto Ni Yalo helped connect people to tradition and the wisdom passed down by ancestors. The idea of sailing the ocean and facing the challenges of climate change, guided by the strength of past generations, is a powerful reminder of how we can work towards a fairer and sustainable future.

The Compass Rose Pilgrimage was more than just a visit. It was a meaningful journey that will likely have a lasting impact on both the pilgrims and the Diocese of Polynesia.



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- Consecration, Ordination and Commissioning
- Strengthening Historical Ties with Hawaii
- Lay Ministers Training
- Moana Men's Ministry Meeting
- Clergy Meeting
- Anglican Schools Principals Orientation

Anglican School Principals' Orientation

Schools in the Diocese of Polynesia with Principals and Head Teachers

1. Basden College— Newtown , Fiji

Mr. Waisale Tavatuilagi

2. All Saints Anglican School— Labasa , Fiji

Mr. Kamlesh Prasad

3. St Andrew's High School— Tonga

Mrs. Losana Latu

4. Holy Trinity Anglican School— Suva, Fiji

Mr. Johnson Rura

5. St John's Anglican School— Wailoku, Fiji

Mr. Joseva Vere

6. Bishop Kempthorne—Newtown, Fiji

Mrs. Joyce Tiko

7. St James Anglican School— Levuka, Fiji

Mrs. Jessica Murray

8. St Mary's Anglican School— Labasa, Fiji

Mr. Sunil Dutt

9. St Paul's Anglican School— Naviavia, Fiji

Mr. Waisea Tuiraviravi

10. All Saints Anglican School— Samoa

Mrs. Rachel Solomona



Archbishop Sione continued to take leadership in bringing together the different arms of the Diocese. Continuing from the Principal's Talanoa that was held in November 2024, one of the outcomes is for an orientation. The Diocese of Polynesia hosted its first orientation program for Head Teachers and Principals from 10 Anglican Schools across Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga. Held on January 16-17 in Suva, the event followed up on the November 2024 Talanoa at the Diocesan headquarters and established the orientation as an annual fixture for diocesan school leaders. Ten principals, head teachers, and representatives from the Anglican School Office in New Zealand and Mr Grant Hope from St John's College Trust Board came together to address key challenges and discuss a way forward for the schools in the Diocese under the guidance of Archbishop Sione Uluilakepa and Mr. Feiloakitau Kaho Tevi.

Over the two days, discussions focused on challenges such as infrastructure, academic struggles, social issues, and governance. The introduction of the Pacific Church-Based Approach—Safe and Resilient Church, using CIVA methodology and QGIS tools, along with the Diocese's Strategic Plan 2024-2030, provided insights

for the schools. The orientation emphasized strategies to offer holistic education, strengthen community connections, and ensure the resilience of Anglican schools in the region. The event concluded with a renewed commitment to creating inclusive, well-resourced schools that reflect the mission of the Diocese, equipping leaders to inspire positive change in their various schools.



Diocesan School's Activities

Archbishop Sione Visits Schools and Encourages Diocese to "Go Back to Basics" This Lenten Season

As the 2025 academic year began, Archbishop Sione visited schools across the Diocese, offering blessings, encouragement, and spiritual guidance for the year ahead. One of his first visits was to St Andrew's High School, where he officially opened the school year and shared words of hope and vision for the young people and staff. His presence underscored the Church's deep commitment to education, formation, and faith in the lives of young people.

In early February, the students of St Andrew's High School took leadership beyond the classroom by demonstrating a strong commitment to caring for creation. In a bold act of environmental stewardship, students participated in a waterfront clean-up in Nuku'alofa, focusing on collecting plastics and raising awareness about pollution. Their initiative is a powerful example of building resilience and living out Christian responsibility for God's creation.



In support of these efforts, the school was later blessed in March with the donation of rubbish bins from No Pelesitiki, an initiative aimed at reducing plastic waste and promoting sustainable habits. This collaboration between students, community partners, and the Diocese signals a growing



momentum for faith-led environmental care.

Meanwhile, schools across the Diocese, in unity with parishes and Christians around the world, entered into the holy season of Lent with the solemn observance of Ash Wednesday. This sacred day, marking the beginning of forty days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, served as a profound reminder of the call to repentance and renewal.

In his Lenten message to the Diocese, Archbishop Sione called on all the faithful, young and old, in parishes and schools, to "Go back to basics." This theme invites every member of the Church to return to the foundations of faith: prayer, Scripture, sacrament, and service. It is a call to do what is right, to walk humbly with God, and to reflect honestly on our relationship with Him and with one another. As the Diocese journeys through Lent toward the joy of Easter, Archbishop Sione's visits and encouragement continue to resonate: that through simplicity, sincerity, and faithfulness, the Church may be renewed in spirit and purpose.



Seniloli Mafile'o

SAHS Head Boy

"We are all aware of reduce, reuse and recycle, but what occurred to me is that the government should implement a law to ban plastic waster from Tonga."



Vaisioa Fatafehi

SAHS Head Girl

"Since I am the head girl prefect, advocating the important of rubbish picking and segregation should start with me. I will reach out to the teachers and principal for assistance in establishing a school policy to reduce plastic waste dumping."



<https://www.facebook.com/nopelesitikitonga>

Strengthening Historical Ties with Hawaii



Strengthening Historical Ties and Vision for the Future: Friends of the Diocese Visit from Hawaii, Palau, the USA, and the UK

The Diocese of Polynesia was blessed by the warm and meaningful presence of friends and partners from Hawaii, Palau, the United States, and the United Kingdom in Tonga from the 12th—14th of February. Their visit marked a significant chapter in the life of the Diocese, as it continues to reconnect with its historical roots and discern a faithful path forward in mission and development.

This visit was a continuation of the Diocese's historic pilgrimage to the Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii in 2024, where bonds of friendship and faith were deepened under the leadership of The Right Reverend Bob Fitzpatrick and his team. That journey to Hawaii was not only a celebration of shared Anglican identity but also an intentional tracing of the Diocese's heritage, especially as it relates to Bishop Alfred Willis, who served as the first Bishop in Tonga in 1902.

Bishop Willis's ministry planted the seeds of Anglican presence in Tonga and the broader region, and today, those seeds are bearing new fruit through collaborative efforts in education and community development. The recent visit by these partners reflects a mutual desire to walk together in mission, honoring the past while investing in the future.

A key focus of this renewed partnership is the development of St Andrew's High School in Nuku'alofa—a school with a proud Anglican heritage and a vital role in forming future leaders. The school stands as both a symbol and a centre of growth, where education, faith, and culture are nurtured in unity. The visiting experts brought valuable insights and support as the Diocese works toward strengthening the school's infrastructure and long-term vision.

This time of reconnection is a reminder that the Church is never isolated. We are part of a wider Anglican Communion, bound together by shared history, mission, and faith in

Christ. As the Diocese of Polynesia welcomes the contributions and companionship of friends from across the globe, it also offers its own gifts of faith, hospitality, and vision.

The presence of our international friends is not only a celebration of friendship and partnership—it is a sign of hope. Together, we are building bridges across oceans, generations, and cultures, trusting in God's guidance as we move forward.



Archbishop Sione Encourages Clergy Across the Diocese: A Renewed Call to Faithful Ministry

At the beginning of 2025, Archbishop Sione made a pastoral visit to Tonga, where he gathered with priests and deacons to offer encouragement, guidance, and reflection on the sacred nature of their calling. In this meeting, the Archbishop emphasized the profound dignity of ordained ministry and the weight of responsibility entrusted to those who serve as spiritual leaders in the life of the Church. Speaking with humility and clarity, he reminded the clergy that their vocation is not merely functional, but deeply spiritual—an embodiment of Christ's presence in the midst of the people. He spoke candidly about the expectations placed upon the ordained, encouraging them to remain faithful stewards of the mysteries of God, and to live lives marked by integrity, humility, and sacrificial love.

Archbishop Sione extended this message to the wider clergy family across the Diocese, including priests and deacons in Suva and Ovalau, as well as the Bishop and clergy serving in VanuaLevu and Taveuni on the 6th of February. In each case, his call was consistent and pastoral: that all clergy commit to ongoing theological and spiritual formation, equipping themselves for the evolving needs of their communities and the demands of mission in the 21st century. At the heart of his message was a reflection on 1 Peter 2:9. This passage served as both a reminder and a challenge—that those who are ordained are not only called but also set apart for the holy work of proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed. Archbishop Sione reminded his clergy that they are to lead not only through preaching and liturgy, but through lives rooted in prayer, shaped by Scripture, and committed to justice, compassion,

and truth.

He encouraged the clergy to embrace their roles with renewed fervor, seeing themselves as bearers of light and shepherds of hope in a world in need. The Archbishop also spoke of the lasting and generational impact that faithful ministry can have—not only in parish communities, but in schools, homes, and across the wider society.

As the Diocese of Polynesia continues to respond to the call of Christ in diverse and dynamic contexts, Archbishop Sione's pastoral visits and meeting with Priests serve as a timely reminder that the heart of the Church's mission beats in the lives of its ordained ministers—men and women who carry the grace of their calling with courage and humility.



Moana Men's Leaders Gathers in Suva to Strengthen Mission and Identity

At the invitation of Archbishop Sione, leaders of the Moana Men's Ministry from across the Diocese gathered at the Diocesan headquarters in Suva for a significant two-day meeting held from 21st–22nd March 2025. Representatives from Tonga, Samoa, the Diocese of Polynesia in New Zealand, and various units across Fiji came together to strengthen relationships and begin the formal process of establishing the ministry's

identity and mission within the life of the Diocese.

Archbishop Sione encouraged the men to see this as the beginning of a long-term journey of formation and service. He emphasized their spiritual calling as fathers and leaders, aligning his message with the celebration of the Feast of St Joseph, observed on the same day. Highlighting St Joseph as a model

of faith, responsibility, and quiet strength, the Archbishop reflected on the vital role that fathers play in families, churches, and communities.

This foundational gathering marks an important step in affirming the place of the Moana Men's Ministry in the Diocese and preparing its leaders to serve with purpose, faith, and unity.

Diocesan Standing Committee Meets to Begin 2025 Planning

The Diocesan Standing Committee convened from the 14th–17th of March 2025 to begin shaping the Diocesan plan for the year ahead. The meeting, led by Archbishop Sione, brought together representatives from across the Diocese for a time of prayerful discussion, strategic planning, and collaborative discernment. It was a productive and forward-looking gathering, setting the foundation for the Church's mission and ministry in 2025.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten Resources.

Ash Wednesday marked the solemn beginning of the Lenten season across the Diocese and Christian all over the world, with all parishes observing the day in unity, including the diocesan headquarters in Suva. The day was commemorated with special services across the Diocese, with resources used for Bible Studies and Parishes Lenten journey and spiritual renewal with the focus "To Go Back to Basic."



Archbishop Sione with Dr. Andrew and Dr Rebecca Burgess Leads Lay Ministers Training Across the Diocese

At the beginning of this year, Archbishop Sione call on Lay Ministers for training which is a milestone initiative, a back-to-back training program for all Lay Ministers across the Diocese. This was historic first, bringing together Lay Ministers from across Fiji for a unified and enriching time of learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

In the second phase of the week-long training, Lay Ministers from Samoa, American Samoa, and Tonga joined their Fijian counterparts. The training created a unique space for cross-cultural connection, shared wisdom, and collective encouragement in ministry.

The Diocese was especially blessed by the presence and contributions of Dr. Andrew Burgess and Dr. Rebecca Burgess, friends of the Diocese for the second time now doing training. With grace and clarity, they shared their theological insights and biblical knowledge through teachings on an Overview of the Bible and the Justice and Righteousness of God. These sessions deeply resonated with the participants and spoke directly into the heart of Lay Ministry across the Diocese.

This gathering marks a significant step forward in equipping and uniting Lay Ministers across the Diocese of Polynesia—strengthening the Church's mission and ministry through the faithful service of its lay ministers.



Diocese Restructure and New Appointments

1. Mr. Feiloakitau Kaho Tevi is Licensed and Commissioned to be co-Vicar General with the Very Reverend Orisi Vuki for the Diocese of Polynesia.
2. Fr. Raymond Beetham is appointed to be the new Archdeacon of Samoa and Vicar of All Saint's, Apia Samoa
3. The Reverend Katherine Vaka is the Acting Priest in Charge of St Paul's, Nuku'alofa
4. Fr. Tuitatau Hoeft is given a PTO to take Leadership in the Ministry at All Saint's, Fasi in Tonga.
5. Fr. Moses Toroca will be license as Assistant Priest at St. Mathew's, Nabua
6. Fr. Joseva Tuwere will be Assistant Priest, St Thomas, Labasa and will be taken up Chaplain for St Mary's Primary School at the beginning of 2026. Fr. Joseva will be looking after Spiritual and Pastoral duties at All Saint's Secondary school as from the beginning of 2nd Term of 2025.
7. Reverend Mereti Rabonu will Assist Fr. Orisi Vuki at St. Bartholomew, Caubati.
8. Archbishop Sione will take over as Priest in Charge of St Lawrence, Nausori while Fr. Henry Simmons is on Study Leave.
9. The Reverend Vika Vea and Fr. Jone Tuiwaiwai is appointed as Co-Chair of the Diocesan Evangelism work as Ascension Day 2025. Evangelism committee membership will be announced soon.
10. The Reverend Telusila Vea will be Commissioned to be the Acting Priest in Charge of 'Ofa ki he Laumalie Ma'oni'oni, Otahuhu Auckland while Fr. Lui Tu'ilotolava is on Sabbatical Leave.
11. The General Synod Standing Committee has appointed Mr. Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi as the Provincial Climate Commissioner and he is based here at the Diocesan Office, Suva. This is a 3Tikanga position.
12. Lastly, The Reverend Dr. Frank Smith, who is the Tikanga Polynesia Dean at St John's the Evangelist Theological College in Meadowbank, Auckland has taking over Leadership for Polynesia Mission in New Zealand on behalf of the Archbishop.

A Joyous Occasion at Holy Trinity Cathedral: Commissioning and Ordination Service

In Loving Memory:
Fr Wame Tukana &
Fr Michael Chandra



With deep gratitude for their lives and ministries, we remember **Fr Wame Tukana** and **Fr Michael Chandra**, who were both called to eternal rest in the first quarter of the year.

Though retired, both priests remained active and faithful members of their parishes, continuing to serve with humility and devotion. Their lifelong commitment to the Church and to the people of God has left a lasting impact on the Diocese of Polynesia.

We give thanks for their faithful witness, their pastoral care, and their enduring love for Christ and His Church.

May God grant them eternal rest, and may they rise in glory.



On the 16th of March, a deeply moving and spiritually significant event took place at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Suva. The Archbishop commissioned the two Co-Vicar Generals of the Diocese—The Reverend Orisi Vuki and Mr. Fe’iloakitau Kaho Tevi—during a service that also saw the ordination of Siteli Kauvadra and Anare Sua Kolui to the order of Deacon.

Family, friends, and members of the Diocese gathered in celebration, making it a heartwarming and memorable occasion. The service also marked the conclusion of the Diocese's Standing Committee, with attendees joining from Tonga, Samoa, American Samoa, and across Suva.

Reverend Siteli Kauvadra was ordained after three years of theological study, and Reverend Anare Sua Kolui after four years of study at St. John the Baptist Theological

College in Suva, where he was also attached to St. John's, Wailoku.

During the service, Archbishop Sione reminded those ordained—and indeed all the baptized—of the sacred vows taken, emphasizing the call to serve with humility, to immerse themselves in Scripture, and to lead a prayerful life. Drawing upon the image of Christ's transfiguration, the message of the day was a call on everyone present to be true servants and faithful witnesses of God's glory not only in words but also in action and daily lives.

This blessed event was not only a milestone for those ordained and commissioned, but also a powerful reminder of the ongoing mission of the Church and the joy of serving with humility.

3 TIKANGA HIGHLIGHTS

A Joyous Celebration: Consecration of the 11th Bishop of Dunedin, Dr Anne van Gend

On Saturday, the 29th of March 2025, a deeply meaningful and historic service was held at St Paul's Cathedral to celebrate the consecration of Dr Anne van Gend as the 11th Bishop of Dunedin. The occasion brought together the three Primate of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia—Archbishop Justin, Archbishop Sione, and Archbishop Don—who co-celebrated in the service. Archbishop Justin preached the sermon of the day, offering wisdom and encouragement for this new chapter of leadership.

Also in attendance were Bishops, the General Secretary, Archdeacons, clergy, and family and friends of Bishop Anne from all across the Province, all coming together in joyful support and prayer. In attendance to the occasion from the Diocese was the two Assistant Bishops, Bishop Sharma and Bishop Bull together with Fr Winston Tarere.

The Diocese of Polynesia extends its warmest congratulations to Bishop Anne, praying for God's

continual guidance and blessings as she embarks on this sacred calling. May her ministry be marked by grace, wisdom, and deep compassion. The Rev. Winston Tarere on behalf of the Diocese of DoP also presented their gift to the new Bishop.



General Synod Standing Committee

Archbishop Sione, together with representatives from the Diocese of Polynesia, attended a joint meeting in Auckland with the General Synod Standing Committee, Te Kotahitanga, and the St John's College Trust Board. It was a

significant and meaningful experience, an important effort to strengthen the work of the Three Tikanga. For the representatives from the Diocese of Polynesia, it was especially valuable to be part of such an important gathering.

OCEANIA HIGHLIGHT

The 2025 FONO



The 2025 FONO was a truly special occasion in the life of the Church. This annual gathering brings together the Primates and General Secretaries of the Anglican Churches across the Oceania Region to reflect on and discuss matters that shape the mission and ministry of the Church that impact the lives of its members.

This year marked the sixth official FONO and was held from the 7th to the 9th of March in New Plymouth, Aotearoa New Zealand. The event was graciously hosted by Archbishop Emeritus Philip Richardson, who

welcomed the delegates with warmth and hospitality.

A beautiful aspect of this year's FONO was the involvement of the spouses of the Primates, including Mrs. Taina Uluilakepa, wife of Archbishop Sione. The spouses shared in fellowship and participated in a dedicated program that ran alongside the main sessions, a testament to the importance of unity, family, and support within church leadership.

The FONO was also blessed by the

presence of the General Secretary of the Anglican Communion, who was joined by Rev. Dr Stephen Spencer, Rev. Dr Sammy Wainaina from the Lambeth Office, the Bishop of Hawaii, Bishop Bob Fitzpatrick, and the Rev'd Bruce Woodcock. Their contributions enriched the conversations and helped strengthen the bonds of relationship across the Communion.

The 2025 FONO served as a powerful reminder of our shared calling and the strength we find in walking together in faith, unity, and service.

A Son of the Diocese of Polynesia studying in Bishop Patterson Theological College



The Diocese of Polynesia gives thanks for the gracious hospitality of Archbishop Leonard and Reverend Principal Fakaafu, who have welcomed one of our own Deacon Timoci Naicegulevu, to study for his Bachelor in Theology at Bishop Patterson Theological College, a College of the Anglican Church of Melanesia. (ACOM)

Deacon Timoci's journey is a reflection of the deepening relationships within the region, particularly the strong and growing partnership between the Diocese of Polynesia and the ACOM.

His presence at Bishop Patterson not only affirms the call to theological education and ministry formation but also celebrates the shared mission between the Diocese and the ACOM

We give thanks for the bonds of friendship and faith that continue to strengthen our Anglican family across Oceania.

ANGLICAN COMMUNION HIGHLIGHTS

Compass Rose Visit



Detail of the story on page 1.

Local Voices, Global Impact: Young Anglicans in Tonga Lead on Climate Action



The Diocese celebrate the contribution from the young people of the Anglican Church in Tonga on the Diocese of Polynesia's very own CIVA Framework and the QGIS Mapping Tool. Mrs. 'Elisiva Sunia, a devoted member of the Episcopal Unit of Tonga currently residing in Suva, presented to a Conference that was held in Columbia in 2024 a case study using this framework and tool and the case study was featured in the UN report in February this year.

'Elisiva's case study, drawn from the church's climate resilience initiatives, offers valuable insights into how faith communities can respond to the urgent challenges of our time. Their work highlights the proactive steps taken by her local church to care for creation—demonstrating that faith and action go hand in hand.

Through her contribution, 'Elisiva reminds us of the powerful role local voices play in global conversations. Her witness affirms the Church's

calling to be stewards of God's creation, advocating for justice, sustainability, and the well-being of all people.

We give thanks for 'Elisiva's leadership and pray that her example will inspire many more to act faithfully and boldly in the face of climate change.

Archbishop's Lenten Message

Grace and Peace to you All.

Warm greetings to you all and I pray that we are all looking forward to entering into our Liturgical Season of Lent. Lent points to the most sacred part of our Christian Year.

Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for candidates who were to be baptized, a time for baptismal preparation and teaching and also a time of prayers before their actual baptism during easter vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ early on Easter Sunday. The newly baptized are received into the community of faith, and therefore all the community of faith also participated in the preparations. Thus the whole community renews their baptismal vows during the same easter vigil celebration.

During this year's (2025) Lenten season, our Sunday Readings will focus on the Gospel of Saint Luke. Luke's gospel points to the fact that the purpose of God is seen in the life and work of Jesus. Luke understands that the divine purpose of God is bound up with the LOVE and Mercy of God in Jesus Christ. God's Love is seen as a theme that becomes the Heart of Luke's Gospel. It is the Love of God that shines through the parable, sayings, and the story of Jesus. The essence of that LOVE is the longing of God in Jesus Christ for a lifelong Relationship between the beloved of God and their God in Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of Saint Luke Chapter 4 tells the story of how Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days where he was tempted by the devil. It was a time and space where our Lord prepared himself to fulfill the will of his Father. Jesus finally entered Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week to make his triumphant journey to the Cross where the final victory was won for our Redemption.

Lent for us today, is our time of prayer and preparation for our celebration of Christ's Victory on the cross on Easter, which continues to bring to us Living hope to refocus and deepen our relationship with God. Our Christian tradition and spirituality are challenged by a culture and society that is very secular.

Most Christians marked lent by focusing on penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In addition, fasting, Christians sometimes commit to giving up certain things and activities. Some are dedicated to almsgiving and helping the poor or certain charities. Some focus on prayer and devotions emphasized during Lenten services. Even though our Lord commends on the discipline of fasting, helping the needy, and other good works, these practices can easily become rituals that we go through during Lent, and after the Lenten Season, we get back to our normal ways. We focus on the inward effect on ourselves rather than outwardly on Christ working in our lives. Lent is not about our giving up certain things to please God. Lent is about what Christ gave up to pay the penalty for the sins of the world. He gave up his own son so that we may have life.

I invite and call upon every baptized Anglican in our Diocese of Polynesia, to use this Lenten season as a time for contemplation, self-examination, and a time of penitence and repentance. Let us have time to focus on our prayer life with our families. Let us all ask God to forgive our failures and our sins and focus on our need for God's grace.

Lenten Message

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