
Wednesday, 12 March 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers

I am pleased to announce that following a comprehensive recruitment process, the Bishop-in-Council has appointed James Gale as Diocesan Registrar / General Manager. James will take up this appointment on Monday 28 April 2025.

James will be known to many as a parishioner at St Thomas' Church, Port Macquarie, Synod member and member of Bishop-in-Council. He previously served as a Churchwarden at St Thomas'. James is currently a Planning and Infrastructure Analyst at Port Macquarie-Hastings Council where he leads complex projects involving strategic land-use planning, infrastructure forecasting, and policy development. In this role he is responsible for multi-million-dollar infrastructure plans and collaborating with diverse stakeholders to deliver community-centred outcomes. He has a demonstrated ability to oversee property and asset management functions, including budget oversight, compliance, and long-term planning. All this will equip James well for his new role.

I invited James to introduce himself. He writes:

"I'm incredibly fortunate to have a wonderful family, my wife, Michelle, and our two amazing kids, Austin and Imogen. They bring me so much joy and keep me grounded, constantly reminding me of what truly matters: faith, love, and perseverance. As a committed Anglican, my faith shapes everything I do, from my personal life to my work and the way I serve the community. I try to live by the marks of mission, and prayer and reflection play a big role in how I make decisions by helping me stay focused on making a positive impact in the world around me.

Outside of work and family, I have a real passion for food, whether it's cooking up something delicious or just sharing a great meal. I'm also a big NRL fan, and you'll find me cheering on the Broncos whenever they're playing. I also enjoy jogging (especially with a podcast to keep me company), if you ever spot me running, feel free to stop me for a chat, I'll be more than happy to take a break and catch my breath!

Professionally, I've spent my career serving the community, with a background in local government and community infrastructure. I take pride in making thoughtful, sustainable decisions that genuinely benefit the people around me. I always strive to approach challenges with integrity, balancing a pragmatic mindset with a commitment to my values. At the end of the day, it's all about building a stronger, more connected community while staying true to what I believe in.

I'm excited for the opportunity to step into the Registrar/General Manager role and see how the Holy Spirit moves within the Diocese, guiding us toward growth, renewal, and deeper faith."

James will bring much to this position, and I am sure that the Diocese and its schools, parishes and other organisations will be well served by his leadership, personable nature, integrity, high level organisational skills and his resourceful, can-do attitude.

I thank the Registrar Appointment Committee for their work in recruiting the new Registrar / General Manager. We were grateful for the advice and assistance of our Acting Registrar Leeanne Zamagias throughout the process.

Please keep James, Michelle and their family in your prayers as James prepares to take on this new role and as they prepare for the move to Grafton.

Yours in Christ

+ Murray

Dr Murray Harvey
Bishop of Grafton

