

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

8 February 2026
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
(This week's service times within)

*Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5.16*



*'A city on a hill cannot be hidden', said Jesus (Matthew 5:14).
The view over Old Jerusalem.*

***St John's exists to bear public witness to Jesus Christ,
the source of life.***

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God,
you have appointed us your witnesses,
to be a light that shines in the world:
let us not hide the bright hope you have given us,
but tell everyone your love,
revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

BEGINNING 2026—IMPORTANT NOTICES

Supporting St John's. As a new year begins, please take a moment to consider the appropriate level of your regular financial contribution to our parish. We are highly dependent upon regular (preferably automatic) deposits to sustain our growing ministry and care for our site. 'Giving' details can be found on page 10 of this newsletter, or at www.stjohnscanberra.org/giving.

Kids and Youth in 2026. Our program for young people (yrs k-10) begins today at our 9.30am service with 'Start Up Sunday'. Join us after the service for fun and connection (including waterslide, ice cream, and family BBQ).

Our overflow space and cry room will continue to function in the Robertson Room in 2026 during the 9.30am service, to assist families with younger children who may find this space easier.

For older youth, our 6pm service will continue its 'youth check in' after church – a chance to talk about faith and encourage each other.

A new Parish Directory. As St John's grows, it becomes more important to find secure and efficient ways to connect with each other. Next week, Dave and Andrew will introduce a new way forward. We're introducing a computer- and app-based system that puts you in charge of what details we have, so that you can change or delete them at any time. In time, this will greatly help you to engage in our community life. It will also be a great help to church staff (especially if you upload your photo!). After Easter, you may choose to opt into a Parish Directory to enable communication with others who have also opted in. The system has other useful features that we'll overview in the weeks ahead.

Palm Crosses. Those with palm crosses from last year are invited to bring these to church next week, and place them in the basket on the donations box, to create ash for Ash Wednesday services.

AGM. Our parish AGM and Electoral Meeting will be held on Sunday 22 March. From 11.00am, Alan Wilson (parish archivist) will give a presentation on the archives. From 11.30am the meeting itself will begin. We encourage all parishioners to attend so they can engage with the significant and exciting matters facing the parish in the year ahead. Elections will be held for parish councillors, peoples' wardens, and representatives for our Clergy Appointments Board and Synod. Those wishing to nominate someone for these positions should do so using the nominations form in the church foyer and depositing it in the collections box no later than Sunday 15 March.

Lenten studies. Beginning on Thursday 19 February (7pm, Robertson Room), Rev'd Dave will be leading a Lenten Study on Rowan Williams' book, 'Passions of the Soul' (Bloomsbury, 2024). You will need to get a copy ASAP (a small number remain available for purchase from the parish). Contact rector@stjohnscanberra.org if interested.

Also, from 17 February 'Bible for Blokes' will commence a Lenten Study on Joy, using studies contributed by various Australian Bishops. Cost \$10. Enquiries Canon Kevin Stone 0450 676 864.

Name Badges. You can order your own St John's nametag for \$17.00 (resin with magnetic back) or \$15.00 (pin back). It's a great way to help people connect with you at church. Order at stjohnscanberra.org/payments.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

9.30 Kids' Church – help us serve! Kids' Church at St John's provides teaching, discipleship, and community to the members of our parish aged between 4 years and 11 years.

We are at least 3 people short for this growing ministry. If you are hesitant about your "qualifications", please do not let that stop you – we can provide training and support! If you have even a mustard seed of interest, please reach out to me so we can work together to see if it is the right fit. Mary de Lautour, Children and Families Worker.

Worship support. We are seeking a small group who can support our worship preparations in the leadup to Holy Week and Easter. While there are a number of tasks that need to be done, none are particularly onerous – and many hands make light work. Are you able to help? Please let clergy know.

Chaplaincy training. Sports chaplaincy offers a strategic point of connection with communities of people around us, including many who don't know Jesus. Come along and be trained for a relational model of ministry, learning skills in pastoral care and support. This training is suitable for anyone wanting to make a positive Christian difference in a local community - even if it's not sport! Details about the training here (with a link for the Canberra option towards the bottom of the page): <https://sportschaplaincy.com.au/become-a-chaplain/training-and-accreditation/sports-chaplaincy-training/>

Bell ringing. This continues on the first Sunday of each month at 5pm -6pm. We are looking to grow our team in 2026 – all are welcome to have a go!

SUMMARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(*St John's event)

***Sunday 8 February: 'Start Up Sunday'.** Our program for young people (yrs k-10) will recommence at our 9.30am service, with a waterslide, ice cream, and family BBQ after the service.

***Sunday 8 February: Welcome to 2026.** All are invited to gather for fellowship and refreshments on the lawn at 3.30pm today. Refreshments will be followed by the year's first Choral Evensong at 5pm. New members of our community are especially invited to come and be welcomed into the parish.

***Sunday 8 February: Choral Evensong.** This is the first monthly Evensong for 2026. Join us at 5pm for this brief, reflective service, including hymns and a choral item.

***Saturday 14 February: Operation Christmas Child Working Group.** From 1pm-4pm in the Robertson Room. Contact Jennifer Lawson on 0407 286 572.

Monday 16 February: For Grads - Welcome to the Jungle. A special orientation evening hosted by City Bible Forum. 6pm, at Dickson Baptist Church. <https://citybibleforum.org/event/welcome-jungle-2026>

***Tuesday 17 February: Bible for Blokes.** Lenten series on 'joy' begins. 10am in the Upper Room, with Canon Kevin Stone.

***Wednesday 18 February: Ash Wednesday.** Services of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes will occur at 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm.

***Thursday 19 February: Lenten Study.** 7pm in Robertson Room. Pre-reading essential. Contact rector@stjohnscanberra.org

***Saturday 21 February: 'Jazz on the Lawn'.** Quality local jazz bands, wine tasting, and the beautiful St John's grounds from 2pm-7pm. BYO picnic blankets or chairs and food (gelato and other food available for purchase).

***Monday 23 February: Cuppacomalong.** A friendly gathering in the Parish Centre to talk about the year ahead. All welcome - 2.00-4.00pm. (Contact Ailsa, Curtis 6247 9363.)

Wednesday 25 February: A Church for Seekers and Dwellers. At the St Mark's Commencement service, you'll hear a fresh perspective on how the Holy Spirit may be at work in our culture today. New faculty member Aden Cotterill has been completing a PhD in Christian Theology at the University of Cambridge, where he has researched Charles Taylor and Tomáš Halík on faith and doubt. 5.30pm. Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1513934>

***Saturday 28 February: Light in the Darkness – Christian hope and end-of-life care.** Christians engaging with so-called 'Voluntary Assisted Dying' legislation. Booking details on page 12.

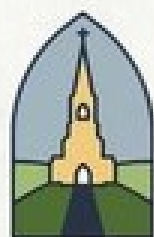
***Wednesday 4 March: Scripture Union Australia ACT fund-raising Dinner.** For several decades, Scripture Union (SU) has introduced children and young adults to Jesus in schools, on camps, and through print media. This quiet and consistent work will be celebrated at the Woden Hellenic Club Rev'd Andrew will be MC. More info at su.org.au/act

***Saturday 7 March: Working Bee.** From 8.30am—10.00am. Two options: (a) help give the inside of the church a thorough clean, or (b) work outside helping to beautify the gardens and grounds. Please bring equipment (e.g. gardening gloves, dusters, rags, hat, suitable footwear, mowers, blowers) and join us for morning tea afterwards at 10am.

***Friday 6 March: World Day of Prayer.** The focus of this year's ecumenical prayer gathering is the persecuted church of Nigeria. 6.30pm in the church.

***Saturday 14 March: Operation Christmas Child Working Group.** From 1pm-4pm in the Robertson Room. Contact Jennifer Lawson on 0407 286 572.

***Sunday 22 March: Parish AGM and Electoral Meeting.** 11am, Alan Wilson (parish archivist) will give a presentation on the archives. From 11.30 the meeting formally begins, and will include elections for parish councillors, peoples' wardens, and representatives for our Clergy Appointments Board and Synod.



ST JOHN'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
CANBERRA

Welcome to
2026!

Please join us for
refreshments and
fellowship on the lawn

Sunday 8th February
from 3:30pm

Evensong at 5pm for those
who wish to attend

ST JOHN'S STUDY GROUPS

Monday: 'Young Blokes' Bible Study

When & Where: Mondays, 6.30pm, Campbell

Who: Young men (ages approx. 18-25)

Focus: Bible study and discussion

Contact: Rev'd Andrew Andrew.Cameron@stjohnscanberra.org

Tuesday: Bible for Blokes

When & Where: Tuesdays, 10.am, Upper Room

Who: Men of any age

Focus: Bible study and discussion

Contact: Rev'd Kevin – Kevin.Stone@stjohnscanberra.org

Tuesday: Young Women's Bible Study

When & Where: Tuesdays, 7:00–8:30 pm, at a home in Giralang (school terms)

Who: Women aged 15–30; new Christians and those exploring faith welcome

Focus: 30 min fellowship + 1 hour study; social events in school holidays

Contact: Jess – jess.evans31169@gmail.com or 0404 703 847

Wednesday: Adults Bible Study

When & Where: Wednesdays, 7:00–8:00 pm, Rectory (school terms)

Who: Adults, any age. Mostly connected with stjohns@6

Focus: Bible study; group communicates via Signal

Contact: Russ Tunks — rustunks@yahoo.com.au

Thursday: Ladies' Bible Reading Group

When & Where: Thursdays, 9:30 am (after school drop-off), Robertson Room (school terms)

Who: Women, especially with pre-school children

Focus: Bible reading and discussion (currently Matthew)

Contact: Mary de Lautour — mary.delautour@stjohnscanberra.org

*There may be scope for a new Bible study to commence.
Contact clergy if you'd like to be involved.*

What's on your mind?

A recent study undertaken by researchers in Scotland and Australia, including local Canberran Susanne Schmidt, found that,

...being able to talk about what was on your mind was more important than being listened to, having your faith valued or being understood. This paper concludes that this simple finding could be generalizable to all health and social care practitioners...for now it is essential that chaplains are [utilised] around the world to ask people in distress: 'what is on your mind?'

While this study was specifically trying to quantify the effectiveness of chaplains and pastoral care workers the authors were at the same time making a case that virtually *anyone* who cares for another human being, can make a huge difference in the lives of others simply by being willing to ask the question "What's on your mind?" If the person who is asking the question has the time to genuinely listen to the answer, in a caring and non-judgmental manner, then all sorts of possibilities for hope, growth and positive change can begin.

One of the great things about SJC is that this is at the core of what we do. What our Case Managers, volunteers and I are seeking to offer, apart from Emergency Food relief, is **space for people to talk**.

The other day I was able to meet with J who didn't want any material goods from us. He just wanted someone to listen with compassion and attentiveness. I was blown away by his repeated thanks for my time and the respect this enabled him to feel. The great privilege about my role at SJC is that I had the time to give him, we spoke for over an hour. Even though I've only been here for a few months, I have had this happen repeatedly.

As I commence my role here as Community chaplain, its research like this, confirmed by actual experience, that provides great encouragement to all of us, to keep doing what we are doing. I thank you for your partnership in this work. Please know, that your giving and support are making a big difference in the lives of many as we seek to continue not just to provide food for the hungry but also to give people space and time to talk about what is most pressing in their time of need.

Grace and Peace,

Nathan (Community Chaplain)

Items required: Shampoo & Conditioner, Oil, Tinned vegetables, Tinned spaghetti

Snowden, A., Lobb, E.A., Schmidt, S., Swing, A.M., Logan, P., and Macfarlane, C. (2018) 'What's on your mind?' The only necessary question in spiritual care. *Journal for the Study of Spirituality*, 8(1), 19-33. doi: 10.1080/20440243.2018.1431031

Upcoming services

Sunday 8 February 2026

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

*Readings: Isaiah 58.1-12; Psalm 112; 1 Corinthians 2.1-16;
Matthew 5.13-20*

- 7.00am: Eucharist** (1662 Book of Common Prayer)
- 8.00am: Sung Eucharist**
- 9.30am: Family Eucharist** (Kids Church & Youth Group)
- 5.00pm: Choral Evensong** (1662 Book of Common Prayer)
- 6.00pm: stjohns@6** (Praise, Prayer and Proclamation)

Wednesday 11 February 2026

Readings: Isaiah 58.1-12; Matthew 5.13-20

- 10.00am: Eucharist** (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 15 February 2026

Transfiguration

Readings: Exodus 24.12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9

- 8.00am: Sung Eucharist**
- 9.30am: Family Eucharist** (Kids Church & Youth Group)
- 6.00pm: stjohns@6** (Holy Communion)

For more information: www.stjohnscanberra.org

SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY OF THE PARISH

The best way to support our ministry is to (annually) prayerfully consider an appropriate amount, and then set up automatic regular transfers using our 'giving' account:

BSB:702 389 **ACCOUNT:** 0520 9450 **NAME:** St John the Baptist Reid

See also: <https://www.stjohnscanberra.org/giving>

Contacts

Rector	Rev'd David McLennan	rector@stjohnscanberra.org	0468 634 351
Senior Associate Priest	Rev'd Dr Andrew Cameron	andrew.cameron@stjohnscanberra.org	0477 689 421
Associate Priest	Rev'd Canon Kevin Stone	kevin.stone@stjohnscanberra.org	0450 676 864
Honorary Priest	Rev'd Vicky Cullen		0476 777 203
Children & Families Worker	Mary de Lautour	mary.delautour@stjohnscanberra.org	
Sacristan	Kim Gibson	admin@stjohnscanberra.org	
Schoolhouse Museum	Jennifer Garden		0414 551 821
Office Administrator	Jane Rose	admin@stjohnscanberra.org	6248 8399
Operations Manager	Alison Hosking	alison.hosking@stjohnscanberra.org	5140 0101
Friends of St John's, Chair	Matthew Neuhaus	friendsofstjohnscanberra@gmail.com	
		SJC Emergency Relief	6248 7771
SJC Managing Director	Jason Haines	md@stjohnscare.org.au	6248 7771
SJC Operations Manager	Robbie Speldewinde	programs@stjohnscare.org.au	6248 7771

Parish Office: 6248 8399

Opening Hours: 10.00am to 3.00pm Tuesday to Friday

www.stjohnscanberra.org

45 Constitution Avenue, Reid 2612 GPO Box 219, Canberra 2601



Start Up SUNDAY



February 8th 2026

9:30am service



Kids Church and Junior Youth
starting with a splash in 2026!

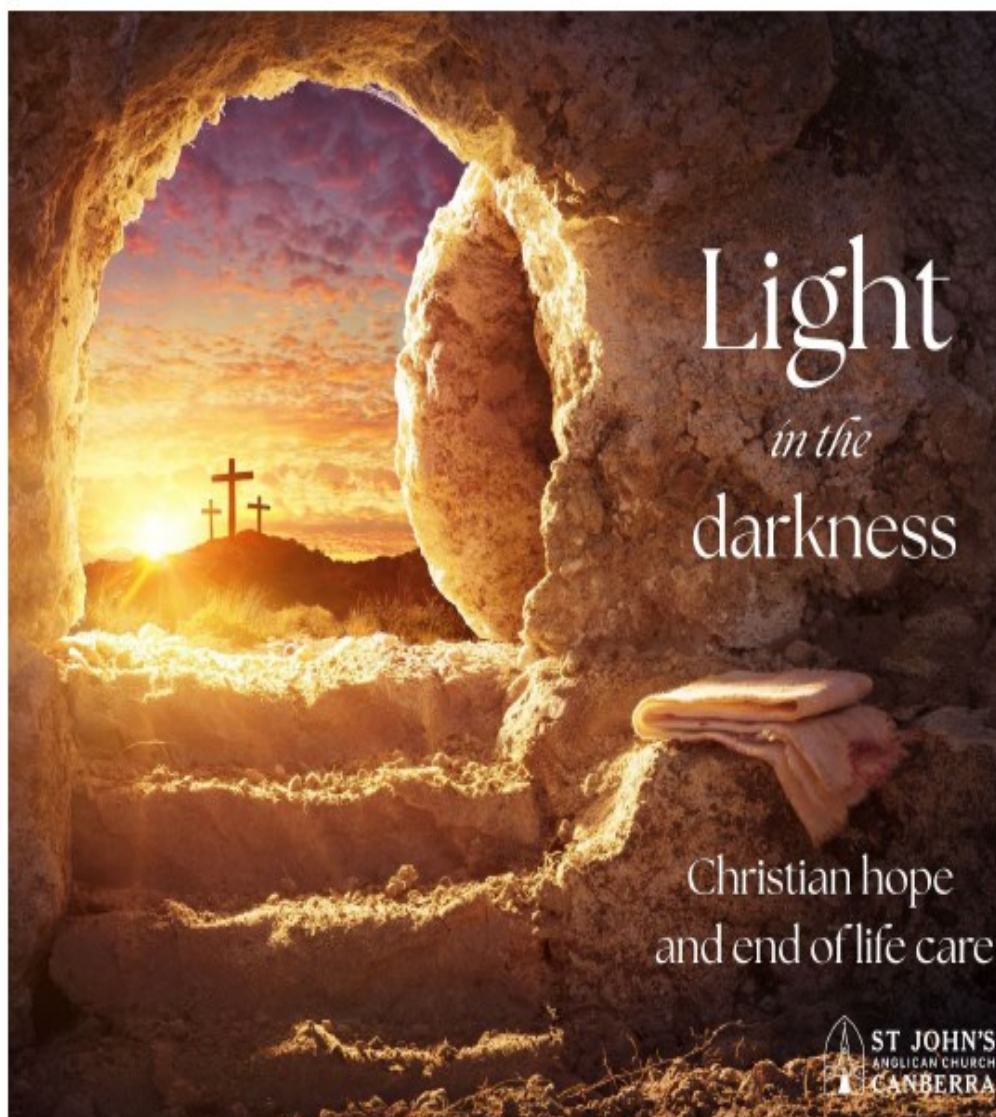
GIANT waterslide ~ BBQ lunch

Water play ~ Ice-cream



FUN!





With 'voluntary assisted dying' (VAD) now implemented in the ACT, there's still room for care shaped by the hope of the resurrection. At this half-day conference, Professor Megan Best, an expert in palliative care, will address the impact of VAD for carers and patients. We will also hear some Christian thinking about suffering and death.

9.30am–3.00pm
Saturday 28th February 2026
St John's Anglican Church Hall
45 Constitution Avenue Reid
parking onsite or in Amaroo Street.



Program details, and bookings essential, at
<https://www.trybooking.com/DHUQY> (or via the QR code).
\$46 per head.