



Bishop of the Diocese of George

The Right Reverend Edwin Desmond Pockpass

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Narrative Summary of Episcopal Ministry

21 September 2025 – 23 September 2026

Following is a narrative summary of the Bishops actual ministry over the last year as contained in the Bishops ACTA, kept by the Bishops office that forms an important part of the record of the Bishops ministry for the duration of his tenure.

The Episcopal Ministry of the Diocese of George during the period 21 September 2025 to 23 September 2026 reflects a year of extensive pastoral engagement, episcopal oversight, diocesan administration, clergy formation, ecumenical participation, and ministry across the geographical breadth of the Diocese. The official record reflects 67 parish visits, 16 confirmation services, one ordination, ten provincial meetings, three ecumenical engagements and one link-diocese engagement.

A significant feature of the year was the Bishop's sustained presence among the parishes and people of the Diocese. Confirmation services were conducted across a wide geographical area, including Beaufort West, Thembalethu, Slangrivier, Swellendam, Albertinia, Melkhoutfontein, Oudtshoorn, Mossel Bay, Bonnievale, Riversdale, Knysna, Zoar, Prince Albert and other communities. The extensive programme of parish visits and the 2026 Lenten Pilgrimage provided opportunities for listening, pastoral engagement, worship and direct interaction with clergy and parishioners.

The Bishop's ministry also included important moments in the sacramental and liturgical life of the Diocese. These included the institution and licensing of clergy, renewal of priestly vows, Easter and Christmas celebrations, church dedications and restorations, patronal festivals, and the ordination service at St Mark's Cathedral on 28 June 2026. The Bishop also participated in the consecration services of bishops in other dioceses, thereby strengthening relationships within the wider Anglican Church.

Considerable attention was given to diocesan governance, administration, and financial stewardship. Regular meetings were held with the Bishop's Council, Finance Board, Trust Board, Diocesan Staff, Registrar, Chancellor, legal counsel, Archdeacons, and other diocesan structures. Meetings with clergy and churchwardens addressed matters of ministry, leadership, pastoral relationships, and the practical functioning of parishes.

The Diocesan Budget Roadshow and subsequent stewardship initiatives demonstrated a continuing concern for responsible financial management and the long-term sustainability of the Diocese.

Clergy and lay formation remained another important dimension of the Bishop's ministry. Regular meetings with individual clergy, Archdeacons, guilds, and ministry leaders provided opportunities for guidance, support, and accountability. The Clergy, Staff and Family Weekend, Clergy School, Sacred Synod, and various ministry conferences contributed to strengthening relationships, formation, and collegiality. Particular attention was also given to youth ministry, Sunday School, the Anglican Youth Fellowship, the St Agnes Guild, the Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild, Mothers' Union, and other diocesan organisations.

The ministry of the Diocese was not confined to internal church concerns. The Bishop participated in ecumenical prayer initiatives, Christian leadership gatherings, and wider conversations on social and environmental concerns. The peaceful picket at the Provincial Hospital in support of medical care for the people of Palestine, participation in Earth Day reflection and the Green Anglicans Season of Creation initiative demonstrate a concern for the Church's witness in the wider world.

Overall, the year reflects an episcopate characterised by presence, pastoral care, governance, formation, stewardship, and engagement with the wider community. The breadth of the Bishop's programme demonstrates an intentional effort to remain connected with the diverse communities of the Diocese while strengthening its structures, ministries, and relationships. The continuing challenge is to translate this extensive programme of episcopal activity into sustained growth in unity, mission, pastoral effectiveness, financial sustainability and active participation in the life and witness of the Diocese.

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