



ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

15 March 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent
(This week's service times within)



'I am the light of the world,' says the Lord; 'those who follow me will have the light of life.' John 8.12

*The Light of the World' by
Holman Hunt (c.1853)*

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,
in order that we children of earth
might discern good from evil
you sent your Son to be the light of the world:
as the light of Christ shines upon us,
may we learn what pleases you,
and live in truth and goodness;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

IMPORTANT NOTICES

9.30 Morning Tea. Today's 9.30am morning tea is provided by the youth, who are fundraising for their camp later in the year. Donations would be gratefully received!

Making Marriage Work. We offer a short marriage course to wedding couples, and others in our community. Whether you are recently married or have been for many years, this material – drawn from the Gottman Institute's extensive research – could benefit any couple. Courses for 2026 can be booked at <https://www.stjohnscanberra.org/special-services>

AGM. Our parish AGM and Electoral Meeting will be held on Sunday 22 March in the Hall. From 11.00am, Alan Wilson (parish archivist) will give a presentation on the archives. From 11.30am the AGM will formally 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 offeratory box no later than today.

Christian Bootcamp. 'Bootcamp' is our parish's program for those (16+) seeking baptism or confirmation. It is also suitable for new Christians or enquirers. To see if this is for you, anyone is welcome to join our first session ('Who - or What - is God?'). 7.00pm, Thursday, 30 April, in the Robertson Room). Register at www.trybooking.com/DJRND

Sabbath Gospel. Our very own Dr Amy Erickson's new book, 'Sabbath Gospel', is now available for purchase! This book doesn't simply reduce Sabbath to a practice, but explores Sabbath as the destination of all of history, and in a way that hopes to reorient the church to renewed faithful living, working, and rest-giving in the present. You can purchase a copy here: <https://tinyurl.com/3trcbu6r>

Toward a new Parish Directory. As St John's grows, it becomes more important to find secure and efficient ways to connect with each other. We have introduced 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. To use it, see the handout available in the church foyer (or email admin@stjohnscanberra.org for a PDF version). The system has many useful features, but it starts with you logging in and updating us. (Later in the year, we'll offer some help after church if you're finding it too hard.)

Easter Letterbox Drop. If you are willing to do a letterbox drop of our Easter services flyer around Campbell and Reid, please take one of the packs at the back of the church. Please only take them if you can do the area as marked on the map. This will help us avoid duplication. Please return any unused flyers.

St John's Care Canberra Day Appeal. Over the past few years, St John's Care has proudly taken part in the Canberra Day Appeal, and we have been so grateful for the generosity of our local community.

The Canberra Day Appeal is now underway, and this is a wonderful opportunity to stand behind our community. Every \$1 you donate will be matched, becoming \$2 for the first \$2,500 raised - doubling your impact and helping us reach even more people in need.

Our goal is to raise \$25,000 to support our programs right here in Canberra. As you know SJC gets no government funding and relies totally on donations. If you're in a position to give, we would be so grateful for your support.

Visit <https://canberra-day-appeal-2026.raiselysite.com/o/st-johns-care> to give where we live today.

Dr Paula R Gooder in Canberra. Join us for two events with British New Testament scholar, Dr Paula Gooder. Public Lecture: Lives, Leadership and Legacy: Women in the Earliest Christian Communities (Thu 19 March, St Mark's). Breakfast Conversation – Faith, leadership and women in the early Church (Sat 21 March, Holy Covenant). Free events. Bookings essential. Book here <https://tinyurl.com/22f3rm57>

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.

Anglican Historical Society Excursion. This year we head to Bathurst to visit the historic Abercrombie House and to gather for worship next day at All Saints' Cathedral. We will also visit Kelso, and Rockley. All are welcome. Please see details in the St John's church entrance and outside the hall. For further information contact Canon Kevin Stone on 0450 676 864.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Mainly Music Morning Tea Helpers. Mainly Music is held at 10am each Wednesday during school terms. We need some volunteers to prepare and serve morning tea to the children and their parents/carers. If you enjoy hospitality and have 2 hours to spare once or twice a month, please let Mary de Lautour know.

Palm Cross Working Bee. Please join us for fun and fellowship to make our Palm Crosses on either Tuesday 17 March or Tuesday 24 March, from 2 - 4 pm in the Robertson Room. If you could bring a pair of scissors that would be great. We will have afternoon tea following our endeavours.

Operation Christmas Child Working Group. Semi-regular working group. For upcoming dates and venue details, contact Jennifer Lawson on 0407 286 572.

SUMMARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(*St John's event)

***Sunday 15 March: Friends service.** The Friends of St John's Matins Service is held today at 11.15am (followed by lunch and AGM in the Robertson Room). Our speaker will be Rev Dr Andrew Cameron. The topic will be 'An Accidental Detour: My 22 Years in Theological Education'.

***Tuesday 17 March: Palm Cross Working Bee.** Please join us from 2 - 4 pm in the Robertson Room. If you could bring a pair of scissors that would be great. We will have afternoon tea following our endeavours.

***Thursday 19 March: Funeral for Rob Crafter.** Funeral for parishioner Rob Crafter, spouse of Joan Armitage for over 38 years, will take place in the church 10.30 am. Refreshment to follow in the Hall, with private burial at Gungahlin Cemetery. Livestreamed with link on William Cole Canberra website.

Thursday 19 March: Public Lecture by Dr Paula Gooder.

Lives, Leadership and Legacy – Women in the Earliest Christian Communities. 7:00 for 7:30pm. St Mark's National Theological Centre, Barton. Book here <https://tinyurl.com/22f3rm57>

Friday 20 March 2026: Movie Viewing (Wall-E). Watch and discuss the 2008 film, WALL-E – a story about creation care, hope, and redemption through the eyes of a lonely trash-compacting robot on an abandoned Earth. Time: 5:30 PM – 9:30 PM, St Mark's, Barton (Durie Room). Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1520081>

Saturday 21 March: Breakfast with Dr Paula Gooder.

7.30am. Holy Covenant Anglican Church. Book here: <https://tinyurl.com/22f3rm57>

***Sunday 22 March: Parish AGM and Electoral Meeting.** In the Hall. At 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.

***Tuesday 24 March: Palm Cross Working Bee.** Please join us from 2 - 4 pm in the Robertson Room. If you could bring a pair of scissors that would be great. We will have afternoon tea following our endeavours.

Saturday 28 March: Evil Tamed – Four Christian Perspectives.

An exploration of psychological, Biblical and social perspectives on evil, At Wesley Uniting Church. To register, visit www.trybooking.com/DJDZE

Saturday 28 March: Canberra Mission Focus. A day of worship, Bible teaching, and info sessions led by visiting missionaries. A children's program is included. For registration details and costs visit <https://www.cms.org.au/cms-canberra-mission-focus-2026>

Friday 3 April: Ecumenical Way of the Cross on Good Friday. A service marking the stations of the cross will be held at 11am on Good Friday, 3 April, at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall Street, Barton. All are welcome to attend. Hosted by the ACT Churches Council, contact 0407 866 777.

Loneliness

What does loneliness mean to you?

Perhaps it's the quiet house when a loved one travels away for work. The empty side of the bed, the silence at dinner, the absence of a familiar voice at the end of the day. Perhaps it's the moment you drop your child off for school camp or your partner to the airport. You know they will be home in a few days, but the house suddenly feels a little too tidy, a little too quiet. You find yourself wondering what they are doing, missing the ordinary noise of everyday life.

For many of us, loneliness is temporary. It comes and goes. It has a clear beginning and a predictable end. Eventually the loved one returns home, the school bus pulls back into the driveway, the laughter and conversation resume. But for some people, loneliness is different. For some, loneliness does not have an obvious end point. It lingers quietly in the background of everyday life. Days pass without meaningful conversation. Weeks pass without someone asking how they are doing. Over time, the silence becomes familiar.

Loneliness can be invisible. It doesn't always announce itself loudly. Often it sits quietly in the background of a person's life.

At St John's Care, we meet people living with this kind of loneliness more often than many might imagine. Unlike most physical ailments, or an empty stomach, loneliness is not something that has an obvious fix. Instead, addressing loneliness and softening the silence of isolation often begins with a friendly greeting, shared cup of tea or a biscuit, or a friendly and genuine conversation.

For these reasons, St John's Care places a strong emphasis on creating opportunities for people to come together, fostering a sense of community, belonging, and connectedness. Our monthly Community Lunch invites members to share a warm meal, conversation and companionship. What may appear as an opportunity to share a warm meal often becomes a space where friendships form, stories are shared, and people are reminded that they are not alone.

The reintroduction of our monthly Morning Tea (third Friday of each month) offers another opportunity for people to connect and gather over food and conversation. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of Silo Bakery, who continue to donate delicious pastries, and the addition of a coffee van serving fresh coffee, we aim to provide more community events for our community to look forward to, because sometimes, it is these small moments of connection that can make all the difference.

Robbie Speldewinde
Operations Manager

Items required: Conditioner, Tinned fruit, Tinned vegetables, Weetbix, Vegemite
Easter items: Easter eggs, easter bunnies

Upcoming services

Sunday 15 March 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Readings: 1 Samuel 16.1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5.8-14; John 9.1-41

8.00am: Sung Eucharist

9.30am: Family Eucharist (Kids Church & Youth Group)

11.15am: Choral Matins Friends Service
(1662 Book of Common Prayer)

6.00pm: stjohns@6 (Holy Communion)

Wednesday 18 March 2026

Readings: Ephesians 5.8-14; John 9.1-41

10.00am: Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 22 March 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Readings: Ezekiel 37.1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8.6-11; John 11.1-45

7.00am: Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

8.00am: Sung Eucharist

9.30am: Family Eucharist (Kids Church & Youth Group)

6.00pm: stjohns@6 (Praise, Prayer and Proclamation)

Wednesday 25 March 2026

Readings: Ezekiel 37.1-14; OR, Romans 8.6-11; John 11.1-45

10.00am: Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

For more information: www.stjohscanberra.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

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