



ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

**15 February 2026
Transfiguration**

(This week's service times within)

Suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!'
Matthew 17.5



Last Sunday our evening service (stjohns@6) celebrated its 11th birthday. We are grateful to God for His work amongst this special part of our community.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,
you gave the law to guide our lives:
grant that we may never shrink from your commandments,
but, as we are taught by your Spirit,
may fulfil your law in perfect love;
through Christ our Lord and Master,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.

KEEPING A HOLY LENT

The forty days of Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. It recalls the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. Many people set themselves a specific Lenten 'discipline' – e.g. fasting, joining a Lenten study group, reading a Christian book, studying the Scriptures more deeply, setting aside more time for prayer or recommitting themselves to weekly worship.

Ash Wednesday. Lent begins with services of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes this Wednesday at 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm.

Lenten studies. Beginning on Thursday 19 February (7pm, Robertson Room), Rev'd Dave will be leading a Lenten Study on Rowan Williams' book, 'Passions of the Soul' (Bloomsbury, 2024). You will need to get a copy ASAP (a small number remain available for purchase from the parish). Contact rector@stjohnscanberra.org ASAP if interested.

Also, from 17 February 'Bible for Blokes' will commence a Lenten Study on Joy, using studies contributed by various Australian Bishops. Cost \$10. Enquiries Canon Kevin Stone 0450 676 864.

BEGINNING 2026—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.

Prayers for our Bishops. Yesterday (Saturday) at St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn, there was a prayer service to support Bishop Mark in his new responsibilities as Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia. Please continue to uphold Bishop Mark, and Monica, as they juggle new expectations; and also for Bishop Vanessa as she carries an extra load within the diocese.

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.

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 16 February: For Grads - Welcome to the Jungle. A special orientation evening hosted by City Bible Forum. 6pm, at Dickson Baptist Church. <https://citybibleforum.org/event/welcome-jungle-2026>

***Tuesday 17 February: Bible for Blokes.** Lenten series on 'joy' begins. 10am in the Upper Room, with Canon Kevin Stone.

***Wednesday 18 February: Ash Wednesday.** Services of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes will occur at 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm.

***Thursday 19 February: Lenten Study.** 7pm in Robertson Room. Pre-reading essential. Contact rector@stjohnscanberra.org

***Saturday 21 February: 'Jazz on the Lawn'.** Quality local jazz bands, wine tasting, and the beautiful St John's grounds from 2pm-7pm. BYO picnic blankets or chairs and food (gelato and other food available for purchase).

***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 6 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 give the inside of the church a thorough clean, 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.

***Saturday 14 March: Operation Christmas Child Working Group.** From 1pm-4pm in the Robertson Room. 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.

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

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.*

A Journey of Healing, Hope, and New Beginnings

This week, I would like to share the story of one of the many resilient clients we support at St John's Care (SJC), (we shall call this client E)- a story that reminds us why community, compassion, and consistent support matter.

Following the breakdown of E's marriage, E was left to shoulder overwhelming financial responsibilities alone, including children's school fees and mortgage repayments. The emotional toll of divorce, combined with mounting debt, placed immense strain on E's wellbeing. Under this pressure, E suffered a stroke, which significantly affected her physical and mental health and forced her to stop working.

Unable to cope on her own, E moved back in with her parents and sought medical support. During this period, her challenges deepened, and she required ongoing care from a psychiatrist. At her lowest point, E struggled with thoughts of ending her life, an experience that highlights just how vulnerable people can become when faced with compounding crisis.

It was during this time that she found her way to St John's Care.

At SJC, E began receiving weekly food support, quarterly assistance with prescriptions, and school supplies when her daughter returned to school. Just as importantly, she began accessing therapeutic support - a safe space to talk, reflect, and be heard. E comes to SJC when life feels overwhelming and she needs someone to hold the space with her.

E has shared how safe she feels within our walls, describing the environment as welcoming and our volunteers as kind, compassionate, and supportive. She values being listened to without judgment and feeling understood during moments when words are hard to find.

We are pleased to share some encouraging news. E has recently been medically cleared to return to work on a part-time basis, with regular check-ins from her psychiatrist, neurologist, and GP. With improved stability, she now accesses food support fortnightly instead of weekly and has been able to clear some of her debts. She has also taken a significant step forward by moving out of her parents' home and into an apartment she can manage financially.

Her journey is one of courage, gradual healing, and renewed independence.

We are deeply grateful to our donors and supporters. Your generosity makes stories like this possible and allows SJC to continue walking alongside people as they rebuild their lives - one step at a time.

Kind regards,

Lisa Sithole

Case Manager

Items required: Shampoo & Conditioner, Large tinned tuna 425g, Vegemite

Upcoming services

Sunday 15 February 2026

Transfiguration

Readings: Exodus 24.12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9

8.00am: Sung Eucharist

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

6.00pm: stjohns@6 (Holy Communion)

Wednesday 18 February 2026

Ash Wednesday

*Readings: Joel 2.1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51.1-17; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10;
Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21*

7.30am: Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

10.00am: Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

7.30pm: Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

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: stjohns@6 (Praise, Prayer and Proclamation)

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

FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

Transfiguration Word Search

The Transfiguration

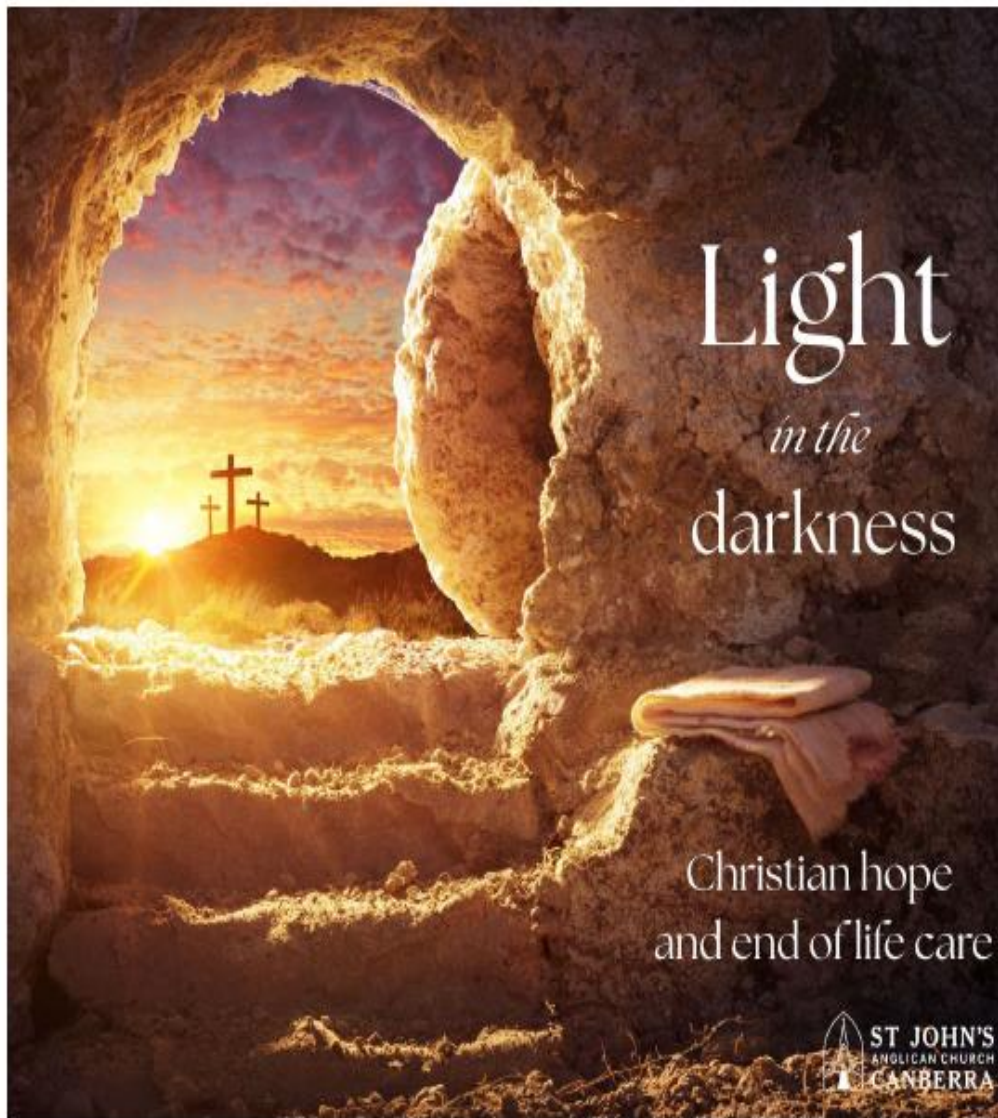
As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Luke 9:29 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 9:28-36 (NIV).



D Y G M S T A L K I N G I M J
L E N U O E U S G S F P E F O
A T S C S U E M E D T C P A H
B E K E H M N L L W A G M P N
J R S J A A P T G F C U J P I
K O I J I I N N A R G O T E I
M V N G C Z I G J I K P G A B
P X M S H N Q B E Y N Q V R Y
R I I W T T I Y T D J F U E C
A D D H D V R M K P E L G D H
Y E G U H X A F N E K A V E O
W I O D E P X Q B T W S O J S
L L R V E T R R F E E H I Z E
C C L O T H E S H R E E C X N
C D H N P Y E L I J A H E J F

FLASH	LIGHTNING	MOSES	JOHN	MOUNTAIN
CLOUD	PETER	CHANGED	VOICE	JESUS
JAMES	PRAY	CHOSEN	CLOTHES	ELIJAH
TALKING	FACE	BRIGHT	APPEARED	DISCIPLES



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.