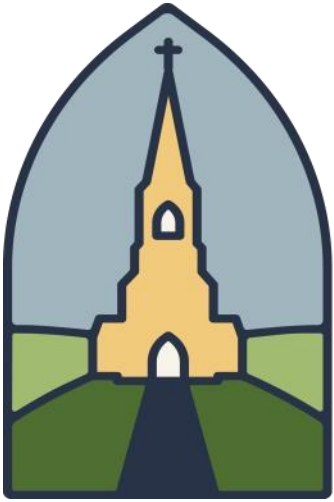




ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

26 July 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

(This week's service times within)

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8.38–39)



Today's Gospel reading likens the Kingdom of God to a fishing net cast into the sea, catching fish of every kind.

Photo by Sammy Wong on Unsplash

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the fount of wisdom,
you have revealed to us in Christ
the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price:
grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment,
that, in the midst of the things of this world,
we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom,
and be ready to renounce all else
for the sake of the precious gift you offer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Operation Christmas Child. Today in the Hall, we are launching a 'Christmas in July' celebration so that the children can receive the boxes filled with gifts and the opportunity to meet their Saviour this Christmas. There will be lots of lovingly prepared boxes for you to choose from. If you prefer to fill your own, these can be collected today. However, they will need to be back by 16 August if you would like them sent with the St John's lot. They will be blessed in the 9.30am service on 16 August and then whisked off for their journey to the children.

Church Flowers today. The flowers in the Church today are generously donated by Ailsa White, remembering with joy and thanksgiving the wedding of John and Ailsa White in Brisbane 60 years ago.

Calling all welcomers/ushers/sidespersons. Extending God's welcome to all is central to being the people of God. The roles that support this ministry are therefore very important – and often more complex than people realise. We are offering two training sessions for our welcomers, ushers and sidespersons – and any who would like to consider joining this ministry. We will cover emergency procedures,

disability access, and the various other tasks such as seating, counting, and identifying those requiring Holy Communion from their seats, as well as congregation-specific issues. Please join us at one or both sessions.

- Wednesday 29 July – 7.00pm-9.00pm
- Saturday 1 August – 10.30am – 12.30pm

Public reading and intercessions ministry. Are you part of our regular team of Bible readers or intercessors? If you are, or would like to consider joining this group, please make use of this training session to assist your ministry. Rosemary Thwaites (9.30am service) is an experienced voice coach and will offer some helpful tips to help your reading voice enhance this important part of our public worship. The event will be held twice, to maximise attendance: 11.15am, Sunday 16 August and 7pm, Tuesday 25 August (in the Church).

Southside Bible Study. Glenda and John Richards are starting a new Bible study group at their home in Fadden, Tuggeranong. To be led by Peter Gobbo, the group will meet at 2pm on Wednesdays, commencing 29 July. Contact John Richards on 0407 790 767.

Our Parish Fair 17 October. All the convenor positions are filled, but if you wish to assist in other ways, please email the office at admin@stjohnscanberra.org. Several stalls will need extra volunteers, including: white elephant, treasures & trinkets, cake, craft, and the BBQ. Also, anyone interested in helping with the sound system on the day, we'd love to hear from you. See page 8 for "*What When and Where to leave your donations*".

Reel Theology: The Zone of Interest. A chilling look at the "banality of evil" through the life of German Auschwitz commandant Rudolf Höss and his wife Hedwig, who live with their family in a home in the "Zone of Interest" next to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Our conversation will provoke enduring questions about the sufferings to which we turn a blind eye and deaf ear. On Friday 7 August, 6pm. At St Mark's Theological Centre, 15 Blackall St, Barton ACT. Tickets \$20 include dinner, drinks/wine and dessert! Register at the following link:

<https://stmarks.edu.au/events/reel-theology-the-zone-of-interest/>

God's Yes to Women. Our very own Dr Amy Erickson's new book, *God's Yes to Women* compiles contributions from Christian authors across Australia to explore the biblical case for and contemporary experience of women in ministry with the hope that it equips and

encourages a younger generation of women and men to partner together in all corners of church life for the sake of the gospel. Here's a link to the book website, which includes a discussion guide: <https://www.godsy.es.org/> You can purchase a copy here: <https://tinyurl.com/384ekfs9>

Access to St Mark's Library for parishioners. Parishioners can access the St Mark's collection of theological material via the St John's membership. See here for opening times and other information: <https://stmarks.edu.au/library/>

Bearing Witness-Palestinian Christian Voices. A public forum where Palestinian theologian Dr Yousef Khoury will speak and answer questions. Friday 31 July 6.30pm– 8pm, ACCC, Barton. Book through <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1598539>

UPCOMING EVENTS

(*St John's event)

***Sunday 26 July: Operation Christmas Child Christmas in July Celebration.** 8am-12pm in the Hall. Contact Jennifer Lawson on 0407 286 572.

***Monday 27 July: Cuppacomalong.** All welcome for fellowship and afternoon tea. Come and have a cuppa and a chat, 2pm to 4pm. Contact Ailsa Curtis (6247 9363).

***Tuesday 28 July: St John's Sketching/Painting Group.** 9.30am to lunchtime, in the Robertson Room. All welcome to come along with sketch pad, pencils or paints. Contact Fiona (0404 066 021) or Jennifer (0407 286 572)

***Tuesday 28 July: Bible for Blokes (then weekly).** 10.00am in the Upper Room. Enquiries, Canon Kevin Stone.

***Wednesday 29 July: Southside Bible Study.** At 2pm on Wednesdays, commencing 29 July. If you are interested in joining, please ring John Richards on 0407 790 767.

***Wednesday 29 July: Welcomers, Ushers, and Sidespersons training.** In the Church 7.00pm—9.00pm.

***Thursday 30 July: Bootcamp—How do Anglicans worship?** 7pm in the Robertson Room.

Friday 31 July: Bearing Witness-Palestinian Christian Voices. 6.30pm–8pm, ACCC, Barton. <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1598539>

***Saturday 1 August: Working Bee.** From 8.30am—10.00am. One option this month, working outside helping to beautify the gardens and grounds. Please bring equipment (e.g. gardening gloves, hat, suitable footwear, mowers, blowers) and join us for morning tea afterwards at 10am.



***Saturday 1 August: Welcomers/Ushers/Sidespersons training.** In the Church 10.30am –12.30pm.

***Saturday 17 October: St John's Parish Fair.** 9am-2pm. Save the date!



***Friday 13 – Saturday 15 November: Youth Camp.** A weekend supported by Scripture Union, offering teaching and encouragement for our youth and young adults. Contact jess.evans31169@gmail.com

CHURCH CENTER & PARISH DIRECTORY

You may have heard by now about Church Center, the app and website we're using to assist communication at St John's.

We recognise that not everyone loves phones and apps and technology, or wants to sign up in this way. **That's completely OK.** The information below is for those who'll find it useful.

If you've not signed up yet and would like to, download the 'Church Center' app (note the U.S. spelling!), search for 'St John the Baptist Anglican Church', and give it a go. Or, email admin@stjohnscanberra.org for a short PDF on how to proceed.

We're rolling out two new functions in Church Center that will enable us to contact each other: the **Directory**, and **Groups**.

The Directory: what you need to know. If the following seems a little cumbersome, that's because we're ensuring the security of your details, your control over your details, and your decisions about to whom you'll respond.

- A 'Directory' icon now appears at the bottom of the Church Center app. *(You can also access it on a computer through the web. But we'll focus here on the app.)*
- You'll only appear in the Directory if you are enrolled in Church Center **and then ask to join** the Directory (see below).
- If you join, others will be able to contact you, but **via email only**. Your email address is initially hidden from them.
- In the Directory, you click on 'Contact [person's name]'. You write a note in the app, which then goes to their email inbox. They'll then respond to you (or not) **via email (not via the app.)**

- When you *receive* a contact in this way, it's up to you whether to reply to their email. (If you're not sure who someone is, you can always check with church staff before replying.)
- We strongly suggest you'd **only** share a phone number, or anything else, **with someone you know**.
- You cannot be contacted via the Directory if you've not entered an email address into Church Center. It relies on email addresses.
- Phone numbers and email addresses **will never appear** in the Directory.

To join the Directory, after you've enrolled in Church Center (see above), you need to do **three things**:

1. Email Jane at admin@stjohnscanberra.org, and ask for an 'invitation' to join.
2. You'll receive an email from 'St John the Baptist Anglican Church <no_reply@churchcenter.com>' (check your spam folder!). In that email, click 'Yes, share my information'.
3. In the app, go to your 'information and settings', then to 'Directory Listing'. Select 'Allow others to contact me', and hit 'Update'. (You might also like to share your photo, as an aid to us getting to know one another.)

That's it. You should then be able to contact others, and be contacted.

Groups. Groups are a powerful function allowing smaller groups within St John's to communicate with each other—this time, *through* the app (and so reducing endless emails).

It will also enable you to share resources, advertise meeting details, and do some other things.

If your small group (e.g. a Bible study group; volunteer workers' group; music team; catering team, etc.) would like access to that function, let Rev'd Andrew know, or email admin@stjohnscanberra.org.

There'll be some policies you'll need to know and observe. But this aspect of Church Center will be very useful.

Of course, you need to be enrolled in Church Center to use the Groups function. However, you can be in a group *without* also being in the Directory.

ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY FAIR 2026 DONATIONS

The following lists *What, When & Where you can leave your Donations* for the Community Fair:
Please do not leave donations before the times below

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	NOTES
Books, Games, Puzzles, DVDs and CDs	Now	Bench outside Church Hall	<i>If the Hall is open, please leave your donations on the stage.</i> Good quality fiction and non-fiction, including large print books and books for young adults and children. <i>Please no textbooks, manuals, Readers Digest, encyclopedias, videotapes or audio cassette tapes.</i>
Oranges, lemons, limes, apples, dried dates, or dried apricots	Now	Parish Office	Tuesday – Thursday 10am-3pm
Clothes	TBA		<i>If the Hall is open, please leave your donations in the marked area, immediately to the left inside the Hall.</i>
Craft, Trinkets, Treasure, White Elephant	From 28 September	Bench outside Church Hall	<i>If the Hall is open, please leave your donations in the marked area, immediately to the left inside the Hall.</i>
Raffles	From 28 September to 11 October	Bench outside Church Hall	
Plants & Gardening	From 12 October	Bench outside Church Hall	
Jam & Cake	From 15 October	Central bench in Kitchen	

Working casual jobs and still going without

Recently, a young family came to St John's Care for assistance. Both parents are working part-time and doing everything society tells them they should do. They get up early, work hard, pay their rent, and care deeply for their children. Yet despite working every day, they found themselves standing in our Emergency Relief Centre asking for help.

After paying rent, fuel, and basic household expenses, there simply wasn't enough money left. They had begun skipping meals so their children could eat. Essential medications were delayed because there wasn't enough money in the account. Electricity bills were piling up, and they were worried about keeping the lights on. One parent told us, "We never thought we'd need to ask for help. We both work. We just can't keep up."

Sadly, this story is becoming increasingly common. More and more families are finding that a full-time wage is no longer enough to cover the basics of food, medication, utilities and housing. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, volunteers and supporters, St John's Care was able to provide emergency food, practical support, and referrals to other services. Most importantly, we were able to offer hope and dignity at a time when this family felt overwhelmed and alone.

Every day, we meet people who are doing their best but are being squeezed by rising living costs. Your support ensures that when families reach a crisis point, there is somewhere they can turn.

Thank you for helping us continue this vital work. As St John's Care receives no ongoing government funding, it is your generosity that enables us to walk alongside local families when they need it most.

Kind regards,

Jason Haines
Managing Director

Items required: Laundry liquid, Muesli, Tinned spaghetti, Conditioner

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 Reid (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: Southside Bible Study

When & Where: Wednesdays, 2pm, Fadden, Tuggeranong

Who: Adults, any age.

Focus: Bible study and discussion

Contact: John Richards—0407 790 767

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.

Upcoming services

Sunday 26 July 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

*Readings: Genesis 29.15-28; Psalm 105.1-11; Romans 8.26-39;
Matthew 13.44-58*

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

Wednesday 29 July 2026

Readings: Romans 8.26-39; Matthew 13.44-58

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

Sunday 2 August 2026

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Genesis 32.22-31; Psalm 17.1-17, 16; Romans 9.1-8 (9-16); Matthew 14.13-21

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

Wednesday 5 August 2026

Readings: Romans 9.1-8 (9-16); Matthew 14.13-21

- 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>

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
STJ Operations Manager	Robbie Speldewinde	programs@stjohnscare.org.au	6248 7771
SJC Chaplain	Nathan Vandersee	chaplain@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