



ST JOHN'S

ANGLICAN CHURCH

CANBERRA

26 March 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent

7.00am, 8.00am, 9.30 am, 6 pm

'I am the resurrection and the life,'
says the Lord; 'whoever lives and
believes in me shall never die.'

John 11.25–26



On Saturday 18 March a highly talented group of sketchers from the group 'Urban Sketchers Canberra' visited our precinct to sketch and paint the church, schoolhouse and grounds. Pictured is a beautiful watercolour by artist Girish Toraskar. You can check out their other works on their Facebook page.

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

FROM THE RECTOR



The Return of the Common Cup (adapted from last week)

For the past few years we have been living with a sense of emergency. Covid shook us all up, forcing us to configure our community life quite differently. This has included some frustrating and complicated inhibitions to our worshipping life, including gathering, singing and Holy Communion (or the Eucharist).

Due to the uncertainty about the spread of covid, we eventually settled on the use of small communion cups. It is a problematic practice, creating additional demands on the volunteers who have to wash and prepare the cups for each service. More importantly, it is an affront to Anglican eucharistic theology, which has always emphasised the common cup as an important symbol of unity.

Circumstances forced us to compromise this symbolic value, in order to emphasise another point of principle – the significance of receiving communion ‘in both kinds’ – i.e. both bread and wine. When I initiated this change, I explained that this was an emergency measure. As such, when the emergency passed, so too would this distinctly un-Anglican practice.

That time has come. Last year, churches received permission from Bishop Mark to return to the common cup. At General Synod last May, the common cup was used at the synod eucharist, comprising over 300 people. The view of our Commonwealth and Territory governments is that the sense of crisis can no longer be maintained, and it is appropriate to leave emergency measures behind.

Today, we shall return to what has been the eucharistic practice of the church for the best part of two millennia. Individual cups have now gone. People who wish are welcome to receive only the bread or to ‘intinct’ – i.e. dip the bread into a different chalice of wine (although this is less hygienic than the common cup.)

Multiple studies have consistently shown that there has never been an outbreak of infection related to the communion cup, and that any risk is so small as to be undetectable. More significantly, the shared cup is a precious sign of the fellowship we have with each other when, as the family of God, we gather at his table.

May the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life; drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shared for you, and be thankful.

CHURCH NOTICES



QUEEN'S TREE PLANTING: At 3:30pm on Friday afternoon 14 April, His Excellency the Governor-General will formally plant the tree which celebrates the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. All parishioners are invited to this event, which will last about an hour. Please let the Parish office know by 7 April if you wish to attend. This will assist with catering.

STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL BISHOPS' MEETING: At their recent gathering in Tasmania, the Bishops of the Anglican Church of Australia released a communique urging serious engagement with this year's referendum question. The full statement can be found at [here](#). Or [Constitutional Recognition statement from National Bishops' Meeting' - Anglican Board of Mission \(abmission.org\)](#)

ST JOHN'S CARE FUNDRAISER: Thanks to all our generous parishioners for their ongoing support to the ministry of St John's Care. At last week's fundraising morning tea hosted by the youth (after the 9.30 service), \$400 was raised for the work of St John's Care. We are grateful!

MOTHER'S UNION: St Alban's Anglican Church (Lyons) is hosting an Annunciation service at 10.30am on Wednesday 29 March. It will be followed by a morning tea, featuring an address by Bishop Mark Short (note change of speaker) reflecting on 'learnings from Lambeth'. For more information, contact Sandra at sbarnbaum1@bigpond.com

ST MARK'S FILM NIGHT : Film and Pizza Night Saturday 1 April 5.30pm at St Mark's Theological Centre (15 Blackall St Barton) Cost on the night \$5 details in below link. RSVP aerickson@csu.edu.au <https://stmarks.edu.au/news/film-and-theology-night-1st-of-april/> (The St Mark's Library will be open from 4pm before the movie. This is a brilliant opportunity to tour the facility.)

PALM SUNDAY: The Flower Team requests 20/30 small palm fronds and 10/20 medium palm fronds to help the creation of Palm Arrangements. Cyclad fronds would be most gratefully received as they are perfect for the job. Call Sanya - 6282 7118 ASAP to arrange delivery/pick-up.

PALM SUNDAY REFUGEE RALLY: On Palm Sunday, 2nd April, churches will be joining other organisations in a rally in Garema Place to seek permanent protection for the thousands of asylum seekers who have been held in various forms of detention for up to 10 years. The rally starts at 1.00 but faith-based attendees are meeting at 12.30 at the merry-go-round in Petrie Plaza to walk as a group to the rally.

PARISH DIARY



TODAY - PARISH AGM AND ELECTORAL MEETING: The AGM will be held at 11am after the 9.30am service on Sunday 26 March in the Hall.

MONDAY 27 MARCH - CUPPACOMALONG: We extend an invitation to all to attend Cuppacomalong from 2pm until 4pm in the Robertson Room. This is an opportunity to meet fellow parishioners, get to know them and enjoy some refreshments. Our speaker will be Alan Wilson who will talk about the photographic collection in the Church archives. Maybe you can help identify some people. Please come and enjoy the afternoon. We'd love to see you.

TUESDAY 28 MARCH - LENT FOR BLOKES: 10am Study 5 "Servants of Christ" Philippians 2:19-30. Contact Kevin 0450 676 864

TUESDAY 28 MARCH - PALM CROSS WORKING BEE: at 2.30pm in the Robertson Room. All equipment and afternoon tea will be provided. All welcome.

BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays at 11.30am - 1pm in the Wild Honey room. This week Matthew Chapters 20-25. Contact Rev'd Vicky Cullen 0476 777 203

SATURDAY 1 APRIL - PRE-EASTER BRASS CLEANING BEE: In the church, followed by morning tea in the Robertson Room. I look forward to working with you. Margaret Rodgers – Sacristan.

SATURDAY 1 APRIL - WORKING BEE: 9.30am-11.30am. Morning Tea will be served at 11.30am in the Robertson Room. Please bring gardening gloves, hat, gardening footwear, any favorite tools. Planned work for the day includes grounds preparation for Easter services and the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee tree event on Friday 14 April. Enquiries: Bill Sutherland bill.sutherland@bigpond.com

Please join us for our Easter Day Services

6am - Lighting of the New Fire and Eucharist

8am - Sung Eucharist

9.30am - Church Family Eucharist (followed by Easter Egg Hunt)

11.15am - Choral Eucharist (BCP)

stjohns@6 - Eucharist

Services next week

Sunday 2 April 2023

8.00am, 9.30am, 11.15am, 5pm, 6 pm

PALM SUNDAY

Readings: Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 31.9-18; Philippians 2.5-11

Matthew 26.14-27.66

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 the following details:

BSB 702 389

ACCOUNT 0520 9450

Name St John the Baptist Reid

Donations/giving can also be offered using your credit/debit card at our tap donation point located near the baptism font.

CONTACTS

Rector: Rev'd David McLennan (rector@stjohnscanberra.org, 0468 634 351)

Associate Priest (Pastoral Care): Canon Kevin Stone 0450 676 864

(kevin.stone@stjohnscanberra.org)

Honorary Priests: Rev'd Vicky Cullen 0476 777 203

Rev'd Tracey Sutherland 0408 242 924

Youth Leader: Kirsten Lamb (Kirsten.lamb@stjohnscanberra.org)

Children and Families Worker: Mary de Lautour

(mary.delautour@stjohnscanberra.org)

St John's Schoolhouse Museum: Diana Body 0427 430 158

(schoolhouse@stjohnscanberra.org)



St John's Care Executive Director: Jason Haines

(executive.officer@stjohnscare.org.au) 6248 7771

St John's Care Programs Manager: Robbie Speldewinde

(programs@stjohnscare.org.au)

St John's Care Emergency Relief Centre

Ph: 6248 7771

Parish Office: 6248 8399

Opening Hours: 9.30am to 2.30pm Tuesday to Friday

admin@stjohnscanberra.org

A SECOND CHANCE IN LIFE

When we were delivering Christmas hampers last year, I met a new client who wanted to know what services St John's Care (SJC) offers to the community.

This client who we are going to call P told me he will be back soon because he really needs help making improvements in his life.

P came looking for me yesterday and started to summarise many memorable experiences both good and bad. He told me that his life had been full of excuses and some bad decisions which were now affecting his health.

P explained how he was married and, after reflecting, told me that he was never a good husband or a good father. In fact, he was blinded by excuses for so long that he lost his family.

After losing his family he suffered two strokes and now has difficulty getting around. He takes medication daily, making work near impossible.

P said that this year he has started to share custody of his three children (every other week). P explained that he is trying to do the best he can to improve life for himself and his children. He is trying to lead a much healthier life knowing that his children are still young and need him by their side.

P and I had a conversation about how St John's Care could help him. One of the goals we identified was to improve his standard of living and that of his children.

As he takes a lot of medicine, he suggested that it would be great if SJC could help him with his scripts. I agreed to help him with the scripts once a month, and also agreed to provide him with food, especially school snacks, on the weeks when he has his children.

We also talked about how to prepare healthy meals. I printed out some helpful information as well as some ideas about using the food which SJC provides.

P was super happy and told me that by receiving this help, he would be able to pay his rent and utility bills. One of his main concerns was the expense of grocery shopping when caring for his children.

With the money he receives from Centrelink, he cannot afford to cover his expenses. Getting help from St John's Care means he doesn't have to worry too much about how to stretch his income. Receiving help with food and healthy eating ideas will assist in improving his everyday life.

He was very grateful and a smile appeared on his face. "Now I will try to be the person and the father that my children deserve and thanks to all of you I will achieve it", he said before saying goodbye.

I would like to thank the donors, supporters and volunteers who have contributed to our organisation, and who have played a part in supporting people like P.

Kind regards;

Karen Medrano, SJC Case Manager

Items required: pasta, pasta sauce, tinned meat, olive oil, toilet paper

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

Report from the Meeting of Parish Council of 15 March

The final planning for the Queen's Tree planting event was discussed, as was the organisation of the Schoolhouse Museum's Heritage activities, along with a gunfire breakfast at the parish on ANZAC Day.

Council also considered means by which time can be freed up for more detailed discussions at its meetings by moving more routine items to the Executive to handle on its behalf.

The Rector reported on the potential for re-introducing marriage preparation courses in the parish and means by which the approved 2023-2028 Strategic Plan might be implemented in the years ahead. He also reported on challenges he and Canon Kevin Stone face in terms of strengthening Pastoral Care in the parish – notably, the relatively small number of people available to transition to a viable pastoral care team.

Several property and maintenance issues have been identified and solutions to these are currently being worked on. Some of the pavers across the St John's precinct have become uneven and unfortunately as a result a parishioner tripped recently. The uneven pavers will be fixed.

Council was briefed on the arrangements put in place for the Parish Information Day which was held on Saturday 18 March.

Consideration is being given to a proposal that the western side of St John's Care could be used for more car parking and that the emergency evacuation point be relocated to the fountain lawn. It was agreed that the Executive needs to consult with relevant parties and undertake appropriate investigations to determine if there are environmental constraints on the future use of the site immediately to the west of St John's Care prior to any decisions being made.

THE PARISH OPEN DAY

The Parish Open Day last Saturday 3pm to 6pm provided an opportunity for parishioners and our neighbours to meet together and have plenty of discussions over an afternoon Tea and BBQ. The displays in the hall were colourful with plenty of enthusiasm.

Some highlights:

- The parish council session resulted in new nominations for parish council;
- the church session resulted in potential new vergers support;
- the mission team showed the ways we provide Christian witness to the community;
- the pastoral care team had some great discussions;

- the bell ringers signed up new members;
- flower posies were created and given away;
- the community Fair stalls had examples of what they sell on Fair day;
- St John's Care gave tours of their building;
- Friends of St John's and the Schoolhouse teams showed how to link to the wider community;
- Parish archives, parking and heritage displays showed what is available;
- the music and sound team provided background music in the hall;
- the jumping castle was popular for the young (and young at heart).

See the back page for pictures from the day.

The Parish Open Day Photos

