

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

21 December 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

(This week's service times within)

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called
Emmanuel: God with us. Matthew 1.23

God of the nations,
have mercy upon the
Jewish people of this
land. Rid our nation of
antisemitism and all
forms of malice. Grant
that barriers which
divide may crumble,
suspensions disappear
and hatreds cease,
through Jesus Christ
our mediator.

Amen



***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

Bondi killings. Our hearts grieve for the Jewish community following the horrific antisemitic attacks in Bondi last weekend. The parish has been in contact with representatives of the Jewish community in Canberra to express our friendship and support, and to pray for them during this time of horror.

Bishop Mark, as Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, has issued a statement extending our desire to 'stand and weep in solidarity' with the Jewish community. This can be found at <https://anglicanecg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Anglican-Primate-Statement-Anglican-Shooting.pdf>

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*.

A new kitchen! We are pleased to announce that work on our new (refurbished) parish kitchen is due to commence in January. We hope it will be finished by mid-Feb. We apologise for any inconvenience, but are grateful for this much-needed improvement to parish infrastructure.

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

Your Contact Details. Over the years, we have collected (with people's permission) contact details for people who come to St John's or connected with St John's, to populate our parish roll and to assist with operations. We have been using a third-party provider for this service,

and are currently considering moving this data to a new platform over the summer. This established provider takes data security very seriously; but if you have any concerns, drop me a line and I will send you a link to their policy statements on privacy and data security. Rev'd Andrew.

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.

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/53ywwkvk>

Office Relocation - Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn & Anglican Diocesan Services (ADS). We are pleased to inform you that our Diocesan Offices, have relocated.

Our new office address is:

Level 1, 82 Northbourne Avenue
Braddon, ACT 2612

Our new offices will house our core Diocesan activities including Anglican Diocesan Services (ADS) from this date. Anglicare will continue to have its head office operations on Level 8, 221 London Circuit. Anglican Investment and Development Fund (AIDF) will also be relocating to St Mark's National Theological College. This move represents an exciting milestone in our growth and will provide improved facilities to facilitate our renewed Diocesan strategy and mission. All postal addresses and telephone contact numbers remain unchanged. Please update your records accordingly to reflect this change.

'A Life of Art' by Jill Clingan. Anyone who would like to order a copy of Jill Clingan's book *A Life of Art* please contact Jill at jill-clinganandb@gmail.com. The book costs \$50.

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 has now paused, resuming on 7 January.

Christmas office closedown. The parish office will be closed from Wednesday 24 December to Monday 12 January (inclusive). For urgent matters, please contact Jane at 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 2pm Wednesday 24 December and will reopen at 9.30am on Monday 5 January 2026.

SUMMARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(*St John's event)

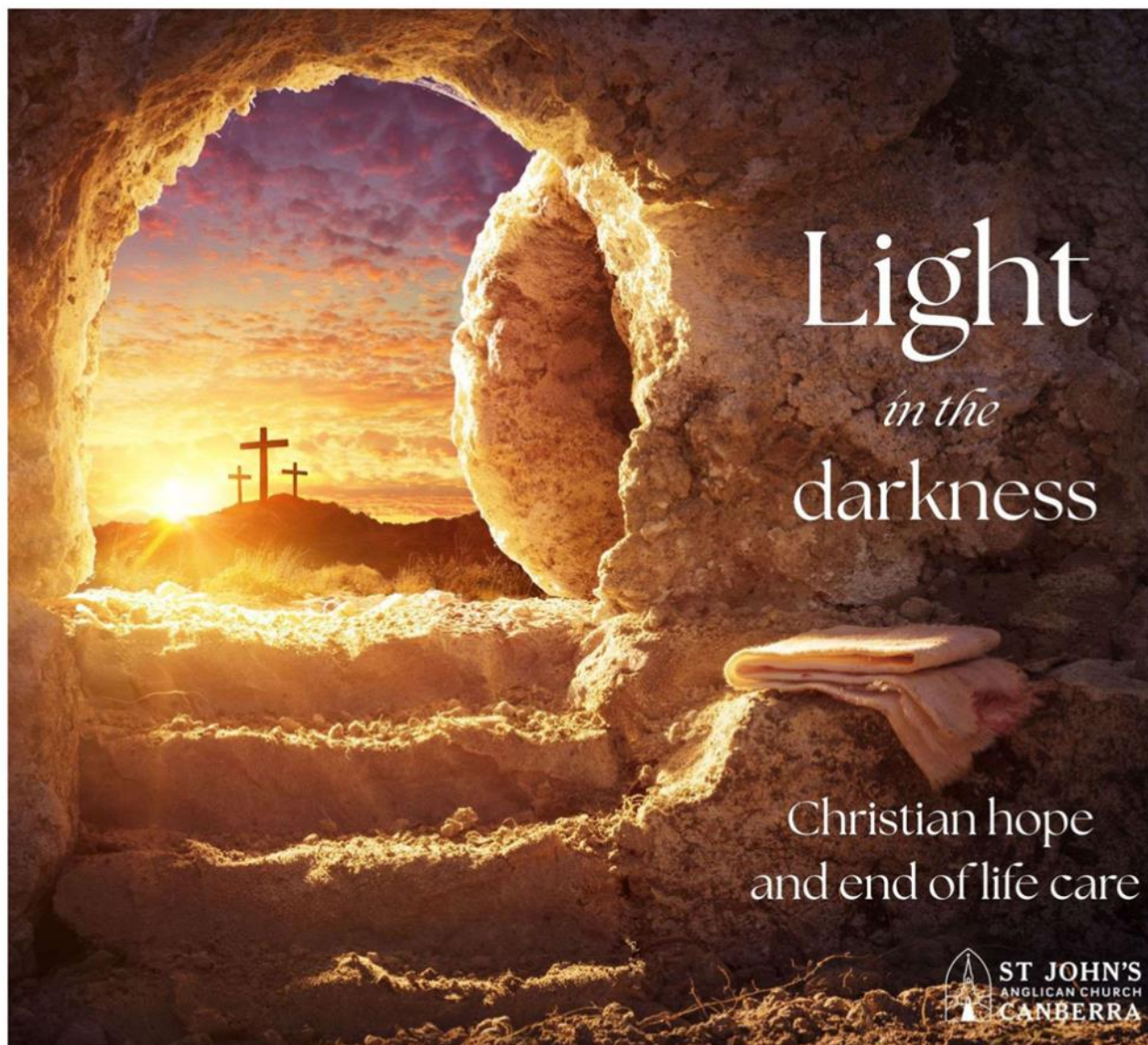
***Christmas Services.** See page 9.

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

***Sunday 8 February: 'Start Up Sunday'.** Kids Church and Junior Youth starting with a splash in 2026. See advertisement on page 11.

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





Light *in the* darkness

Christian hope
and end of life care



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 or **early bird** \$38 until 12 January 2026.

One Final Goodbye

C first came to St John's Care seeking support for his most basic needs - food, a listening ear, a place where he felt safe. Over time, that support grew into something deeper and more complex. Alongside practical assistance, I worked closely with C through case management, spending many years gently unpacking and addressing a long, intense, and deeply rooted trauma history. Often, C would come in without a specific request. Sometimes he just wanted a cup of tea and a conversation. He would sit quietly, chatting with staff and volunteers, and often spoke about how St John's Care felt like family to him - a place where he was known, welcomed, and valued.

About twelve months ago, I supported C through a significant transition in his life: a move interstate so he could be closer to additional family support. It was a careful and considered process. Together, we worked to ensure that he had appropriate services and supports in place before he left, so he wouldn't feel alone in a new environment. After the move, I checked in on C, and he told me he was doing well. Hearing that brought a quiet sense of relief. A week ago, C walked back into the Centre and asked to see me. I was shocked to see him standing there. While it was wonderful to see his familiar face, it was immediately clear that his physical health had significantly deteriorated. As we sat down together, C's eyes welled with tears, as he told me about his significant degenerative disease, and his end-of-life care. The weight of his words hung heavily in the room.

Over the next hour, C and I reminisced about the highlights he cherished, the challenges he had endured, and everything in between. There was laughter, sadness, and long moments of quiet reflection.

"You have been there for me for so many years, and I consider you a dear friend. I wanted to say goodbye in person, I'm not sure if I will see you again, but I hope so", he said.

It was a profound reminder of why places like St John's Care exist. Beyond food parcels and appointments, we offer something harder to measure but just as vital: connection, dignity, and the comfort of being seen. For C, St John's Care had been a constant through years of hardship, and in one of the most difficult moments of his life, it was where he returned - to family.

Kind regards,

Robbie Speldewinde
Operations Manager

Items required: Cooking oil, 1L Full Cream UHT Milk, Children's toothbrushes, gluten free items

Upcoming services

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

Sunday 28 December 2025

Holy Innocents

*Readings: Jeremiah 31.15-20; Psalm 124; 1 John 1.5-2.2;
Matthew 2.13-18*

8.00am: Sung Eucharist

9.30am: Family Eucharist (Kids Church in Recess)

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

Wednesday 31 December 2025

No Services today

For more information: www.stjohnscanberra.org



ST JOHN'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
CANBERRA

Advent Bells 2025

180 years of celebrating Christmas in Canberra

Wednesday 24th 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 25th 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
45 Constitution Avenue, Reid**

Christmas at St John's



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

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	Jennifer Lawson	jennifer.lawson@stjohnscanberra.org	0407 286 572
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!



FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

An Angel Appears to Joseph

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24

Complete the activity.



There are vowels missing in each word below. Print the complete word on the blank line beside each word with missing letters.

1. J _ S _ PH _____

2. V _ RG _ N _____

3. M _ SS _ _ H _____

4. S _ N _____

5. B _ RTH _____

6. _ NG _ L _____

7. W _ F _ _____

8. M _ RY _____

9. J _ S _ S _____

10. H _ SB _ ND _____

husband
Jesus

son
wife

angel
Messiah

birth
Mary

Joseph
virgin