



# ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

**14 December 2025**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

(This week's service times within)

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.'

Isaiah 35.3–4



*The wonderful performers at this year's Christmas Pageant.*

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

*This following notices draw attention to news and events which seek to 'bear witness to Jesus Christ, the source of life.'*

## NOTICES

### **Nine Lessons and Carols (and no Choral Evensong) tonight.**

Choral Evensong (BCP) 5pm service on Sunday 14 December will not be held, as the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held at 7.30pm.

**Congratulations.** At this month's meeting of our diocese's Bishop-in-Council, a number of St John's parishioners were recognised for significant contributions to the ministry of our diocese.

*Ms Emma Body*, for her work in overseeing the Diocesan Records Project – a substantial effort of sorting the diocesan archive in preparation for the recent move of premises. *Mrs Diana Body* was also thanked for her enormous (honorary) contribution to this project, and for faithful and diligent work as Diocesan Archivist over many years.

Finally, the board room of the new diocesan office was officially named the 'Refshauge Room' in honour of our Diocesan Chancellor, the Honourable *Richard Refshauge* AM SC. This is in recognition of his significant leadership and service in this role, his extraordinary legal intellect, his generosity of spirit and Christian heart for the gospel, and his faithful, wise, and continuing contribution to the Diocese and its mission, and the wider Anglican Church of Australia.

**Advent Challenge: St John's Care Christmas Appeal.** Advent is a season to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. In light of the challenges facing many Canberrans, we encourage all our regular worshippers to make an Advent discipline of offering support to St John's Care. You might purchase some gifts for our 'present room', or include some extra ingredients in your regular grocery shopping for delivery to St John's Care, or make some financial donations to our work. Please consider helping us show Christ's love to those in need. To donate to the St John's Care Christmas appeal, go to <https://tinyurl.com/53ywkvk>

**Early bird booking: Light in the Darkness – Christians & end-**

**of-life care.** With so-called ‘voluntary assisted dying’ (VAD) now implemented in the ACT, many questions and concerns remain. At this conference, Professor Megan Best, an expert in palliative care, will address the impact of VAD for carers and patients. We will also consider some Christian thinking about the process of suffering and death. Further details in a future newsletter. Bookings essential at [https://](https://www.trybooking.com/DHUQY)



[www.trybooking.com/DHUQY](https://www.trybooking.com/DHUQY), \$46 p.h. (\$38 early bird until 12 January 2026). 9.00am–3.00pm Saturday 28 February 2026, St John’s church Hall.

**‘Sabbath Gospel’ pre-release free sample.** One of our St John's parishioners, Amy Erickson (stjohns@6/St Mark’s lecturer) has co-authored a book on a biblical theology of Sabbath for the contemporary church, titled *Sabbath Gospel*. The book is to be released early next year, but a free sample of the introduction can be downloaded from the publisher's website here: <https://www.ivpress.com/sabbath-gospel>

**Request for Christmas Greenery and Flowers.** For those parishioners who have greenery in their gardens and wish to contribute to the window box display in the church, could you please bring the greenery in between 12 noon and 2pm on Monday 22 December. Also, anyone who wishes to contribute flowers to the window boxes please bring them into the church between 8am and 9.00am on Wednesday 24 December. Thanks, *Chris Creelman*

**Operation Christmas Child: Making Koala Bears.** We need some lovely people to make some Koala Bears for Operation Christmas Child (for 2026). We will meet on Saturday 17 January from 12pm-3pm in the Hall. Jennifer Lawson can assist with wool, patterns, needles and instructions (if needed). [jennifer.lawson@stjohnscanberra.org](mailto:jennifer.lawson@stjohnscanberra.org)



## POST-CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

**Services after Christmas.** Throughout the holiday period, 8am, 9.30am and 6pm Sunday services will remain unchanged. However, there will be no 7am, 11.15am or 5pm BCP services between Christmas and the end of January. The Wednesday mid-week service will pause after 17 December, resuming on 7 January.

**Christmas office closedown.** The parish office will be closed from Wednesday 24 December to Monday 12 January (inclusive). For urgent pastoral matters, please contact Jane at [admin@stjohnscanberra.org](mailto:admin@stjohnscanberra.org)

**St John's Schoolhouse Museum: holiday recess.** Schools are on holidays, and so is St John's Schoolhouse Museum - from Thursday 18 December until Saturday 31 January. It will reopen on Sunday 1 February, 2026. Many thanks to our Volunteers, and enjoy the break!

**St John's Care Christmas/New Year Closedown.** St John's Care office will be closed from Thursday 25 December to Monday 12 January (inclusive).

## SUMMARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(\*St John's event)

**\*Sunday 14 December: 9 Lessons and Carols.** 7.30pm in the Church.

**\*Christmas Services.** See page 9.

**\*Saturday 28 February: 'Light in the Darkness'.** Conference on end-of-life care, <https://www.trybooking.com/DHUQY>

**\*Saturday 17 January: Operation Christmas Child Making Koala Bears.** 12pm-3pm in the Hall.  
Contact [jennifer.lawson@stjohnscanberra.org](mailto:jennifer.lawson@stjohnscanberra.org)



## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT OF 19 NOVEMBER

**Rector's Report:** The Rector reported on St John's Care (SJC) matters, including the imminent appointment of a new chaplain (Nathan Vandersee). Council agreed to further strengthen its engagement with SJC by proactively approaching parishioners to fill upcoming vacancies on the management committee.

Redevelopment projects are progressing well. Designs for the kitchen, Robertson Room/offices, and SJC are finalised. Kitchen works should begin early in 2026 (finishing before Easter). The Robertson Room/offices are tracking toward a May/June 2026 start (once elevation drawings, reports, DA, and tendering are completed). SJC elevation drawings and Quantity Surveyor work will follow, with a goal of commencing work in 2026. On fundraising, Council is pursuing an internal strategy for church works (drawing on bequests, donations and pledges), and professional fundraising for SJC.

We have secured a new tenant at 1 Amaroo St (St Mark's lecturer Aden Cotterill). After much work, alarms, cameras, and livestream systems are now fully operational.

**Finance Update:** Council agreed to the Resources and Investment Committee recommendation to incorporate income from trust funds into the Parish Budget from 2026 – to be reviewed in three years. The draft budget for 2026 was discussed and agreed in-principle. Income from parking is down a bit. Various options are being considered to fill these parking spaces.

**Property and Grounds Update:** *The* entry doors for the Church have been refinished and hung. Two quotes for the extension of the columbarium have been received and it was agreed to go ahead with one of those. Two new distribution boards for the Parish Centre and the church have arrived and will be installed before Christmas.

The Chair of the Property Committee gave a detailed presentation explaining the plans for the renovated kitchen, expansion of the Robertson Room and Offices and St John's Care which was discussed by Council members.

**Community Outreach:** It was reported that the Fair was a wonderful community event and we were fortunate that the weather was good. All those involved in the Fair were thanked for making it such a success. Due to the generosity of people, the fair income was \$44,663 with \$6,217 in expenses the net result was \$38,446 - an incredible result.

For any questions, please contact the Rector, Reverend Dave McLennan on [rector@stjohnscanberra.org](mailto:rector@stjohnscanberra.org)

## ENSURING HEALTH AND DIGNITY FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

M. is an 80-year-old woman who lives alone in a small public housing apartment. With no family nearby and limited support, she faces the daily challenges of managing her health and basic needs entirely on her own. Over the years, her health has become increasingly fragile. She lives with chronic conditions, including diabetes and glaucoma, both of which require regular medical care, monitoring, and access to medications to prevent serious complications.

Navigating the healthcare system is especially difficult for M., as she does not speak English. Simple tasks such as scheduling appointments, understanding treatment instructions, or communicating with healthcare providers are often overwhelming. Despite these challenges, M. does her best to attend her appointments and follow her treatment plans, determined to maintain her health and independence.

Recently, M. faced an urgent situation. With very limited income, she was forced to use nearly all of her funds to pay for a necessary specialist appointment. Afterward, she realized she had no money left to purchase her medications or to buy food. Recognising her vulnerability, the staff at her public housing building referred her to our organisation for assistance.

When M. arrived, we were able to provide immediate support tailored to her needs. She received fresh fruit and vegetables, along with other foods available to help meet her dietary requirements. We assisted her in covering her PBS prescriptions, ensuring she could continue her essential medications without interruption. Beyond meeting her medical and nutritional needs, we also invited M. to participate in our community programs, including monthly lunches, morning teas, and our Christmas lunch, giving her the opportunity to connect with others and reduce her isolation.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, M. now has access to the care, nutrition, and social support she needs to maintain her health and well-being. She feels reassured knowing that she is not alone and that help is available when she needs it. Her story highlights the challenges faced by vulnerable seniors living alone and the profound impact that compassionate support can have on their lives.

Kind regards

Karen Medrano  
Case Manager

**Items required:** Pasta, Small sultanas for lunch boxes, tinned baked beans, tinned spaghetti

# Upcoming services

## Sunday 14 December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

*Readings: Isaiah 35.1-10; Psalm 146; James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11*

- 7.00am: Eucharist** (1662 Book of Common Prayer)
- 8.00am: Sung Eucharist**
- 9.30am: Family Eucharist** (Kids Church in Recess)
- 6.00pm: stjohns@6** (Praise, Prayer and Proclamation)
- 7.30pm: Nine Lessons and Carols** (Advent hymns & carols)

## Wednesday 17 December 2025

*Readings: James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11*

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

## Sunday 21 December 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Readings: Isaiah 7.10-16; Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25*

- 8.00am: Sung Eucharist**
- 9.30am: Family Eucharist** (Kids Church in Recess)
- 11.15 am: Choral Matins** (1662 Book of Common Prayer )
- 6.00pm: stjohns@6** (Holy Communion)

## Wednesday 24 December 2025

**See separate Notice for our Christmas Services**

For more information: [www.stjohnscanberra.org](http://www.stjohnscanberra.org)



**ST JOHN'S**  
ANGLICAN CHURCH  
**CANBERRA**

## **Advent Bells 2025**

*180 years of celebrating Christmas in Canberra*

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Tea & Bells – after 9.30am service**

Join us after the 9.30am family service for morning tea with a side of bells! Tower open for visitors until noon.

### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve – late afternoon**

Enjoy a festive programme of carols interspersed with traditional English change-ringing from the late afternoon up to 6pm.

Afterwards, join Canberrans for services at the historic church into the evening, accompanied by the magnificent organ and choir.

### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

The bells will chime joyfully across the city at St John's Christmas services and at the free lunch at noon, open to everyone in search of a meal and some company on Christmas Day.

**For service times, visit [stjohnscanberra.org](http://stjohnscanberra.org)  
45 Constitution Avenue, Reid**



# Christmas at St John's



## Sunday 14 December

**7.30pm:** Nine Lessons and Carols

*Modelled on the famous service created at King's College (Cambridge), this will be a time to sing some Advent hymns, hear the choir sing carols, and listen to the story of salvation from the Scriptures.*

## Christmas Eve

**6.00 pm:** Carols on the Lawn

*Children are welcome to dress as shepherds, angels, or animals for the annual pageant in our historic grounds. Share in the joy of Christmas with your family and friends. Grounds open from 5.30pm. Bring along a picnic basket, blankets, and chairs. (The wet weather venue will be the St John's Hall.)*

**9.00 pm:** Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist / Holy Communion

**11.00 pm:** Christmas Eve Sung Eucharist / Holy Communion

## Christmas Day

**8.00 am:** Christmas Day Sung Eucharist / Holy Communion

**9.30 am:** Christmas Day Sung Eucharist / Holy Communion

**11.15 am:** Christmas Day Sung Eucharist - 1662 Book of Common Prayer

**12pm:** St John's Care Christmas Day Community Lunch (in the hall).

*Whether you come with your family, friends or on your own, we look forward to welcoming you as we celebrate the joy and mystery of the Christmas story.*


## 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

|   |                         |                                     |              |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Rector</b>   | Rev'd David McLennan    | rector@stjohnscanberra.org          | 0468 634 351 |
| <b>Senior Associate Priest</b>  | Rev'd Dr Andrew Cameron | andrew.cameron@stjohnscanberra.org  | 0477 689 421 |
| <b>Associate Priest</b>   | Rev'd Canon Kevin Stone | kevin.stone@stjohnscanberra.org     | 0450 676 864 |
| <b>Honorary Priest</b>  | Rev'd Vicky Cullen      |                                     | 0476 777 203 |
| <b>Children &amp; Families Worker</b>   | Mary de Lautour         | mary.delautour@stjohnscanberra.org  |              |
| <b>Sacristan</b>  | Jennifer Lawson         | jennifer.lawson@stjohnscanberra.org | 0407 286 572 |
| <b>Schoolhouse Museum</b>   | Jennifer Garden         |                                     | 0414 551 821 |
| <b>Office Administrator</b>   | Jane Rose               | admin@stjohnscanberra.org           | 6248 8399    |
| <b>Operations Manager</b>   | Alison Hosking          | alison.hosking@stjohnscanberra.org  | 5140 0101    |
| <b>Friends of St John's, Chair</b>  | Matthew Neuhaus         | friendsofstjohnscanberra@gmail.com  |              |
|  |                         | SJC Emergency Relief                | 6248 7771    |
| <b>SJC Managing Director</b>  | Jason Haines            | md@stjohnscare.org.au               | 6248 7771    |
| <b>SJC Operations Manager</b>   | 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](http://www.stjohnscanberra.org)

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



# **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS 2026 CAMP**

**FRIDAY - SUNDAY  
13 - 15 NOVEMBER 2026**

Fun outdoor and indoor activities with some Christian input.



St John's Youth and Young Adults weekend away 13-15th

November 2026 - Fill in form

## FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

### The Gifts that Jesus Brings

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Matthew 11:5 (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.



- \_\_\_ 1. A place where criminals are forced to live as a punishment  
A. school B. prison C. church D. home
- \_\_\_ 2. To receive sound using your ears  
A. smell B. walk C. see D. hear
- \_\_\_ 3. To be aware of what is around you by using your eyes  
A. hear B. see C. walk D. talk
- \_\_\_ 4. Unable to see  
A. deaf B. dead C. lame D. blind
- \_\_\_ 5. Unable to hear  
A. lame B. blind C. deaf D. dead
- \_\_\_ 6. Unable to walk correctly because of injury to or weakness in the legs or feet  
A. deaf B. blind C. lame D. dead
- \_\_\_ 7. Not living  
A. blind B. dead C. deaf D. lame
- \_\_\_ 8. To move along by putting one foot in front of the other  
A. walk B. hear C. see D. dead
- \_\_\_ 9. Something that is pleasant or enjoyable  
A. good B. bad C. ugly D. prison
- \_\_\_ 10. Information or reports about recent events  
A. prison B. good C. hear D. news