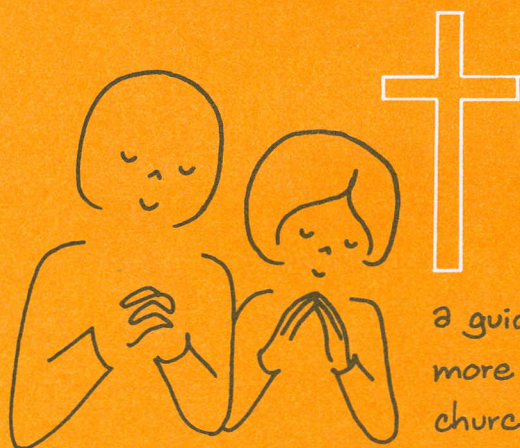


# ABOUT BEING AN ANGLICAN



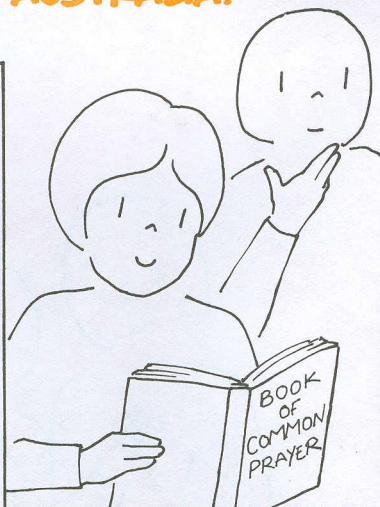
a guide to  
more effective  
church  
membership

# WHAT IS AN ANGLICAN?

A PERSON WHO BELONGS TO THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

## THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA IS:

- a member of the Anglican Communion; derived from the Church of England and sharing with it traditions of faith and order as set forth in its Book of Common Prayer
- one whose traditions include attitudes that are Reformed and Catholic, ancient and contemporary – progressive and conservative.



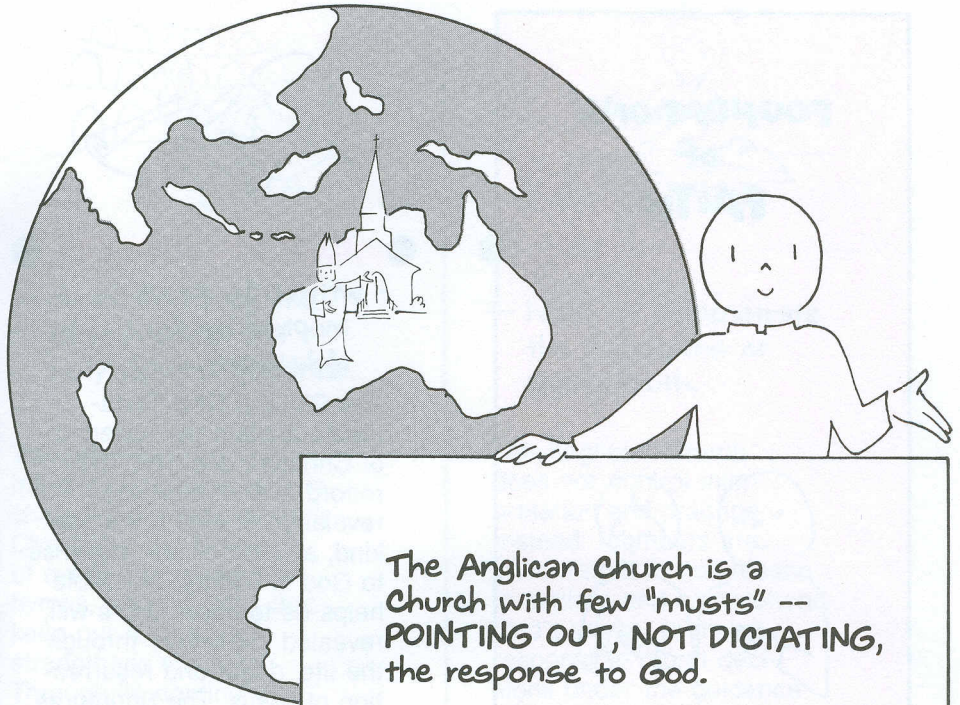
## EUROPEAN SETTLERS

brought the Anglican faith to the colonies of New South Wales and the Swan River. It quickly spread across the nation.

## TODAY,

there are over 3 million members in Australia.

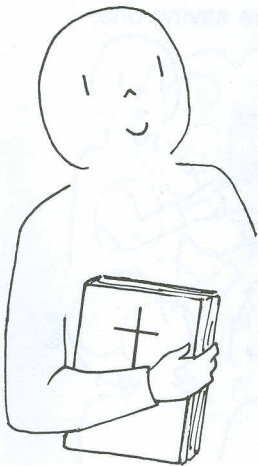




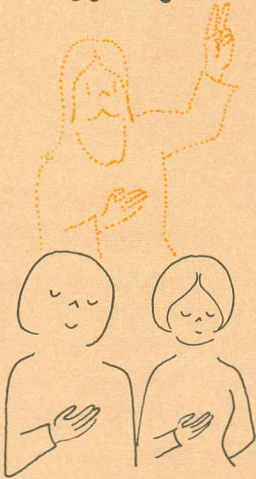
The Anglican Church is a Church with few "musts" --  
**POINTING OUT, NOT DICTATING,**  
the response to God.

**ANGLICANS FIND THE  
FULLEST EXPRESSION  
OF CHRISTIANITY IN:**

- **THE SCRIPTURES** – the Word of God at work among us. See p. 4 →
- **CREEDS** – ancient summaries of Christian belief. See p. 7 →
- **SACRAMENTS** – signs of grace, ordained by Christ. See pp. 8 & 9 →
- **MINISTRY** – the orders of ordained ministries. See pp. 10 & 11 →

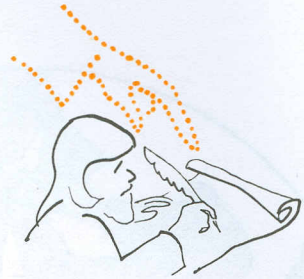


## FOUNDATIONS of FAITH



**There are 3  
basic sources of  
Anglican Church  
beliefs:**

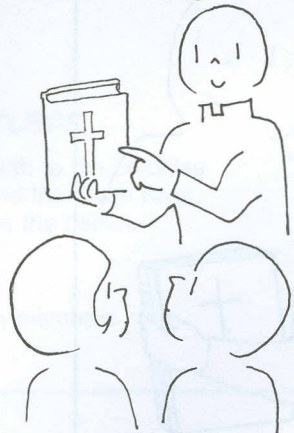
- ✓ Scripture (the primary source of doctrine)
- ✓ tradition (wisdom of generations past)
- ✓ reason (both Scripture and tradition are interpreted in the light of reason).



### 1 **HOLY SCRIPTURE**

- written by people  
inspired by the  
Holy Spirit.

The Old and New Testaments contain the essence of Christian doctrine. They record and express the revelation of God to humankind, and tell of our response to God in history. The Bible helps us to know God's will, revealed supremely through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Scriptures are the word of God, proclaiming that Jesus – both human and divine – is the Christ, the saving one.

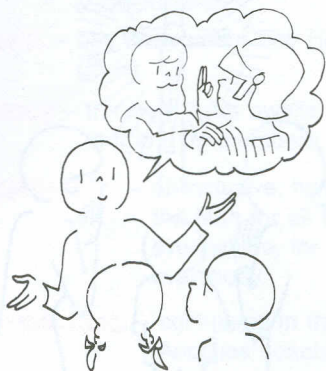




## ② CHURCH TRADITION

- development of the Church under the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Tradition helps us to interpret Scripture; lets us share experiences of early Christians and believers of every era; preserves hymns, prayers, etc., that keep our faith alive; strengthens our faith. Through its continuity and consistency, tradition helps preserve fundamental truths through liturgy.



## ③ REASON

- helps us to penetrate the full depths of God's Truth.

The Anglican Church does not control interpretation and practice. Instead, members are encouraged to use reason to explore and comprehend God's works; to make responsible moral decisions under the guidance of Scripture, the ordained ministry, and in response to sincere prayer, and to investigate and understand the Church's traditions.



# BASIC ANGLICAN CHURCH BELIEFS



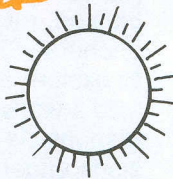
Interpretation of the faith varies somewhat from parish to parish, but within the framework of these basic guidelines:

## THE HOLY TRINITY

God is 3 persons in one.

### GOD the FATHER

- infinite, good, omnipotent.



### GOD the SON

- the joyous union of both God and humanity; whose life, death, and resurrection set us free from bondage to sin and death.



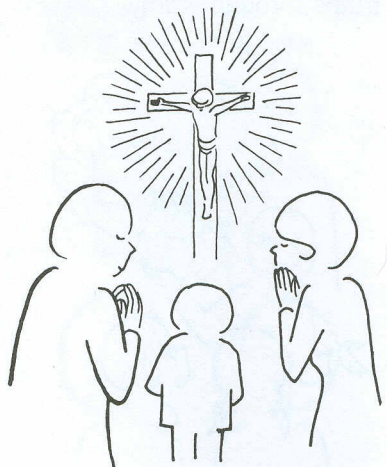
### GOD the HOLY SPIRIT

- God's power of love moving within us in mysterious and unexpected ways.



## SALVATION

- the end of our separation from God; the beginning of a new life, lived according to God's will
- gained by us because of Christ's sacrifice
- every Christian should witness to Christ's sacrifice – and express the living truth of this sacrifice to the world (evangelism).



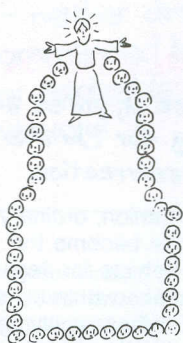
**CREEDS** summarise the Christian faith; they clearly express our faith in the Holy Trinity.

- **APOSTLES' CREED** -- creed of the early Roman Church, dating from the 2nd century.
- **NICENE CREED** -- Eastern in origin, dating from the 4th century.
- **ATHANASIAN CREED** -- sometimes called the "Quicumque Vult," meaning "whoever wishes" in Latin.



## THE CHURCH

- the people of God; all baptised people are the members.



**ONE** -- one Body under one Head, Christ.

**HOLY** -- the Holy Spirit dwells in it and its members.

**CATHOLIC** -- all-inclusive; holding the faith for all time, everywhere, for everybody.

**APOSTOLIC** -- continuing in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship.

## WORSHIP

- a joyous response to God's love
- an expression of hope for Salvation
- a chance to praise God and receive strength and forgiveness
- a way to share faith with other believers.

### HOW ANGLICANS WORSHIP

The Anglican Church is liturgical, i.e., it has formal rites for public worship (drawn from past ages as well as from the present).

3 CENTRAL TEXTS:

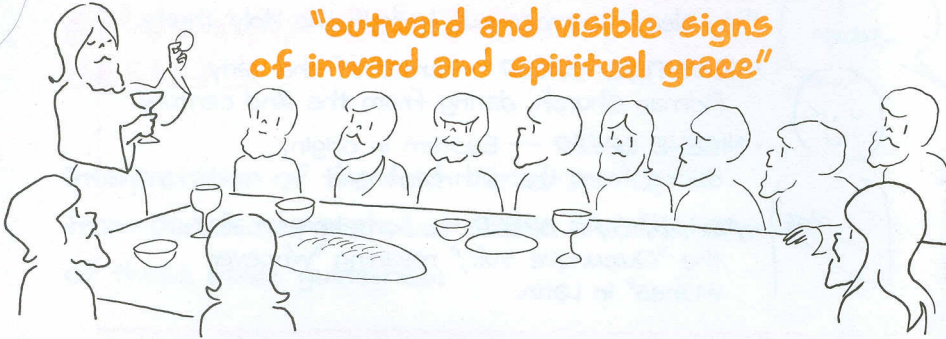
- BIBLE
- AUSTRALIAN PRAYER BOOK
- HYMN BOOK

The texts vary little from parish to parish. Method of conducting services may vary greatly, from very plain services to those with great ceremony.



# The SACRAMENTS

"outward and visible signs  
of inward and spiritual grace"



## THE 2 SACRAMENTS of the GOSPEL

These sacraments were instituted  
and ordained by Jesus.

### BAPTISM

"Gateway to the  
family of God."

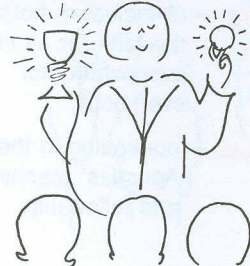
Baptism is administered once to each person – often as an infant. Water is poured on the head or the person is immersed in water, to symbolise the washing away of sins. The Holy Trinity is called upon to strengthen the new church member. Baptism is a pledge of repentance and obedience to divine will. It's a sign that a person has been reborn into a new family, the Church.



### HOLY EUCHARIST

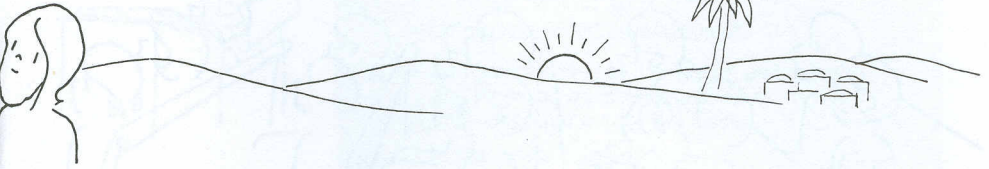
Remembrance of, praise and  
thanksgiving for Christ's  
death and resurrection.

In Holy Communion, ordinary bread and wine become the sacramental vehicle for Jesus Christ's presence within us, as he promised. When receiving Communion, Anglicans offer themselves to God in repentance, love and faith – recall Jesus' death, commemorate his sacrifice, renew hope in the heavenly banquet.





Through the sacraments,  
God sustains the life of the Church;  
gives us the love and strength we  
need to live with Christ.



## 5 OTHER SACRAMENTS

-- neither directly  
commanded by Christ,  
nor applicable to  
everyone.

### CONFIRMATION

Conferred by a bishop,  
confirmation strengthens  
the commitment made  
to Christ at Baptism;  
gives us courage to  
witness Christ in the  
world and to self-  
lessly serve each other.



### PENANCE

Sorrow for sinning,  
with a sincere desire  
to amend one's life;  
assurance by a priest  
of God's forgiveness  
through absolution;  
sinner's reconcilia-  
tion with the Creator.



### MATRIMONY

The sacrament of  
marriage, in which  
God joins together  
a man and woman  
in physical and  
spiritual union.



### ORDINATION

The sacrament consecrat-  
ing clergy in service to  
God. Spiritual power and  
grace are given to help  
them devote their lives to  
the good of the communi-  
ty – teaching, administer-  
ing sacraments, govern-  
ing the Church.

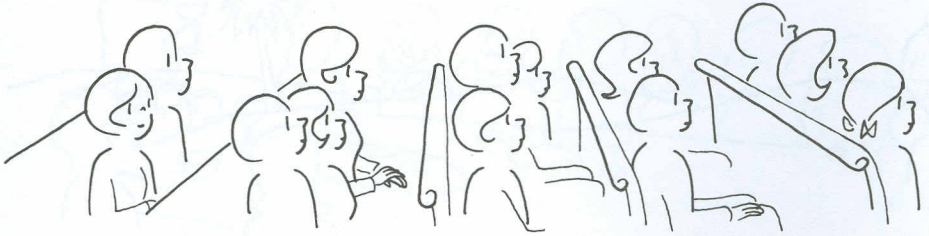


### MINISTRY OF HEALING

Continuation of  
Christ's work among  
the sick; involves  
"laying on of hands,"  
anointing with oil,  
and praying for  
physical and  
spiritual health.



# The ORDERS of ORDAINED MINISTRY



## BISHOPS

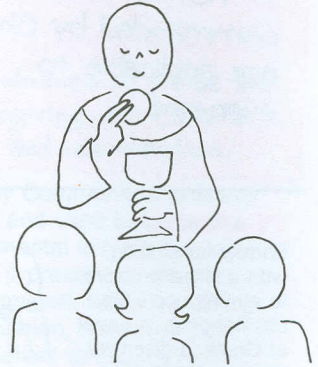
A line of bishops may be traced back to the early church commissioned by Jesus.



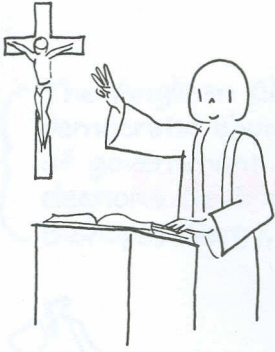
Bishops are spiritual overseers of their dioceses (groups of parishes, missions), which elected them to office. Bishops act as counsellors to clergy; ordain priests, deacons; consecrate other bishops; administer Confirmation; are final counsellors in church matters. Together, bishops share responsibility for the welfare of the church.

## PRIESTS

Must meet high standards of personal integrity and judgment.



Priests are parish leaders. The full scope of their duties covers every pastoral, spiritual and educational activity. Specifically, priests celebrate the Eucharist, baptise, pronounce absolution, and perform many other duties.



### To enter the ordained ministry, a candidate should:

- have a sound education – usually capable of gaining a degree in theology
- be physically and psychologically fit
- be recommended by the rector, parish vestry, and diocesan agencies (such as examining chaplains) that act for the bishop.

## DEACONS

An order of special ministry of service.



Deacons assist priests in parish work, or minister (under bishop's supervision) in parishes. They baptise, and they may, in the absence of a priest, solemnise marriages. They also distribute the consecrated elements to the sick.

## RELIGIOUS ORDERS

consist of men and women bound by the traditional vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Most monks and nuns live in communities; some are active in the world. Emphasis is on a life of prayer, but members also perform social, medical, and educational duties, as well as religious ones.



# STRUCTURE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH



## BISHOP

presides over diocese

## ASSISTED BY

diocesan councils made up of clergy and lay people.



## DIocese { group of parishes



## PARISH

- RECTOR (priest) presides over the parish, under licence from the bishop.
- VESTRY consists of parishioners elected to be the agents and legal representatives of the parish in matters of property and relations to the clergy.
- LAY PEOPLE – are also ministers of the Church. They take part in church services and participate in its teaching mission.

Parishes elect

lay representatives to...



The Anglican Church is a democratic church with a system of government based on elections to 3 houses: Bishops, Clergy, Laity.



### ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

has a primacy of honour throughout the Anglican Communion; but – every national Church within it is self-governing.



### PRIMATE

– chief bishop in the Australian Church – has a diocese of his own.

### DIOCESAN SYNOD

- presided over by bishop
- lay delegates and clergy conduct the Church's business in the geographic area of the diocese.



Diocesan Synod elects

clergy and lay representatives to...

### GENERAL SYNOD

This is the highest legislative body in the Anglican Church. It provides guidelines for the faith, guides the whole Church in programs of Christian education, evangelism and social action. It consists of:

- House of Bishops
- House of Clergy
- House of Laity.



The Australian Prayer Book tells us that private worship alone is inadequate; religion is a fellowship. You relate to the whole Church through your parish -- your local church community...



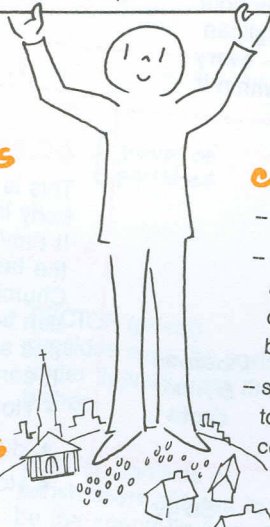
# YOUR PARISH

- it's guided by the priest; nurtured by church ceremonies, prayer, the sacraments; witnessing to Christ in congregation and community.

## Getting involved in your parish HELPS YOU GROW

as a Christian witness and a person!

Participate in:



### CHURCH SERVICES

- prayer and working together
- sharing our faith through Christian education.

### COMMUNITY WORK

- performing acts of charity
- working for social justice and reform, Christian unity on a personal, day-to-day basis
- spreading the Good Word to people in the world community.

### Through GIVING OURSELVES we can:

#### STRENGTHEN

ourselves, our beliefs by helping others

#### FULFILL

spiritual needs

#### LEARN

more about the mystery of God, and how God shares love with us

#### ANSWER

some of life's questions, in responding to the needs of others

#### BETTER UNDERSTAND

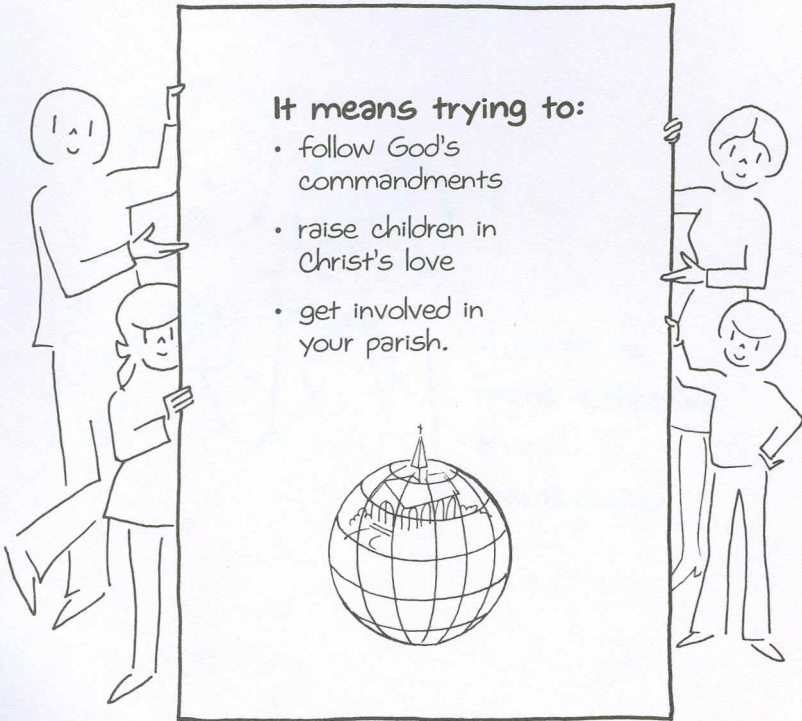
how to keep our daily life in tune with our search for salvation

#### BRING A SIGN OF SALVATION

to people outside the community.

So--

# BEING AN ANGLICAN MEANS STRIVING TO FULFILL CHRIST'S MISSION OF REDEMPTION.



Being an Anglican means  
actively participating in the world  
through Christ in the Church.