

# ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

**7 December 2025**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
(This week's service times within)

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. Mark 1.15



*Saint John the Baptist, painting by Leonardo da Vinci, 1516,  
The Louvre, Paris*

***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

**Homeward Walk.** A short poetic offering from a parishioner, for your enjoyment:

*I sometimes like to think upon  
my little time here at St John's  
Priest, server, people — not a lot  
With lovely music from the loft  
And later, Wild Honey, morning tea  
A cup of coffee made for me.  
A precious place to sit and talk  
I love my slowly homeward walk. (Anon.)*

**9.30am Christmas Pageant - today.** Instead of our usual weekly eucharist, we are pleased to have our kids' church community lead the 9.30 service, telling the story of the nativity from a different point of view. We give thanks to the children - and to Mary de Lautour and her team of wonderful helpers - who have made this treat possible for us.

**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/53ywvkvk>

**Christmas Letterbox Drop (Reid & Campbell).** If you have some time in the next few days to walk some local streets to advertise our Christmas Services, please drop into the office to collect postcards and a map. (They need to be distributed before 12 December).

**No Choral Evensong in December.** Choral Evensong (BCP) 5pm service on Sunday 14 December will not be held, as the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held that evening at 7.30pm.

**Save the Date: Light in the Darkness: Christian approaches to 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://www.trybooking.com/DHUQY>, \$46 per head (\$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>

**Youth & Young Adults Camp: Expressions of Interest.** If you would be interested in a camp with fun outdoor and indoor activities, and some Christian input, please let us know by completing the form at the link below. Proposed dates: 13-15 November 2026. Please submit your responses by clicking on link or QR code: <https://tinyurl.com/SJcamp>



**Seminars (and short courses) 2026.** We'd love your thoughts on our seminars and short courses for 2026. Please spend a few minutes answering the questions at <https://tinyurl.com/SJseminars> or via this QR code:



**Hawke: The Film of the Play.** 8am parishioner Paul Kauffman has written and produced HAWKE, a new play now filmed for wider viewing. It imagines former Prime Minister R. J. Hawke meeting his two wives — and a Canberra Bishop with a dark past — in Purgatory, where their eternal fates are decided. The Anglican Church of Australia offers no comment on the theology of this. The film screens at 4 pm Friday 12 December 2025 at Dendy Cinema 6, Canberra Centre. Tickets: \$39. [www.collections.humanitix.com/mill-theatre-at-dairy-road](http://www.collections.humanitix.com/mill-theatre-at-dairy-road)

**'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 [jillclinganandb@gmail.com](mailto:jillclinganandb@gmail.com). The book costs \$50.

**Anglican News November 2025.** Here is the link to the latest edition of Anglican News: <https://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/anglican-news/>. You can email any contributions for future issues of the Anglican News, by the first day of the month of the issue, to: [anglicannews@anglicancg.org.au](mailto:anglicannews@anglicancg.org.au).

## SUMMARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(\*St John's event)

**\*Sunday 7 December: 9.30am Service Christmas Pageant.**

Instead of our regular 9.30am Communion service, kids' church will be presenting this year's Christmas Pageant. All are welcome!

**\*Tuesday 9 December: Bible for Blokes.** The last session for this year, at 10am in the Upper Room, with Canon Kevin Stone. (We will re-commence at the end of January 2026.)

**Tuesday 9 December: Order of St Luke Healing Eucharist.** St David's Anglican Church, Red Hill, at 2.00pm, followed by a cuppa. Theme is 'Thanksgiving'. Info Fr John Gibson at [gibson-john385@gmail.com](mailto:gibson-john385@gmail.com) or 0451 681 118.

**\*Friday 12 December: George Pooley Memorial Service.** 10.30am with refreshments to follow in the Hall.

**\*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>



## MISSION MATTERS BY JENNIFER LAWSON

*Go into all the world and preach the gospel Mark 15:16*

Christmas approaches and we rejoice that it is a time to remember the birth of our Lord Jesus and the very great gift that he gives to us all. We all love giving gifts for the joy of the recipient and this year St Johns had the great privilege joining with Operation Christmas Child in their mission to children in our region by packing and sending 150 boxes filled with gifts. We may not see the surprise and excitement when they receive them but we can imagine it.

These boxes are not just a gift, they are a tangible way to show God's love to children in need, and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with them. Each box contains the opportunity to meet their eternal need as well as their current ones. Statics show that half of the children who receive a box go on to attend the twelve lessons about the gospels and, of those, half make a decision for Christ. This year St Johns introduced 70 children to Jesus and at least 35 have turned their lives over to Him and will continue to bear witness.

Operation Christmas Child started in England in October 1990, when David Cooke from Wrexham saw images of the Ceausescu orphanages in Romania in the news and was so horrified that he talked to his brother Paul and two friends, John Roberts and Dai Hughes about what they could do for these abandoned children. Their activities hit the headlines and, like the loaves and fishes, multiplied and in December that year a convoy of nine trucks departed Romania with over £600,000 of aid. In 1995 they joined forces with the American international charity Samaritan's Purse and over the past 30 years, 23 million boxes have been distributed. In 2024 211,502 boxes were sent 11,927 from Australia & NZ alone.

This year St John's sent 150 boxes. The group of parishioners who meet regularly to make items for the boxes were so encouraged that they aim to send 200 boxes in 2026 and to achieve this goal are meeting fortnightly in the Robertson Room to make things to put in the boxes. Come and see what is being achieved and join us. Next year, notices of timing etc will be in the Newsletter so keep watching for an update.

Help give the gift with eternal significance.





## Christmas Donations bring Hope and Joy

Our Present Room is running at full steam, and in just three days we have already supported **320 families** who are doing it tough this Christmas. Every person who walks through our doors is welcomed by a staff member, and this week I had the privilege of meeting *B* - a father whose story reminded me exactly why your support matters so deeply.

B was involved in a devastating car accident last year and tragically lost his right arm. Since then, he has been unable to work. The impact on his mental health, his relationship with his wife, and their family finances has been overwhelming. He is patiently retraining himself to use his left arm for everyday tasks and shared how much we all underestimate the importance of our dominant hand. While B's wife is working full-time and carrying the load at home, B told me he feels heartbroken that he cannot provide for his family in the way he always did. On top of this, he has faced enormous barriers trying to access workers compensation, Centrelink, or any financial support. We have connected B with mental-health services, legal aid, ongoing case management, and of course, invited him into our Present Room.

When he stepped inside, he became visibly emotional. He sat down, cried, and told me how devastated he has felt knowing that he cannot afford Christmas gifts for his three children this year. He shared that he loved his job as a panel beater and always worked hard to give his family the very best. He believes that one day he will return to a job he loves, but for now, life is incredibly hard. Before leaving, B asked if he could return with his wife so they could choose the gifts together - a simple but beautiful wish that we were so glad to honour.

**It is only because of generous supporters like you that families like B's can receive compassion, dignity, and hope this Christmas.**

This year, the need in our community is greater than ever. Your donation today helps us continue providing:

- ♦ Christmas gifts for children
- ♦ Fresh food, clothing, and emergency relief
- ♦ Support for mental health, legal issues, and crisis care
- ♦ Case management for families trying to rebuild their lives

**Please consider making a special Christmas donation today.**

Your kindness will directly bring relief, joy, and hope to families who need it most. Thank you for standing with us, for caring, and for helping us lift up families who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

Warm regards

Jason Haines, Managing Director

**Items required:** 750ml cooking oil, milo, baked beans

**Christmas:** Toys, Gift cards for teens, Christmas cake, Shortbread

# Upcoming services

## Sunday 7 December 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

*Readings: Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72. 1-7, 18-21; Romans 15.4-13;  
Matthew 3.1-12*

**8.00am: Sung Eucharist**

**9.30am: Family Eucharist** (Christmas Pageant)

**11.15 am: Choral Eucharist** (1662 Book of Common Prayer )

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

## Wednesday 10 December 2025

*Readings: Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12*

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

## 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)

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



## **Advent Bells 2025**

*180 years of celebrating Christmas in Canberra*

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Open Tower – 4pm-6pm**

Special|extended edition of St John's monthly open tower.  
Climb the sandstone tower and play Christmas carols on the bells.

### **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

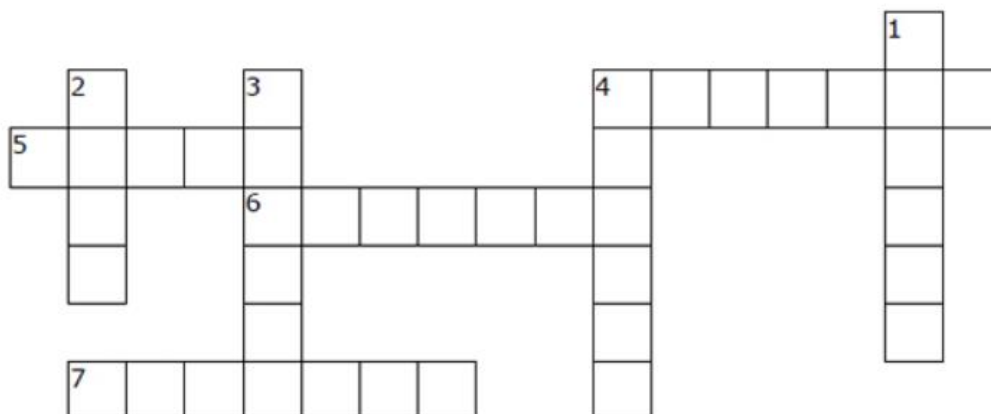
## FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

### Ready For The Christ Of Christmas Crossword

#### Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



#### ACROSS

4. One who speaks for God, or tells what will happen in the future
5. The sounds that are made when people speak or sing
6. To get ready for something that is going to happen
7. What John did to people in the Jordan River

#### DOWN

1. An area where there is little rain and not many plants
2. The man who preached that Jesus was coming
3. To be sorry for something bad you have done and make a change
4. To deliver a sermon

VOICE  
REPENT

PREPARE  
JOHN

DESERT  
PREACH

PROPHET  
BAPTIZE