

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

22 February 2026

First Sunday in Lent

(This week's service times within)

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Matthew 4.4



The Temptation of Christ (Rembrandt, circa 1641)

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,
whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet did not sin:
give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your will,
that, as you know our weakness,
so we may know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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. Kids' Church (for school-aged children) has recommenced for the term at our 9.30am service. Our overflow space and cry room will continue to function in the Robertson Room during that 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.

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.

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.

Faith at work. There are a number of workplace Bible study or fellowship groups throughout Canberra. Those working at Defence could try contacting dennis.park1@defence.gov.au (Russell), Martin.Christensen1@defence.gov.au (Harman) or joseph.lee3@defence.gov.au (Campbell Park). City Bible Forum also has various groups to connect with – see citybibleforum.org

Egg cartons needed. We need egg cartons for our Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday. Please leave these on the pew outside the Hall before Sunday 1 March. Thank you, Mary de Lautour.

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.

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!

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/>

SUMMARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(*St John's event)

***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.)

***Tuesday 24 February: St John's Sketching/Painting Group.** We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 9.30am to lunchtime, starting in the Hall. The aim is to paint or draw, inspired by St John's and surrounds. Anyone who loves art and is willing to have a go is welcome. Come along with sketch pad, pencils or paints. Please contact Fiona (fcotton@fionacottonpaintings.com; 0404 066 021) or Jennifer (jennifer.lawson@stjohnscanberra.org; 0407 286 572) for more information.

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's 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 fundraising 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 on page 11 or at su.org.au/act.

***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 7 March: Working Bee.** From 8.30am—10.00am. Two options: (a) help in the Church for the brass cleaning for Easter, 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.

***Sunday 8 March: Choral Evensong.** Join us at 5pm for this brief, reflective service, including hymns and a choral item.

***Friday 13 March: Operation Christmas Child Working Group.** From 1pm-4pm in the Hall. 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.

***Saturday 28 March: Operation Christmas Child Working Group.** From 1pm-4pm in the Robertson Room. Contact Jennifer Lawson on 0407 286 572.

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>

MISSION MATTERS

Nathan and Maki Clapham (with the Church Missionary Society) are serving God in Japan, in the Komoro area which as yet has no Christian Church, but which they hope to establish.

They began by setting up a Café which now has some regular customers. On Christmas Eve they held 'Christmas café', filling all their seats. They had some Carols, a four-course meal and a short talk – 'Joy to the World'. They were encouraged that one couple who often come to the Café, brought five friends. This couple have become friends and have invited Nathan and Maki to their home.

On Sundays they meet with another missionary couple for Bible reading and prayer. They hope that this will progress to becoming a church service where others are welcome. We can pray that the relationships that are forming will lead to life changing relationships with Jesus.

Joan Nichols



Nathan & Maki and their son and family dog (photo from CMS website)

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.*

Renewed Hope

A has only been in Australia for a few months. When he arrived with his two teenage sons, they had no furniture, no savings, no certainty about tomorrow. What they carried instead was grief. Back in their home country, violence shattered their world. His wife, the heart of their family and the mother of his boys was killed during an attack. In one unthinkable moment, their lives were changed forever. Fearing for his sons' safety, he fled with them, leaving behind everything familiar so they could simply survive.

Since arriving here, he has been quietly trying to rebuild. Every fortnight, he comes to SJC for food relief. He never complains. He always says thank you. You can see the weight he carries, but also the determination in his eyes a father doing everything he can to protect what remains of his world: his boys. Two weeks ago, when he came for his regular food support, we gently asked if he needed anything more. He tried to answer, but instead, he broke down. Through tears, he told us his greatest fear: his sons were meant to start school, but he could not afford the starting fees. After everything they had lost, all he wanted was for them to have a future. He wanted them in a classroom, not trapped in memories of violence. He wanted them dreaming again. But he felt he was failing them. No father wants to admit he cannot provide for his children's education. The shame, the heartbreak, the helplessness it all poured out in that moment. "Don't worry. SJC will help."

We paid the school starting fees. A few days later, he sent photos. He wrote messages filled with gratitude not just for the financial help, but for the dignity, the understanding, and the compassion shown to his family. Your generosity did more than pay a fee. You restored a father's hope. You lifted a burden he had been carrying alone. You gave two young boys the chance to rebuild their future. Starting from scratch in a new country is overwhelming. This family still faces many challenges. They are healing from trauma. They are rebuilding their lives piece by piece. But now, there is hope where there was once despair.

Because of your support, a father can sleep knowing his sons are back in school. Because of your kindness, two boys can focus on homework instead of fear and now, this family knows they are not alone. On behalf of this father and his sons and so many families like them thank you. Your compassion is changing lives in ways that cannot be measured.

Kind regards
Karen Medrano, Case Manager

Items required: Large Tuna, Tinned meat, Shampoo and Conditioner, dishwashing liquid

Easter items: Easter eggs, and bunnies

Upcoming services

Sunday 22 February 2026

First Sunday of Lent

*Readings: Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5.12-21;
Matthew 4.1-11*

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

Wednesday 25 February 2026

Readings: Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7; Matthew 4.1-11

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

Sunday 1 March 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

*Readings: Genesis 12.1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4.1-5, (6-12), 13-17;
John 3.1-17*

- 8.00am: Sung Eucharist**
- 9.30am: Family Eucharist** (Kids Church & Youth Group)
- 11.15am: Choral Eucharist** (1662 Book of Common Prayer)
- 6.00pm: stjohs@6** (Praise, Prayer and Proclamation)

Wednesday 4 March 2026

Readings: Genesis 12.1-4a; OR, Romans 4.1-5, (6-12), 13-17; John 3.1-17

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

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

Discovering Life ✨ Dinner

- WHERE** The Hellenic Club,
Matilda St, Woden ACT
- WHEN** Wednesday 4th March 2026
6pm for a 6:30pm start - 9pm
- ATTIRE** Business/Cocktail Attire
- COST** The dinner is with our
compliments. You will be invited
to make a donation to Scripture
Union Australia ministries, so
please bring your credit card or
cheque book.

- SPEAKER** **Terry** has served with the SU
movement for 42 years on both
the Australia and international
teams. His central focus has
always been to help children to
discover and live out a lifelong
faith in Jesus and to find the 'life
to the full' that He provides. Part
of this journey has included
training leaders in 50 countries
and serving Kingdom-partnering
initiatives including Global
Children's Forum.
Within our shores, Terry has been
a significant leader and influence
into programs including
KidsGames and IGNITE/Amplify
Conference.

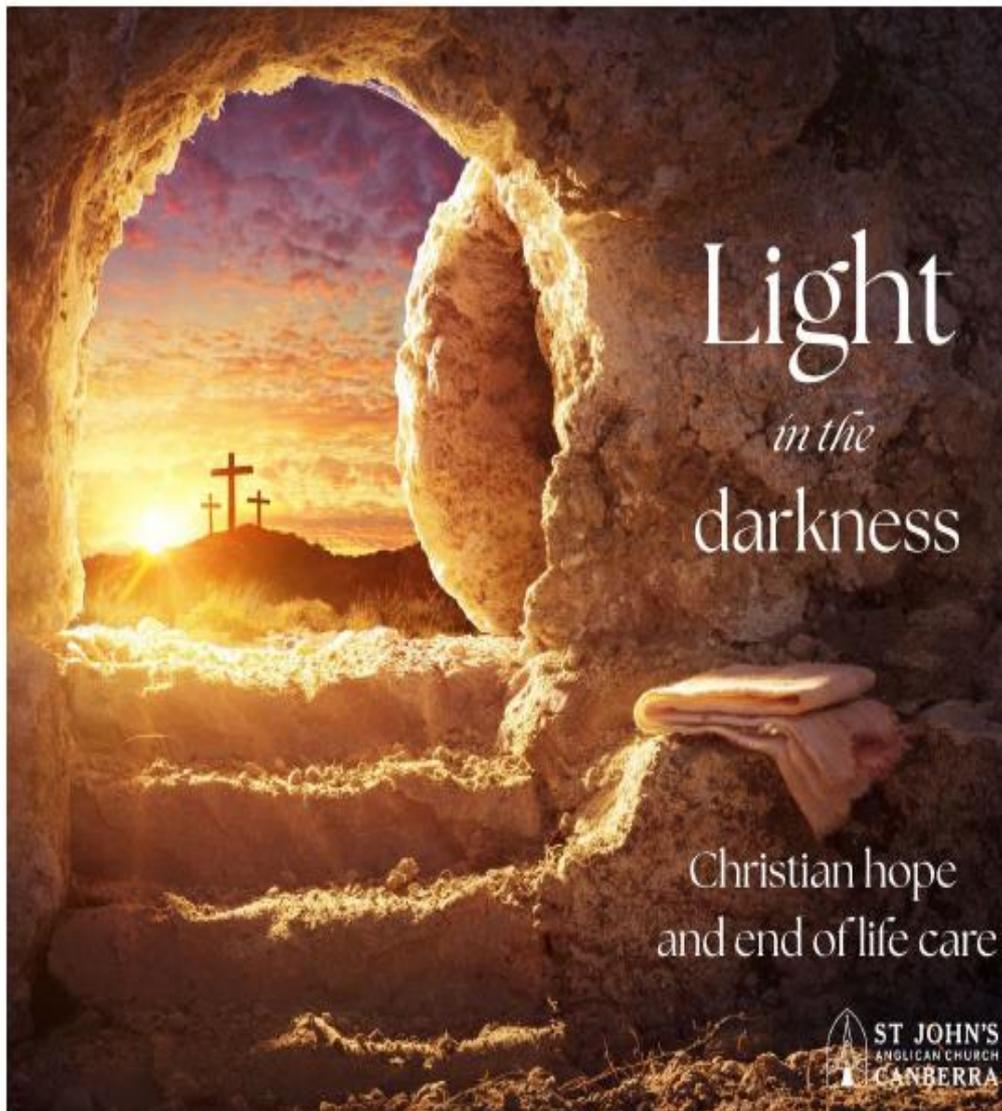
RSVP

RSVP before February 22nd, 2026



<https://brushfire.com/sua/dinner/610444>

More info: su.org.au/act



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.