

2025 Reports to Cathedral Council

1). February

In December and January at HHO we have work on the formation of a range of new resources including a recording of the [Advent Reflection: Night of Silence](#) which will be released early this year. We had 7 participants at the reflection space and hope that making the recording available will reach more people or provide our community members a chance to revisit the space in the future.

We created a new Commitment prayer to go into the rotation at worship during the season of Advent in a series of workshops with our ministry task group. [A Prayer of Lament from our heart](#) is the very first Commitment prayer to be made into a video which is now live on our [YouTube Channel](#). A blog reflecting on the call to create this resource has more detail of how we did it, including the use of AI: [Blog](#).

Our Compline recordings continue to be released on YouTube. We anticipate wrapping up each day of the week in Lent with our Liturgical Assistants continuing to facilitate these gatherings on a different day each month.

We discerned a trial of recording contemplative services at our Christmas Day service. The [Contemplative Christmas Day recording](#) was loaded up with minimal editing and had been introduced to the community as an opportunity for feedback if the act of recording detracted from the meditative nature of the service in any way. We have only had positive feedback so far and plan to record all our contemplative services in 2025 so that they can be accessed at any time.

Our other Christmas services included [A Blue Christmas](#) and [ChristmasEve Worship](#). We changed it up by included 9 Lessons and Carols in the Christmas Eve space alongside the Spiritual Communion Agape Feast. This stimulated a lot of reflection in fellowship and a wondering about expanding the 9 lessons next Advent with some opportunity for retreat and study. A blog offering the meditation questions was shared by request: [9 Lessons and Carols - an experience: Reflections on the traditional lessons and a playlist of carols](#)

The [Joseph's Advent Journey](#) study group curated a range of resources for further reflection including:

- A blog
- A character study

- A documentary
- A podcast series
- A short film excerpt of nativity
- An exegetical video
- A gallery of our artworks
- A Song
- A Benedictus reflection

The group met twice for study instead of the planned for 3 sessions due to clergy illness. The liturgical assistants offered compline followed by informal fellowship instead. A new process for short notice clergy absence at study group has been developed after the experience, so that lay-leadership is further supported and equipped.

The study group also engaged with the invitation to make art together via Padlet in the Digital Faith artists ministry with great enthusiasm. A lot of fantastic Advent art was made and used in our 9 lessons and carols and other services as backgrounds to the slides or featured in send outs or on our website.

The digital faith artists ministry flourishes with more members having a go regularly. This also featured in our 3rd Christmastide Subscription which was another wonderful outreach ministry. We raised \$930AUD and sent content to 62 email addresses for the 12 days of Christmas. Subscribers were daily invited to create one of a kind digital artwork with prompts from the theme or hermits featured in the content. The gallery of images made during the 12 days of Christmas are on the news page sharing the results. It is now the happy task of our ministry team to discern where we will distribute 50% of the funds raised. \$465 will go to a charity of the ministry task-groups choosing, and \$465 will go towards HHO's sustainability in 2025.

Inspired by our friendship with Benedictus Contemplative Church January has been declared a Sabbath Month. Feedback has been positive for this practice of laying down our busyness and taking a rest to return for the month of July. The event page provides reflection and encouragement for our members to take rest from screen time as well as observing the absence of workshops, Study group and extra gatherings as an invitation to deeper prayer: [Sabbath Month | Benedictus](#)

The new roles of Zoom Buttons and chat leader have seen good take up at worship during this time. A renewed focus on encouraging vocations in these behind the scenes/offscreen roles also has been fruitful for new servers having a go. Plans to revitalize our buddy

system in February are underway and do a pulse check on the rostering system at the same time.

The Hermits we remembered at worship over both months include: [Sr Maria Boulding](#); [Thomas Merton](#); [St John of the Cross](#); [Catherine De Huek Doherty](#); [Sr Wendy Beckett](#); [St Seraphim of Serov](#); [Simeon Stylites](#); [Syncletica of Alexandria and Gundisalvus of Amarante](#).

We used a flashback reflection from the Benedictus Community for the 1st Sunday of Christmas: [Flashback: Joseph A Benedictus Reflection from 2022](#) with permission to use other Benedictus recordings at worship when we wish to in the future. We also welcomed Bishop Cameron to worship for the first time as our guest preacher for the 2nd Sunday after Epiphany with the sermon: [Light in the Dark](#)

During the 2 weeks of planned clergy absence after Christmas Day Chris and Leonie did a great job of holding the space with a few curveballs to triage and rally for. Taking it in shifts with Leonie covering the first week and Chris the second, great help was offered by Judy Fay with the New Years send out when Kerrie-Anne was off sick. Thank you, Judy! A series of adjustments is planned for the next time of absence after Easter so that things are even more smooth in running.

Learnings from Clergy Summer School were applied to the hospitality slides in worship – to include “please take care of yourself in the space”, a pastoral care availability reminder plus emojis and button images for controls mentioned i.e. Video off, brightness up and down)

Fridays have been carved out as Texas focused working days for the rest of the year until we begin our 12 week program in October. The registration page has been prepared for Texas spring (April) and the event page is on the website: [EDOT Digital Mission Cohort](#) A brochure was prepared for sharing at the Diocesan council in the beginning of February. The footage from our first series of Telling Our Story recording sessions has all been edited and 3 videos created. Another recording session is scheduled for the 2nd of March with a new template for testimony offering guidance for those who wish to share about Lay leadership in the Online space for Module 5: [Telling Our Story recording sessions](#).

At the end of January time was spent with Kelly Houston working to migrate our cloud files from OneDrive to Teams. We initially tried to get our systems onto Teams in 2023 but there were challenges to the cloud conversions which made us back off until now as Microsoft has created better synchronicity between SharePoint, Teams and OneDrive in the last 12 months. So far, we have had a positive experience and plan to facilitate the lay servers

transition to Teams in the coming weeks which will make collaboration more stable, with Kelly's ongoing support available to us.

Angie Mooney has linked in with HHO and we have planned an [AI Show and Tell Workshop](#) for the 9th of March. We plan to use this space to share resources with all that Angie has been doing with the Resource Church initiative work and that HHO has been doing in the digital faith artists and prayer group spaces. It will be a chance to experiment in real time using Artificial intelligence.