



Anglican Church of Australia

Primate: The Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith

MEDIA RELEASE

21 July 2025

For Immediate Release

Anglicans welcome a new Primate

The Right Reverend Dr Mark Short, Bishop of the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, has been elected as the 18th Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia.

Bishop Mark will serve as Primate along with his current role.

“I welcome the appointment of Bishop Mark Short as the next Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia,” the current Primate, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith said.

“I was pleased that the election process demonstrated strong support for Mark. I am confident that he will bring a Godly, considered leadership to the role, incorporating his wide experience of the Australian Church, a scholarly outlook, and a calm approach.

“I wish him all the best as he prepares to take on the role.”

Bishop Mark said he was “honoured and humbled by this call to serve”.

“I look forward to working together with Anglicans across Australia to share the lasting hope we are given in the Lord Jesus Christ,” he said.

Bishop Mark will take up his new duties on 1 November 2025 following Archbishop Geoff’s completion in the role on 31 October 2025.

The Board of Electors, consisting of all Diocesan Bishops, as well as 12 clergy and 12 laity elected by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia, gathered on Saturday 19 July.

As required, Bishop Mark received a majority of votes in each category of bishops, clergy and laity.

Before becoming Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn, Bishop Mark was National Director of the Bush Church Aid Society and has served as Rector of Turvey Park (now South Wagga) and Archdeacon of Wagga Wagga in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Educated at Moore Theological College and the University of Durham, UK, he was ordained as deacon in 1996 and priest in 1997, in Canberra & Goulburn Diocese, after formerly working as a Graduate Economist for the Commonwealth Department of Industrial Relations and Journalist for the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Bishop Mark is married to Dr Monica Short, and they have two married sons and one granddaughter. Mark’s other interests include bushwalking, train travel and reading.

ABOUT THE ROLE OF PRIMATE

The Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia serves as the senior bishop and President of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia. This role involves leading the General Synod and, in between Synods, leading the Standing Committee of the General Synod which is elected by the General Synod to take responsibility for the affairs of the General Synod in between General Synod sessions.

The Primate may offer support and guidance to other bishops and dioceses, primarily at their invitation, but responsibility for each of Australia's 23 dioceses rests with the bishops and archbishops appointed to those roles, who retain autonomy in their own affairs.

The Primate also has responsibilities internationally, representing the Anglican Church of Australia, especially at the Anglican Communion Primates' Meeting which gathers at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. While the gathering has no legal jurisdiction, it is one of the instruments of unity among the autonomous provinces of the Anglican Communion.

For further information contact Bill Condie 0405 862 785 or
[**media@adelaideanglicans.com**](mailto:media@adelaideanglicans.com)